



SOUTH VALLEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Parent / Player Agreement



SouthValleyUnited.com

02

1. INTRODUCTION

South Valley United Soccer Club (“Club”) is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation youth soccer club based in Visalia, CA. Founded in 2002, the **“Club”** was established to provide a platform for serious elite level athletes to maximize their potential within the framework of a club. In an effort to unite players and staff from our region, the founders worked diligently to bring structure through a vision of soccer development to build camaraderie and unity to our community under one badge, South Valley United. The **“Club”** play their home games at Neighborhood Church in Northwest Visalia. The **“Club”** colors are royal, white, black and red.

The **“Club”** encourages and seeks players and families interested in developing soccer skills and personal character in a competitive sports environment to participate with South Valley United. The Staff and Coaches welcome all players to be a part of the **“Club”**, we continually strive to improve and develop our soccer program and build on our successes.

The **“Club”** is a resource to bring people with the common interest of soccer together to build a spirit of community through our passion of sport establishing a great sense of pride in the badge we wear over our hearts. To inspire and create enthusiasm within our membership for the growing sport of soccer and the many opportunities it provides. The badge, our five stripes in our colors rest under our **“Club”** name, mountains and crop lines, serving as the foundation of South Valley United. Each of the five stripes represent one of our core values: Creativity, Character, Commitment, Consistency, Courage. The mountains are the backdrop to our fertile valley lands and the gateway to the Sequoia and Kings National Parks. The lines beneath the mountains represent the diverse agriculture and people of the South Valley, where together we feed the world. The 02 is for 2002 the year in which the **“Club”** was founded.

This Agreement is intended to detail our expectations of you as a member of the **“Club”**. As with all our Players both past and present, there are expectations of professionalism and respect that is demanded of you when representing South Valley United. The Agreement addresses items that are sometimes misinterpreted and answers questions about the **“Club”** decision making process regarding youth membership. Your commitment to become a member requires that players and parents take the time to read the following pages carefully. After you have read the Agreement and decide to make the commitment to the **“Club”**, remove the final page, sign it, and return it to your team manager.

2. AFFILIATIONS

The **“Club”** youth teams will be registered through US Club Soccer and compete in the NorCal Premier League. These organizations are both affiliate members of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). California is broken into two states for youth soccer due to its large size; the **“Club”** will be a part of Northern California to compete for State Championships. The Central San Joaquin Valley is recognized as Region 7 in Northern California.

To learn more about US Club Soccer go to www.usclubsoccer.org

To learn more about NorCal Premier go to www.norcalpremier.com

3. THE CLUB AND THE TEAM

All membership hereby agrees to put the **“Club”** ahead of the team. The **“Club”** is the platform in which our teams represent, in order for our players to maximize their full potential all membership must understand the functionality of **“Club”** before team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the **“Club”** and a particular team, the **“Club”** will come first. The decisions of the Club Director are final.

It is the duty of the **“Club”** staff to place individual players in situations that challenge their abilities; these opportunities arise at different times of a season and will be handled on a case-by-case basis within the rules of our affiliations. It is important to understand that you play for the **“Club”**, that you take great pride in wearing the **“Club”** badge, that you always put your **“Club”** before team and team before self.

4. THE TEAM AND THE INDIVIDUAL

All membership hereby agrees to put the team ahead of individual players. If a conflict arises between the team and an individual player, the team coach along with the Director of Coaching and Club Director will be responsible for making decisions in the best interest of the **“Club”**. These decisions will be made after gathering relevant information with those involved. The decision will be objective and based on applying the mission of maintaining individual player development while preserving the strength of our teams. Player movement amongst our **“Club”** rosters is acceptable with Director of Coaching approval.

The **“Club”** is committed to training each player for success on his/her team and will provide coaching and training opportunities throughout the season. The **“Club”** expects that all players will actively participate in their team and **“Club”** activities. Communication with your team coach is critical if conflicts arise that cannot be avoided. Character-building is an important element of the **“Club”** purpose and all membership are expected to behave appropriately, to support the mission of the **“Club”**, to exhibit good sportsmanship, and to represent the **“Club”** as a respectable and responsible member at all times, on and off the field.

5. PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Player performance is evaluated by observing the players throughout the course of each season, during annual player identification trials (tryouts), training, friendlies, and matches.

New players become available throughout the course of a season; new players will be required to first be introduced to the **“Club”** at their age specific division. The Director of Coaching, Club Director, team head coach, and our evaluation staff appointed by the Director of Coaching will consult on matters of player evaluation, team placement and selection. The staff will make decisions for individual player placement on teams in the best interest of the **“Club”**.

Players will be evaluated using the following four pillars of the game:

- Psychological (character, commitment, discipline, leadership, consistency, desire, and attitude)
- Physical (courage, commitment, strength, speed, and endurance)
- Technical (soccer skill sets, creativity)
- Tactical (positioning, movement, and game awareness)

“Club” staff base their decisions on the four areas of evaluation and are responsible to make decisions in the best interest of the **“Club”**, the team, and the individual player. The **“Club”** assumes parents and players made their decision to join the **“Club”** after carefully considering all the parameters of competitive youth soccer. Such a decision should be made without unnecessary pressure and/or prejudice and with full understanding of what is expected of players and parents. There will always be instances of disagreement on issues such as player evaluation and selection. We trust that you will respect our attempts to be objective in these matters and allow the **“Club”** the liberty to work impartially.

6. PLAYER IDENTIFICATION TRIALS

Trials are conducted annually and are open to all players who meet the age requirements for each respective team. Prospective players will be given a fair and unbiased opportunity to be placed on a team. The **“Club”** will inform the public of player identification trial dates, location, and times. The **“Club”** reserves the right to cancel annual trials if the Director of Coaching and Club Director determines unnecessary. If deemed necessary, additional trials may be held during the season, and qualified players may attempt to be placed on a **“Club”** roster.

The number of trial sessions can vary from as few as one to as many as five. The Director of Coaching and Club Director reserve the right to make decisions on player placement after the first trial. The **“Club”** requires all players to attend annual tryouts in their age specific divisions. Current **“Club”** players interested in “playing-up” must have written approval from the Director of Coaching or Club Director in advance of the annual tryouts. All new players to the **“Club”** must first tryout in their age specific divisions for staff evaluation. The decisions of the Director of Coaching and/or Club Director are final.

7. THE PLAYER

The **“Club”** encourages players and parents to consider their options and determine what fits their needs best, taking into consideration personal goals and aspirations. Upon making a commitment to join the **“Club”**, players and parents agree to abide by the policies as outlined in this agreement.

This commitment is for one soccer season only. Each age group season and team are uniquely different. See Membership Financial Agreement for breakdown of averages. A commitment to the **“Club”** means that every player is expected to complete the entire season as outlined in your initial team meeting, failure to do so may affect the consideration of a player selection process in the following year’s trials. At the end of the soccer season your commitment and obligation to the **“Club”** is complete. At the

beginning of the next season all players are welcome to return to participate in the Player Identification Trials provided there are no outstanding debts from a previous season. In the event your team qualifies for Regional or National competition, we expect you to fulfill your commitment to your team through the end of that competition regardless of your status with the **“Club”** for the following season.

Players and Parents are expected to be ethical, honest, and honor both their verbal and written commitments. Therefore, making such a commitment should not be taken lightly and requires the decision to be well thought out amongst your family. Upon making a commitment, the **“Club”** expects full participation, cooperation, and support for the entire soccer season. Once those first selected make their commitments, other potential players may be informed they did not make a team. Please be sensitive to others and carefully consider the decision to commit to the **“Club”**.

A player can be released from a team during a soccer season for disciplinary reasons, lack of commitment to the team, or for failure to fulfill financial obligations. The team head coach will make decisions regarding temporary suspension from the **“Club”** after consulting with the Director of Coaching and Club Director.

As a member of the **“Club”**, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability are expected at all times. The **“Club”** encourages its members to care about the individual player and the sport of soccer. Use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products are not acceptable and may result in suspension or removal from the **“Club”**.

8. STATE CUP

All **“Club”** teams are expected to participate in State Cup. The event schedules are released in a timely manner so that there is plenty of preparation. The timeline for each age group varies however it is typically the same time frame each year.

9. PDP (NorCal) AND ID2 (US CLUB SOCCER)

During the soccer season, and with **“Club”** encouragement, certain age players have the opportunity to be identified for, NorCal PDP and ID2 programs. A player’s decision whether or not to participate is up to the individual player and parents.

10. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

To promote **“Club”** and team unity, it is essential and mandatory for all players to wear the designated **“Club”** adidas uniform in its entirety. The uniform consists of a minimum of three kits (jerseys, shorts, and socks in contrasting colors), a sweat suit and a backpack which are a mandatory required purchase from the designated **“Club”** vendor.

Uniforms are purchased every two years and the 2023-2024 season is year one of two. Additional uniforms, training kits, bags or other team products must be **“Club”** designated and approved equipment prior to purchase.

No **“Club”** team shall place any logo or other form of advertising on any part of the uniform or equipment without written approval from the **“Club”** Board of Directors. The **“Club”** Board of Directors and all membership are encouraged to seek creative opportunities that will benefit the **“Club”** in its entirety through business-to-business partnerships in our community.

11. BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER GAMES

During the soccer season, teams may participate in training sessions, league competitions, tournaments, state and national cups. The team head coach decides on player selection, match lineup, player position, amount of playing time, substitutions, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling their role when asked to perform for the team. This applies even if that role requires participation in a limited capacity or not playing at all, not being in the starting lineup or playing a different position.

Starting with the designated arrival time for training and matches, players are expected to concentrate on soccer. Players must arrive on time and be wearing the proper **“Club”** uniform and equipment. Training and playing soccer require each player’s full attention without unnecessary distraction. Visiting between players and parents, family and friends, or others who might cause players to lose focus is discouraged. This applies to before training or match and concludes when players are dismissed by the coach. There will be times between matches that the coach requires the team to stay together while waiting for their next match. When team responsibilities are over and players are dismissed by the coach, they are free to join family and friends.

Nutrition, hydration, and rest are also a part of the player’s personal responsibility as a member of the **“Club”**. Players are expected to eat reasonable, nutritious, and healthy food in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with performance but rather to enhance it. If players have questions about which foods are best for performing athletes, please visit our website under the nutrition link.

12. FAMILIES

Families are critical to the success of the **“Club”**. Once a family commits to participate, the **“Club”** expects the family to fully maintain that commitment, financially and otherwise, for the entire season. Parent and family support are critical to players in many ways, transportation, provision of healthy meals, medical care, and also for encouragement and praise. Families must not harass or complain to coaches or referees during training or matches and must follow protocol to address issues. The **“Club”** expects and needs each family to support the overall mission so that all membership can have an enjoyable experience.

13. SIDELINE COACHING

Coaching by parents and family members is not allowed and strictly prohibited. No matter how good your intention, the **“Club”** insists there be no shouting instructions to any player. This includes complaining to officials before, during, or after matches. Positive encouragement is welcome after a

good play. It is important that players are not distracted at training or during their match. Player's shall be given details of the tactics and instruction of the team by the coaching staff. No one other than those listed on the official club staff roster may sit on or near the team bench before, during, or after matches. Please respect the space necessary for the coach and team to achieve their respective responsibilities.

The **"Club's"** first concern is for the long-term growth and development of your son/daughter as a person along with their soccer abilities. There may be times that a parent disagrees with a coach's decision about player assignment. Our coaches are keenly aware the **"Club"**, team, and player development will sometimes be given a greater priority than winning. As a competitive youth club, our emphasis is given to developing players and teams so that they can adequately compete for State and National events. Parents should understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy team environment.

Before, during, and immediately after a match is NOT an appropriate opportunity for parents to discuss team or player concerns with the coach. Parents should contact the coach by phone or email to discuss their concern or set up an appointment to meet at a mutually agreeable time. Please take the initiative to teach your son/daughter to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible. Coaches are instructed to express their observations and views of an individual player using the four pillars of evaluation outlined earlier in the agreement.

The **"Club"** believes in and teaches players the benefit of having the proper game mentality and encouraging them to focus on the game of soccer. Players and teams are taught to "control the controllable", and to ignore situations such as poor field conditions, officiating issues, bad sportsmanship, bad weather, negative behavior by parents or opponents, etc. We encourage our parents to adopt this same game mentality.

14. FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Each player and family have an obligation to understand the financial commitment to participating in the **"Club"**. Expenses change each year, and the **"Club"** has established a standard basis of payment for all players/families. Failure to pay is grounds for discipline by the **"Club"**, may be subject to legal collection, and is disruptive to the team's participation in tournaments and competition. If a family does not pay its fees when due, the team will not have the funds to pay the coach, apply for tournaments, etc. The financial guidelines are established in the Membership Financial Agreement.

15. FUNDRAISING

As a member of the **"Club"** we require all members to participate in our fundraising efforts. We will host one (1) full sided soccer tournament per year. Fundraising efforts assist with expenses such as facilities, coaching staff, operating overhead, and future scholarship opportunities. Each team is responsible for making sure that they have appropriate representation at the **"Club"** events when requested.

16. SPONSORSHIP

The “**Club**” Board of Directors and all membership are encouraged to seek creative opportunities that will benefit the “**Club**” in its entirety through business-to-business partnerships in our community. All “**Team**” and “**Club**” advertising, partnerships and direct financial sponsorships must be approved by the “**Club**” Board of Directors.

17. THE COACH

“**Club**” coaches are licensed by CYSA/USSF/NSCAA/UEFA and instructed to conduct themselves in a professional manner. They are teachers, life skill trainers, role models, and soccer coaches. Nothing will come of the “**Club’s**” efforts if we produce world-class players who do not know how to properly conduct themselves. Therefore, coaches are expected to conduct themselves as a positive role model and display appropriate behavior. Coaches recognize they are dealing with young people and must not overlook the influence they can have on our players.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the field when the team is together and part of a “**Club**” event. We insist our players be polite, respectful, well behaved, and display a positive attitude. Players and parents should expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from the coach.

The “**Club**” along with the coaches is responsible for the development of quality players and teams. The “**Club**” commitment under no circumstances guarantees or insinuates that players will be offered college scholarship, become professional soccer players, or be considered for state or national team duties. The “**Club**” and coaches provide players with training and the opportunity they need to challenge themselves to become as good as their natural ability, desire, commitment, and personal effort can take them.

The “**Club**” and staff are committed to creating a safe environment where quality competitive soccer is taught and played. The training provided and the soccer played is taken very seriously. In terms of priority, family and schoolwork come first. However, if coaches sense the unwillingness to put soccer above other recreational activities during the season, it may affect a player’s minutes or status with the “**Club**”. As a member of the “**Club**”, you are expected to commit to the sport of soccer and your team as your first recreational activity and priority during the soccer season.

Do not expect coaches to praise everything that a player does well. In time there are things a coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when coaches will say very little and times when they may shout out instructions. There are times they will be critical of players, and other times they will be generous with praise. Players and parents are expected to take the constructive criticism along with praise and be able to deal with both.

The team head coach will be available to provide soccer instruction 3-6 hours per team per week. During the latter parts of the season instruction hours may increase due to tournament or cup play, which may include Saturday and Sunday training sessions. The coach is expected to be present at all matches; however, conflicts may occur on occasion in which a suitable replacement will be assigned. In situations where conflicts do occur, the team head coach, with assistance from the Director of Coaching, will designate another qualified coach to cover a training session or match.

The coach is responsible for player selection, line-up, playing time, team tactics, strategy, curriculum, and schedule. There may be times that you do not understand or agree with the coach's decision. As it relates to the **"Club"** and specifically the team, the coach is considered the "soccer expert" in these matters.

It is important for players and parents to understand that soccer is a player's game within a formula of a team sport and each player is only as good as the players next to them. As the players reach certain skill sets, mature and gain experience they begin to dictate the flow of each match and the coach becomes more of a spectator with the responsibility to inform his team of their opponent's weaknesses, tactics, and purpose to maximize the performance of the framework of your team.

18. THE FIELDS

The **"Club"** leases fields from Neighborhood Church which we help to maintain weekly and for special projects. It is the responsibility of all players, families, and teams to keep the fields clean and in good form. Each team is responsible to set up and put away its own equipment and goals after each activity as well as clean up any residual trash. Training space will be assigned by the **"Club"** and any changes must be pre-arranged with the staff.

The **"Club"** does not allow pets, alcohol, smoking, or drugs at any **"Club"** activity. The **"Club"** will always enforce these rules; your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Teams, players, and families that do not follow these rules will be sanctioned by the **"Club"**.

Parking regulations per Neighborhood Church are simple. Park in the designated areas. Do not park in RED curb areas and do not drop off your child in the RED Curb areas.

19. PLAYER – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The purpose of this Agreement is to present in detail what is expected of a player and what a player can expect of the **"Club"**, the team, and the coaches. If you are uncertain about what is expected, it is your responsibility to ask the staff. Understanding the rules should result in a positive experience for the players while they develop soccer abilities to the highest level. There are high standards to maintain and new goals to achieve for everyone associated with the **"Club"**.

For all members to receive the maximum benefit, conformance to the **“Club”** and team rules, regulations, and policies is a must for each player and parent. If disciplinary action becomes necessary, the following steps may be taken to resolve the problem:

- I. The team head coach will discuss the issue and remedy with the player.
- II. If the issue persists, the team head coach and/or Director of Coaching will communicate with the players parent(s) who will have the opportunity to be involved with remedying the situation.
- III. If the issue remains unresolved, the head coach may temporarily suspend the player. Under certain circumstances, the head coach and Director of Coaching may recommend to the Club Director to remove the player from the **“Club”**.
- IV. The parent(s) of a player recommended for removal from the **“Club”** may request to meet with the Director of Coaching and/or Club Director to discuss the situation.
- V. The decision of the Club Director is final.

The **“Club”** strives to work in a positive, cooperative, and constructive way with our membership. Everyone has some issues on occasion as we are working with your most prized possessions, your children, and we will make a fair effort to work with you to help resolve your concerns in the timeliest manner possible.

20. PARENT – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

When the parent(s) of a player fail to abide by the policies set forth in this agreement the following steps may be taken:

- I. Parent will be informally contacted to discuss the issue and voice their concerns if warranted.
- II. Parent will be verbally warned.
- III. Parent will receive written warning.
- IV. Parent will be requested to sit down in a meeting with the Club Director, Director of Coaching, and/or Board of Directors to determine the appropriate action which may include suspension or removal from the **“Club”**.
- V. Parent will receive final written decision from the Club Director. The decision of the Club Director is final.

21. CHANGES TO THIS AGREEMENT

The **“Club”** reserves the right to change, modify, or delete any part of this agreement as needed to insure the proper development and/or growth of the **“Club”** and its members. Changes will be posted as a Player/Parent Agreement revision on our website. www.southvalleyunited.com