



Odyssey Sport Soccer Club Player/Family Handbook

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PLAYER/FAMILY HANDBOOK

Welcome to Odyssey Sport Soccer Club

1.0 Mission Statement

The mission of Odyssey is to inspire and nurture the soccer journeys of our players through an inclusive, child-centered developmental philosophy that empowers young people to achieve the soccer aspirations they set for themselves.

Odyssey Sport Soccer Club:

- ❖ Inspires the highest standard of professionalism for our coaches, team managers, parents and guardians, respect for individual players, and sportsmanship on and off the field of play.
- ❖ Inspires respect for the game, respect for others, and the importance of giving back to the game and community.
- ❖ Inspires the concept of continued education for our players, families, coaches and teams in all areas of the sport of soccer.
- ❖ Ensures that players have the tools needed to reach their fullest potential in fitness, game play, leadership, ethics and honesty.

Odyssey is committed to the holistic development of the individual within the program.. The combination of supportive parents, quality coaching, strong management, and players eager and willing to learn equals a successful program.

Odyssey is dedicated to the development of soccer players to the highest level possible relative to ambition and commitment. Because of that goal, Odyssey must maintain standards that enable the club, coaches, and players to participate at what is considered the highest level of youth soccer. Participating at this level requires commitment and behavior that goes beyond that of a recreational focus. To help establish and maintain a guideline of standards, this Player/Family Handbook must be read, fully understood and agreed to by all Odyssey players and families.

Please read this handbook carefully, sign it where indicated, and return the signed acknowledgement to your team manager.

Best regards,

Jim Davis
President Board of Directors
Odyssey Sport Soccer Club

Matt Dunn
Director of Soccer
Odyssey Sport Soccer Club

Noelle Meyer
Treasurer Board of Directors
Odyssey Sport Soccer Club

2.0 EXPECTATIONS

2.1 The Parent/Guardian Role

Parental involvement is vital to the success of Odyssey. In addition to the payment of club fees, parents manage the logistics of getting players to and from training sessions, games, extracurricular events and activities, and in other ways as well. Because of this high parental involvement setting, reasonable boundaries for this involvement are essential to player and team development. Accordingly, Odyssey has established the following guidelines:

Please:

- ❖ Drop players off on-time for games and practices. Let coaches and/or team manager know if your player will be late or absent
- ❖ Feel free to support and cheer (positive reinforcement) for players during a game
- ❖ Allow players and coaches the freedom to train without your constant supervision
- ❖ If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, allow yourself a twenty-four hour "cooling off" period, express your concern, and then *give* the coach enough time to respond
- ❖ Order required player gear on time
- ❖ Respect the role of the team manager as a volunteer position and any questions on coaching should be directed to the team coach or Directors. Any questions on club policy should be directed to the Board President. Only team managers are allowed to be on team sidelines and handle player passes.
- ❖ Please review all signs of a concussion with your child. This may be found at odysseysportny.com under "Gear, Forms and Policies" and has also been agreed to upon acceptance of roster or train only positions.
- ❖ Players are expected to participate or return to play under optimum health and fully recovered from any injuries.
- ❖ For families of U15 and Up Players: Assist in the creation of and continue to monitor your son/daughter's Player Profile if you approve him/her to have one.
- ❖ Complete any Player Release forms when coming from other clubs in advance of playing with Odyssey. Questions please contact Cathy Duvall, Odyssey Registrar, at duvall624@gmail.com
- ❖ Complete all required forms, to include but not limited to:
 - To Team Manager: Odyssey Player/Family Handbook Standards signed sheet, Odyssey waiver signed sheet
 - To Registrar: Birth certificates (new players), Updated headshot photos (by email to Cathy Duvall at duvall624@gmail.com; Team managers may often coordinate photo for player passes instead)

The following is unacceptable behavior and team managers are required to quickly report such behavior to the Odyssey Directors:

- ❖ Being overly zealous on the sidelines during games
- ❖ Berating or directing degrading remarks at anyone (players, parents, or officials)
- ❖ Using foul language
- ❖ Coaching from the sidelines

Parents/Guardians who do not follow these guidelines will be counseled by Odyssey directors and may be asked to leave an event or not attend games. As a last resort, a player will be *removed* from the team roster and dismissed from the Club. **THERE WILL BE NO WRITTEN WARNING.**

2.2 The Player's Role

Please review section 2.2 with your son/daughter

Odyssey exists solely for your benefit. Please respect your coaches and the experience that they share with you. Additionally:

- ❖ Thank your parents/guardians for giving you the opportunity to play
- ❖ Communicate directly with your coach regarding absences from training, games, or tournaments
- ❖ Train regularly, be on time, work hard, and focus
- ❖ Keep the Odyssey facility clean, this includes all rooms and bathrooms while training and while waiting as others train. Only use items that you need to. Players are not allowed in the Odyssey office. Additionally keep all outside fields Odyssey attends free of any litter.
- ❖ Bring ALL required gear to every practice and game. This includes both home and away kits to all games/tournaments.
- ❖ Take care of your uniform and equipment
- ❖ Exhibit good sportsmanship
- ❖ Ask questions if you don't understand something
- ❖ Warm up in advance in order to maximize coaching time on the field
- ❖ Watch professional and college soccer as time permits on television or in person
- ❖ Remember that your behavior reflects on you, your family, your coach, your team, and Odyssey
- ❖ Do your best in school: education is more important than soccer
- ❖ U15 and Up Players are highly encouraged to create and regularly update their Player Profiles with parent/guardian permission. For account creation information, contact your team manager.
- ❖ The Concussion training has been agreed to online at odysseysportny.com upon acceptance of your position. Any questions on concussion training, please refer to the "Gear, Forms and Policies" section of Odyssey's website. If you ever think you may have signs of a concussion, you must report immediately to the nearest coach, referee, team manager or parent/guardian.

2.3 The Coach's Role

The coach is responsible for:

- ❖ Selecting a team roster from tryouts, notifying players who try out of selection, and assuring that teams have sufficient numbers of players committed to leagues, games and tournaments
- ❖ Creating a training schedule that is provided to both families and the directors of coaching, and maintain that schedule throughout the soccer seasons
- ❖ Working with the coaching director to choose appropriate leagues and tournaments for the team
- ❖ Attending all training sessions, games, and tournaments or securing a qualified substitute. Notify team manager of substitutions in coaching
- ❖ Providing regular feedback to players and families
- ❖ Working with the team manager to maintain communication with families

2.4 The Team Manager's Role

Each team will have a manager to help with communications between the coach, players, parents and referees. Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Assuring that a medical kit, ice, team book with Odyssey player passes and medical information for each player are available at all indoor and outdoor training sessions and games. Also include referee payments for necessary games
- ❖ Collecting all initial forms and information from families - players will not train or compete until their files are complete. This includes both rostered and train only players. These forms need to be kept in each team binder for the entire season. This includes signed Parent/Guardian Handbook Standards page and signed Odyssey waiver, etc. Please alert the Directors of forms not turned in as this effects player being allowed to play/train. Secure these forms from any new players to the team during the year.
- ❖ Arranging travel to tournaments by registering, securing paper work, and reserving hotel accommodations and all other needed steps
- ❖ Communicating with families about schedules, schedule changes
- ❖ Send weekly team update emails at the start of each week and cc in the Director of the Boy's and/or Girl's Teams and the Team Manager Liaison.
- ❖ Communicate to coaches if shortage of players is at risk for events
- ❖ Soliciting volunteers for committees and Odyssey events, as needed
- ❖ Attending or scheduling team meeting, as needed
- ❖ Immediately report to Directors any unsportsmanlike behavior from Parents/Guardians or Players
- ❖ Share areas of concern with Coaching staff, Odyssey Directors, Board Members and/or Team Manager Liaison
- ❖ Coordinate needed individual headshot photos with Registrar; Send appropriately sized individual headshot photos to Registrar (often done player by player before a team training session)

Team managers are not involved in coaching decisions, player and family concerns, fees and billing, or financial aid. Coaching and player/family issues should be directed either to the coach or to the Director of Coaching, and financial questions/issues should be addressed to Odyssey's Treasurer.

3.0 PLAYER STATUS

3.1 Roster Player:

Players who accept a roster spot are committed to the team and shall maintain their roster position through the Spring season provided they:

*Train consistently - coaches expect players to attend most (80% minimum) training sessions

*Regional and Tournament competition. Parents will complete an availability matrix for their player which includes religious and family obligations, standardized test dates, and other anticipated conflicts. While it is understood that there will be occasional unanticipated conflicts that cause a player to miss a game, players and families are expected to be fully committed to game attendance.

*Pay their fees – timely and on schedule and order required gear on time

3.2 Training Only Player:

- ❖ Once approved as a train only player, Training Only players are not promised any game time.
- ❖ Train consistently - coaches expect players to attend most (80% or more) training sessions
- ❖ Pay their fees - timely
- ❖ Order required gear on time

4.0 Playing Time:

Odyssey understands that individual player development is based on competitive experience, so the Club has developed policy to support fair playing time for players indoor and outdoor. Coaches are permitted to make exceptions to this policy and it is the responsibility of the coach to inform all interested parties on the nature of those exceptions.

U14 and Younger

- ❖ Players who train seriously and consistently (a minimum of 80% of all sessions) can expect to play for a fair amount of every game unless an exception is clearly communicated to them and their parents before that game. Communication should occur before the day of the game. Please keep in mind that some rosters allow up to 22 players per team and the coaches will balance play time as best they can while maintaining a competitive learning environment.

U15 - U18

- ❖ Players who train seriously and consistently can expect to play for a fair amount of every game unless an exception is clearly communicated to them and their parents before that game. Communication should occur before the day of the game. Please keep in mind that some rosters allow up to 22 players per team and the coaches will balance play time as best they can while maintaining a competitive learning environment.
- ❖ While there is no guarantee of equal playing time, players with consistent and committed training attendance traveling overnight to tournaments can expect to play in approximately 30% of game time with a flawless training attendance.
- ❖ Some contests, including State Cup and Region 1 beginning at U15, enforce limited substitution rules whereby a player cannot be re-entered into play after he or she leaves the field in a half. These rules affect playing time, and coaches will explain limited substitution situations and resulting playing time expectations as they occur

5.0 Odyssey Club Fee Policy

Club Fees – (Full Year Player)

For U8 - U18 players, the annual club fees covers August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016. The annual club fee includes quality training, field use, indoor/outdoor league & referee fees, player registration, team registration, and facility costs. The annual club fee does not include the uniform kit, tournament fees, personal travel costs, and spirit wear/accessories. Members have the option to pay the club fees using our approved payment plan or a one-time full-pay.

How to Claim your Roster Spot (Full Year Player)

To claim your roster spot you must pay \$140.00 (includes \$40 Tryout/Registration Fee) which

is a non-refundable deposit as soon as you get your confirmation about making the team. The \$100.00 will be applied towards full year player fees. You will be expected to begin training in late November/early December with your team. The \$100.00 deposit will NOT hold your spot until spring if you decide you do not want to play the indoor season.

Late Charge Fees

Payments are due on the date specified and can be subject to a \$25 late charge if payment is not received before the next payment is due.

Returned Payment Fees

Returned Check payments that do not settle your account and are returned unpaid to Odyssey are subject to a \$25 service charge. Odyssey will bill you the service charge and you will have 10 days to pay your account. This applies to payments by check, electronic debit, credit card and debit card.

Overdue Accounts

The Odyssey board unanimously voted to exclude players who have not met their financial commitment. All ages, are required to be up-to-date in order to be added to a new year roster. Also, the Board will no longer allow players who have not met their financial commitment to participate in training and/or games. This means that the players pass will be pulled until all financial commitments are met.

Refund Policy

Odyssey is committed to each player for a full year and we expect each player to be committed to Odyssey for the year as well. Once the soccer year has begun, the start is defined as the first training session of the season, no refunds will be issued, as other players may have been rejected on the basis of your commitment. An acceptance of a roster or train only spot is a commitment to pay the entire player fees for a player's registered program(s).

Financial Aid

To request **financial aid** please contact Noelle Meyer at noellemeyer@yahoo.com, please state Financial Aid in the subject line. You may also visit www.odysseysportny.com for an application under "Gear, Forms and Policies." In order to apply for financial aid one must meet Federal Poverty Guidelines as a tool and an award is not guaranteed. Financial aid awards are not talent based nor are they guaranteed from year to year. All financial aid requests will be held in the strictest of confidence by the Odyssey Board of Directors. All requests shall be answered within one (1) board meeting cycle.

Fundraiser

As part of your annual club fees you are responsible for \$100.00 in raffle tickets (Max 2 per family). You have the option of selling these raffle tickets to others or purchasing them yourself. Any player may sell more than the minimum of 20 tickets and use the proceeds to offset their training fees by \$100. However any additional tickets sold above the 20 minimum cannot be in the name of the players immediate family (unless parents separated in which case there could be up to 40, 20 in each parents name).

Sibling Discount

A sibling discount is available for a Blue Sombrero account holder's residence household who has 3 or more children participating in Odyssey programs. For the discount, please contact Odyssey's Treasurer Noelle Meyer at noellemeyer@yahoo.com

6.0 Player Code of Conduct

Players are expected to read or have read and explained to them the Odyssey Player Code of Conduct.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

1. **Trustworthiness** - be worthy of trust in all I do.

Integrity - live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.

Honesty - live and compete honorably; don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct or tolerate those that do.

Reliability - fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.

Loyalty - be loyal to my club and team; put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT

2. **Respect** - treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student-athletes.

3. **Class** - live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

4. **Disrespectful Conduct** - don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport that includes physical, verbal, graphic, written or electronic means.

5. **Respect Officials** - treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

RESPONSIBILITY

6. **Importance of Education** - be a student first and commit to getting the best education possible. Understand the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing at a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

7. **Role-Modeling** - Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that every player is expected to represent their club, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct serving as a positive role model. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the club administration.

8. **Self-Control** - exercise self-control; don't fight or show displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.

9. **Healthy Lifestyle** - safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

10. **Integrity of the Game** - protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.

11. **Technology** - Use your cell phone and its camera appropriately, NO PHOTOS of any kind in the locker rooms, restroom, or in any place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Do not record anyone without his/her prior knowledge, or without his/her effective consent.

FAIRNESS

12. **Be Fair** — live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

13. **Concern for Others** - demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to self or others.

14. **Teammates** - help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP

15. **Play by the Rules**- maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.

16. **Spirit of rules** - honor the spirit and the letter of the rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

OWNERSHIP

17. **Be proud of the facility and fields that you train and compete on** - This is your space so clean up after yourself. Many people have given their time, energy and funds to create this facility. It is your responsibility to take care of it.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I understand that I'm expected to perform according to this code and I understand that there may be sanctions or penalties if I do not.

7.0 Handbook Standards Acceptance

Signatures below are an agreement for August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016

If you have more than one child playing for Odyssey, a signed form per child must be submitted to each team manager.

The signature page must be received in addition to your payment to secure roster position.

By accepting a roster spot, you agree to abide by the Player/Family Handbook, and the Player Code of Conduct, additionally the rules and sanctions of the Club and the soccer organizations that govern the Club. You'll find most of these posted on the Club website and the websites of our governing organizations. A few rules are posted at our facility. All these rules govern all members and guests on Club property.

Odyssey reserves the right to change this Player/Family Handbook at any time in order to provide safe guidelines for our Players, Parents, Coaches, and Volunteers. Further, Odyssey reserves solely within its own discretion, the right to dismiss from the Club any player and his/her parent and/or guardian for any activity that could adversely affect the Club or the safety of the Club's Players, Parents, Coaches and/or Volunteers.

Please Print Player Name: _____

Team: _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Registration:

According to ENY/Mid State NY Soccer League, a player shall neither sign with or play for another club travel team than those with which he or she has registered. A player can be registered with only one club travel team at a time. If your child has registered with a club other than Odyssey within the 2015-2016 season, your child will not be registered or player pass issued by Odyssey until a Player Release form has been signed by the player, parent and club the player is being released from and is received by Odyssey's Registrar. This form may be found on Odyssey's website under "Gear, Forms and Policies." Please indicate if you played with any tournament team or other indoor team OTHER THAN ODYSSEY (Not including school or AYSO) this Fall or Winter?

Circle one: YES NO

If yes, what team? _____ Your Contact Information: _____

Team Managers-Please let the Registrar know of any "Yes's" above, thank you.

8.0 Odyssey Waiver

Important: Please update this form throughout the 2015-2016 year with Odyssey team managers in event of a change in insurance, medical conditions, medications, allergies, etc.

If you have more than one child playing for Odyssey, a signed form per child must be submitted to each team manager.

Signatures below are an agreement for August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016

The signature page must be received in addition to your payment to secure roster position.

Name of Participant: _____

Name of Legal Parent/Guardian: _____

I give my child listed above, full permission to participate in all activities held by the Odyssey Sport Soccer Club. I hereby authorize the any and all Odyssey Sport Soccer Club coaches or staff to act according to their best judgment in any emergency if I cannot be contacted. I further agree that Odyssey Sport Soccer Club should be held harmless from and indemnification against any liability, cost claims, loss or damages, which it or they may occur as a result of an accident to my child. I release and forever discharge any and all claims I may have or may acquire against Odyssey Sport Soccer Club, coaches, team managers, staff or club officers.

Please list any medical conditions or medications the participant is currently taking. Please also include allergies to food, insects, medications, etc. and any other possibly relevant medical information. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Parent/Guardian Health Insurance Company: _____

Insured/Policy Holder's Name: _____

Policy Number: _____

Plan Code: _____

Effective Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Legal Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Have a Great Soccer Year! Thank You for Being a Part of the Odyssey Difference!