



PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT (PPA) for the 2024 Season

Welcome to the shooting stars soccer academy.. It is important that players and parents understand the philosophy, expectations, rules and policies of shooting stars soccer academy, as outlined in the following pages. A signed copy of this document must be on file for all players who commit to play for shooting stars soccer academy.

PHILOSOPHY

Shooting stars soccer academy provides a comprehensive program for the youth soccer player.

The academy's interest is the long-term development of each player, including ongoing improvement in technical skills and increased knowledge of the game, as well as, personal and social growth as a valued team member. The Academy and its coaches will sometimes make decisions and players may be instructed to do things that parents may not fully understand. The academy interests, player development, and showcasing of players to coaches will sometimes be given a higher priority than winning. Parents and players must understand this and should conduct themselves in a manner that fosters a healthy academy and team environment. Playing *only* to win, without taking into consideration other factors, can sometimes have adverse effects on player development and team dynamics.

THE ACADEMY, THE TEAM, AND THE PLAYER

The Academy's Board of Directors, Director of Coaching, and the Coaching Staff will prioritize their direction and decisions based on the following order:

- **First, what is in the best interest of the Academy.**
- **Second, what is in the best interest of a team;**
- **Third, what is in the best interest of a player; and**
- **Fourth, what is in the best interest of a coach or parent.**

During the soccer season players from the Academy may have opportunity to tryout and participate in the SAFA Capricorn youth teams or other identification programs. The player's decision whether to participate in an SAFA or ID program will be left up to the player and parents. Be aware that players who are selected for the SAFA or ID Program at district, state, regional or national levels will encounter conflicts between Academy events and SAFA events or ID programs. You agree and understand it is Academy policy that Academy events have priority over SAFA or ID program in ALL circumstances unless your Shooting stars soccer Academy, Coach and the Shooting stars soccer Academy Director of Coaching decide otherwise. The SAFA or ID Program staff shall be made aware of this Academy policy.



PLAYING TIME

Playing time is at the sole discretion of the coach. Factors affecting playing time include: attendance at games and practice, effort at games and practice, the payment of Academy and/or Team fees, the event and/or ability level of the player. Playing time during major tournaments.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments for each team will be selected by the team's head coach and approved by the Director of Coaching, based on the perceived caliber of the team and the goals for the given season. These goals can range from player/team development (trying out new formations and tactics, equal playing time, confidence building), to ensuring players are showcased to college coaches, to competing to win.

No team is allowed to enter a tournament that has not been selected and approved by the Director of Coaching. Some tournaments can involve major expenses and decisions need to be made many months in advance in order for teams to be considered for certain high-profile events. All teams within Shooting Stars Soccer Academy are not equal and may not be of the same standard required for acceptance into major tournaments. Whenever possible, the majority of teams will play in common tournaments to foster team/Academy-building, as well as to contain costs.

COACHES

Coaches are assigned to each team by the Director of Coaching, with input from the coaching staff. Decisions are made based upon what is right for the Academy, the teams, and the players. There is no guarantee that coaches will be involved with a particular team for a given number of seasons with any team, nor is there an artificial limit placed on coaching longevity with a given team.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

Shooting Stars Soccer Academy does not permit coaching by parents of players or any other spectators whatsoever during games. No one on the sidelines should instruct players or complain to officials before, during or after a game. Positive vocal support and encouragement is welcome during the game. Spectators should keep in mind that something as simple as "Shoot!" or "Pass it!" can be interpreted as instruction, not desirable, and may be contrary to what the coach is teaching or has instructed the team or player to do. The Academy insists that members of the coaching staff be the only sideline voices at all games and practices.

All parents are required to act in an orderly manner when attending any Shooting Stars Soccer Academy game or event. Parents should sit at least 15 yards from the halfway line and cannot stand behind the bench/coaches. Parents are not allowed to follow the play up and down the sideline. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for your coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities.

No one other than those listed on official game rosters with a valid id or shooting stars soccer Academy issued card may sit on or near the team bench during games.



Parents and players should feel free to communicate with the coach and ask questions, but should do so only at the appropriate time and in the proper place. Under no circumstances will dissatisfied parents approach the coach immediately after a game or a practice. We have a 24 hour rule in the Academy that is strictly enforced. Players are encouraged to speak up and communicate for themselves as much as possible. Coaches are expected to communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with players about their progress. The Academy encourages player-coach or player-parent-coach conferences at appropriate times during the year. Coaches will also provide an annual written evaluation of each player.

POLICY ON COMMUNICATIONS

If a problem arises that a player and/or parent feel must be resolved, the Academy has a policy that suggests how to effectively address the issue. All parents are to observe the "The 24-Hour Rule": Give one full day before initiating communications with coaches, the Director of Coaching, or Management Committee Members. (It is amazing how much simpler a problem may seem after taking a day or two to consider.) After waiting, if the problem still needs to be addressed, players and/or parents should:

- Discuss the problem with their coach. If not resolved then...
- Discuss with the Directors of Coaching.

Coaches are the primary decision makers and will work with their team managers to keep you informed of team plans and changes to plans when they occur. Team coaches, not team managers are responsible for the channels of communication. Most team managers and coaches will communicate with team members via whatsapp or email. Whatsapp or e-mails should be used only to distribute factual information. They should not be used to air problems or to express opinions.



Managers and Coaches are encouraged not to use whatsapp or use e-mail when an *urgent* message needs to get out to the team, a text message or telephone call is the preferred means of sending urgent messages. In the event of rain on training days, please check your whatsapp, e-mails, text messages and voice messages before leaving for the field.

Shooting Stars Soccer Academy does not have final say on field closures due to weather or related issues at Mitchell house sport fields. Very often the decision to close or leave fields opens at Mitchell house sport fields may be made at the last minute by the grounds man.

Coaches and Managers will be notified promptly if fields are closed.

PART-TIME COACHES HOURS

The Academy's success is based a great part on the efforts of many coaches. During the course of the season, you may be asked to volunteer for responsibilities in various Academy activities.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The Academy bases its fees on a budget that is developed on an annual basis. Each player registering to the Academy assumes the following financial obligation:

- a. **Academy Fees:** player registrations, insurance, league and tournament fees, coach's pay, coach's travel and per diem, referee fees, indoor and out door field rental fees, team equipment, administrative costs and other miscellaneous. (Shooting stars soccer Academy Fees are inclusive of "team fees")
- b. **Uniform/Kit Fees:** cost of uniform and practice jerseys (ball bags and warm-ups may be required for some teams)
- c. **Personal Travel:** expense to/from soccer events.

The non-refundable Academy commitment fee (if applicable) must be paid at the time of acceptance.

Payment of Academy fees may be done by eft or deposited through the Academy's bank account. If it is necessary to pay by personal check please contact Academy

- Ms Maria Matlou at 067 768 8029 to make arrangements for payment.



Why Are Uniforms Not Covered?

Uniforms are a personal choice and therefore difficult to calculate into a budget. Families make decisions to purchase a certain number of uniform items based on personal finances and choices. Additionally, a player may not need a new complete kit every year. Players grow at different rates—some can wear the same kit for 2 years while others may grow out of the kit or part of it within a season. Some players may wear out or ruin certain parts of a uniform and need replacement at any given point. Therefore, s Shooting Stars Soccer Academy believes it is best for uniforms to be purchased as needed by individual payers.

Financial Assistance

The Academy offers financial assistance to cover all or a portion a player's Academy fees.–Financial Assistance cannot be awarded for a player's Team Fees. Team fees remain the obligation of the individual player. For further details about financial assistance, please contact your team's coach or visit the Academy website to download and fill out an application.

Upon approval or release, players deciding to transfer from Shooting stars soccer Academy prior to the end of the season are required to repay in full all assistance monies received by the player in order to be released from the Academy in good standing. Additionally, in the event that a player receiving financial assistance from the Academy fails to pay any outstanding balance, the Academy and/or Coach may request to place the player in bad standing.

Arrears

Should a player fall in arrears for either Academy Fee payments or Team Fee payments, the player may be suspended from play until all accounts are brought current. Players will receive two official Academy warnings regarding bringing payments current. If these warnings do not have the desired effect, the third warning will lead to suspension of playing privileges.

Suspension of Playing Privileges

Any player that falls behind in his or her financial obligations to the Academy or the team, based upon the 3 official warnings system, will have their playing privileges suspended until those obligations have been met or arrangements have been made. Further, being in arrears could subject the player to an S.S.S.A hearing to determine the continuing status of the player. Players removed from the Academy for non-payment of Academy and/or team fees will be placed into bad standing with South African Youth Soccer Association for an indefinite period until the debt is settled. This debt and the bad standing status will be carried forward from season to season until the debt has been settled.



Transfers/Releases/Refunds

Players may be released from the Academy and/or transfer only in accordance with South African Youth Soccer Association rules. When a player leaves the Academy prior to the end of the season, a checkout procedure with the coach and Board of Directors must be followed. Initially, all outstanding Academy fees for the entire season must be paid. Also, any and all outstanding team fees must be paid and up to date. The Academy will consider a refund of a portion of Academy Fees for very limited circumstances (e.g. player's family is moving out of the geographical area or the player has suffered a season-ending injury) provided the player is in good standing with the Academy.

A player is in good standing if he or she has met all financial obligations with the Academy *and* his/her team. Refunds shall not be made, however, on the basis of playing time; a change in coaching; coaching decisions; discord between player, parent, or coach; or alleged mistreatment of a player by a coach.

THE ACADEMY CODE OF CONDUCT

As a player, you are part of a team and a Academy and your actions reflect not only upon yourself, but on your team, the Academy, and the rest of the Shooting stars soccer Academy organization.

Players and parents are expected to:

- Conform to the rules established by your team and the Academy;
- Respect the coach's decisions and follow his/her instructions;
- Avoid inappropriate behavior during practice, games, team or Academy-sponsored events, tournaments, and travel; • Follow the Academy's 24-hour rule on communication;
- Players are expected not to smoke, drink alcohol, or use illicit drugs;
- Attend practices, games, and tournaments to which your team is committed;
- Abide by travel rules of the team or Academy, including attending team meals and team activities, traveling as a team, following nutritional guidelines, complying with team hotel room assignments, etc.;
- Treat teammates, members of the Academy (including parents and family members), opponents, coaches, referees and other officials with respect;
- Care for your uniform, Academy equipment and fields. When attending a practice or a game, be timely and wear the appropriate training gear and/or uniform;
- Remember that under the rules of soccer, a coach can be ejected from a game because of the conduct of a parent, or a team can forfeit a game because of the conduct of a parent.



Coaches are expected to:

- Set high standards for themselves and their players' conduct;
- Set team rules, including attendance rules, and fairly and equally apply these rules;
- Treat all players honestly, fairly, positively, and with respect;
- Be committed to helping each player develop soccer skills and game understanding;
- Communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with players and parents;
- Represent the Academy in a professional manner with any actions being beyond reproach;
- Act professionally at all times; and
- Abide by team and Academy rules

TRAVEL POLICY

Players and parents can expect travel outside of the state and all players will be required to participate in every event unless injured. Parents cannot pick and choose the events that are attended.

Certain travel rules are Academy specific, but other rules and guidelines can and will be set by individual teams. Travel rules for the Academy include:

- Players are expected not to smoke, drink alcohol or use illicit drugs;
- Respect fellow players, families, chaperones, and all others in authority;
- Respect the property of others, including hotel property, etc. as well as other guests and hotel staff;
- Players need to be accounted for at all times with either a parent, chaperone, coach, or designated person;
- Curfew will be set by team coach, and honored by all players, and supported by parents/chaperones;
- Team meetings, training, meals, and other activities set by the coach are mandatory and players are responsible for being punctual, with absence or tardiness limited to situations wherein specific permission has been given by the team coach;
- Teams are expected to stay together in the same hotel whenever possible;
- If rooming assignments are necessary, players are expected to honor assignments made by the coach;
- As representatives of the Academy, decorum and manners are expected through the entire trip;
- Players are to travel as a team when instructed to do so;
- Players will not, under any circumstances, operate rental vehicles; and
- Dress requirements while traveling or at special events such as opening ceremonies at regional or national tournaments may be set and must be adhered to as instructed by the team coach.

Players and parents not observing the travel policy will be sent home from events. Additionally, families of Academy players are also expected to observe Academy travel rules and any other applicable Academy or team specific rules while traveling and staying in hotels with a Academy team.



DISCIPLINE

Most minor violations of the Player and Parent Agreement should be resolved within the team, through the team manager and team coach. Serious or unresolved violations should be reported initially to one of the Directors of Coaching who will then involve the appropriate Board member, if deemed necessary. The Academy may decide to institute a Discipline and Review Committee to review the situation to the final determination of what action, if any, may be appropriate. If action is necessary, the available options range from a caution or warning, to requiring a personal apology, probation, service work, suspension from playing or attending games as the case might be, or as a final step, expulsion from the Academy. As a member of the Academy, you are responsible for your own actions, and will be held accountable for same.

I have read and understood the above on behalf of:

Player (Printed) Name) _____

Parent (Printed) Name and Parent Signature

Date

Parent (Printed) Name and Parent Signature

Date

PLAYER AND PARENT AGREEMENT (PPA)

