



Parent Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to McKenzie United Soccer Club (MUSC). We are pleased that you have decided to participate in what we believe will be an enjoyable and rewarding soccer experience for your child and you. Over the years, we have enjoyed many successes with our involvement in youth soccer. We have learned that one key ingredient of success is clear, consistent communication between the Club and its Teams, Coaches, Players, and Parents.

This parent handbook has been put together to answer some of the recurring questions about the Club, its philosophy, and its policies in several areas.

Soccer is growing dramatically in this country, bringing new ideas at all levels every season. Therefore, our philosophies and policies are also continuing to evolve in ways that will better serve the needs of each player and the Club as a whole. To some extent, and to fit particular circumstances, the policies of a particular team may vary somewhat from those set out in this handbook. Look first and foremost to your Head Coach and Manager for direction.

As you have committed to becoming a member of the McKenzie United Soccer Club, please take the time to read the following pages carefully. If you have questions regarding this material or something that needs to be covered in this material, please feel free to contact your Coach or the Club.



Club Organization

MUSC's Board of Directors administers the club by establishing and approving the annual budget, sponsorship agreements, coach's contracts, and player fees. MUSC is certified through Canada Soccer as a National Youth Club License holder. The [Canada Soccer National Youth Club Licence](#) recognizes the highest-achieving organizations across Canada. It rewards them with the Canada Soccer Approved Youth Soccer Club endorsement and associated [MLS Home Grown Player benefits](#). Organizations earning this licence display characteristics and demonstrate behaviours aligned with the highest expectations of governance, administration, infrastructure, and technical. They support their Member Association and Canada Soccer Pathways and participate in the highest level of competition in Canada - the Canada Soccer Player Development Program.

MUSC is also a member club in good standing of the Calgary Minor Soccer Association (CMSA), the governing body of youth soccer in Calgary. All MUSC players and teams will be registered with the Calgary Minor Soccer Association.

MUSC offers two streams for youth players: a recreational stream which includes our Grassroots and House Leagues, and a competitive stream which consists of a CMSA-based league and the Alberta Youth Soccer League (AYSL) administered by ASA (Alberta Soccer Association). MUSC's competitive teams' league play takes place through ASA and CMSA-sanctioned events. MUSC's Grassroots programs are entrenched within our local SE communities and provide our families with a great introductory soccer experience.

MUSC is a proud ambassador of the Canadian Soccer Long Term Player Development model, providing progressive and innovative programming specific to each stage of development through age-appropriate physical literacy, skill development, player engagement and a holistic approach to developing the player and child.



MUSC Club Philosophy

MUSC's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Statement of Core Values explain the Club's intentions, priorities, and values.

These statements are at the heart of all the activities that we undertake and the decisions that we make.

Mission Statement

Providing life-long playing opportunities for athletes of all abilities while providing tools and pathways to elite players to pursue excellence.

Vision Statement

To be recognized and respected by our members and the soccer community for our integrity, fairness, and innovation in administering high-quality yet affordable programs.

Statement of Core Values

The following enduring values have been identified as the cornerstones that guide our Club in pursuit of its mission:

Respect is the basis for our dealings with others. It means recognizing and valuing others and being sensitive to the impact of our decisions and actions on all our stakeholders.

Integrity is acting honestly and transparently. It means sharing knowledge and objectives with others and acting responsibly.

Fairness is acting equitably. It means making reasoned decisions that are in accordance with established rules, principles and precedents and being consistent.

Innovation is a dynamic process of building on the past to be more effective in the future. It means giving due consideration to new ideas and planning for and implementing those that will make us better able to achieve our goals.



Expectations

MUSC is committed to providing an environment where all individuals are treated respectfully. Further, MUSC supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. All parents/guardians agree to the Code of Conduct at the time of registration.

All participants are expected to always conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values of MUSC, which include fairness, integrity, open communication, and mutual respect. Conduct that violates these values may be subject to sanctions pursuant to MUSC's discipline policy.

In addition to the above, the following specific behaviors will be subject to sanction according to the discipline policy:

- not complying with the by-laws, rules, regulations or policies of Canada Soccer and Alberta Soccer as adopted and amended occasionally.
- verbally or physically abusing opponents, officials, spectators, or sponsors; MUSC, CMSA, ASA or CS personnel, team-mates, coaching staff, support staff, peers or volunteers
- showing disrespect to officials, including the use of foul language and obscene or offensive gestures.
- abusing soccer facilities or equipment.
- failing to comply with the conditions of entry in a CMSA or ASA-sanctioned event, including any rules about clothing or advertising.
- any other unreasonable conduct which brings MUSC, its' sponsors or the sport of soccer into disrepute, including but not limited to abusive use of alcohol, non-medical use of drugs, and use of alcohol by minors.

The following sections outline the expectations for parents, players, and coaches.

Players

As a member of an MUSC team, players are essential to the team's success and accept the commitment outlined at each level of play. Players must understand that their commitment to practices and training will directly impact their performance on the field.

Players must show up fully prepared at the designated time for training and games as outlined by the coaching/management staff. Fully prepared means that the player is ready to play with gear, hydration, and nutrition requirements met. Players are responsible for communicating with coaching staff with questions or concerns.



Players will treat all teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials with respect. This includes monitoring and controlling language and rough play. Players must control their temper and emotions and understand that the inability to adhere to this expectation will impact their role on the team.

Players agree to take risks, make mistakes, and understand that failure is essential to learning. If a child wants to improve, they must practice -- not just play. Even if a child is not the "star" player, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children can use both in and away from sports.

Players understand that playing time is impacted by their commitment and level of play. Playing time will be fair, not necessarily equal, and ultimately determined by the coaching staff. Any concerns should be addressed directly to the coaching staff following a 24-hour grace period.

All players at MUSC will win with humility as a team and lose with dignity as a team.

Parents

Our mission is to have spectators play a positive role in the game of soccer and positively support the participating athletes, officials, and coaches.

With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the "basics" of soccer by a parent or guardian, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

On the Sidelines: Parents and other spectators can help keep the fun in soccer by enjoying the game and applauding good plays. The sidelines are not where parents should try to coach their children personally. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents. They'll probably do the same on the pitch if they see mom or Dad losing their cool on the sidelines.

Car and Home: Some parents believe the vehicle is the perfect place for post-game or-practice instruction. Parents should keep a perspective that there's more to life than soccer, and the car and home are not places to critique your child's performance or that of their team.

In the Stands: Parents will take the fun out of soccer by continually yelling or screaming from the sidelines. Instead, parents should enjoy the game and applaud good plays. The sidelines are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their children. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents. If kids see their mom or dad losing their cool on the side-lines, they'll probably do the same on the pitch.



At Practice: If a child wants to improve, they must practice -- not just play. Even if a child is not the "star" player, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline and learning to control their emotions. These are important lessons children can use both on and off the pitch.

As a parent, you play a valuable role in our club. Without your role as a volunteer, nutritionist, chauffeur, cheerleader, first aid and TLC specialist, we couldn't do what we do, and your aspiring superstars' experience wouldn't be the same.

To ensure we create a team culture on and off the field, we ask that all parents adhere to MUSC club expectations.

- Parents will ensure that players arrive at all events on time, as determined by the coaching and management staff, and are ready to play.
- Parents will ensure that players have a complete soccer kit for the season as outlined by the team staff.
- Parents will correspond proactively on the team communication platform used by their team regarding absences, injuries, and questions. Parents understand that frequent absences may affect playing time.
- Parents understand that day-of correspondence regarding absences should be restricted to sudden illness or family emergencies. In this event, contact the coach directly.
- Parents will adhere to the 24-hour rule when they have concerns/questions. Parents will not communicate with coaches directly at the field. Parents will communicate by email or phone first and understand that the coach will return communication within 48 hours.
- Parents will cheer for every team member and not coach the team from the sidelines. Parents agree to stay in the 'parent' section and not join players in the coaching area unless asked.
- Parents will treat all parents, officials, coaches, and players with respect. Parents understand we are all representatives of MUSC and agree to conduct ourselves in the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.
- Parents will never criticize players for making mistakes – mistakes are part of learning.
- Parents will place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Parents understand that by not adhering to the above expectations, the coaching team has the right to bring their behavior to the attention of the club's Technical Director and General Manager, which may affect their child's role with the team.

Support Your Child: There are many benefits to playing youth soccer. Athletes learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, sacrifice for the team's good, enjoy winning, and handle defeat. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health. The degree to which your child benefits from their soccer experience is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. For your child to get the most out of



youth soccer, you need to offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

Always Be Positive: Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction, and approval. Keep sight of the fact that you are a role model and strive to be a positive one. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is always show good sportsmanship to coaches, referees, opponents, and teammates. Remember that your children are PLAYING soccer. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives.

Let the Coach “Coach”: Parents are responsible for supporting and respecting the coach's decisions and abilities. It is unfair to put children in a position of deciding whom to listen to -- their parents or the coach.

Parents must also respect the club's mission, vision, values, standards and practices and the team officials who act under those guidelines.

Positive Reinforcement: Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. The most important aspect of your child's youth soccer experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk-free environment emphasizing the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline and, most importantly, the FUN - will be invaluable for your child as they develop a positive self-image. Positive reinforcement is the best way to help children achieve goals and reduce fear of failure. After all, no one likes to make mistakes. If your child makes a mistake -- and they will (remember, they're human) -- remember that mistakes are essential to learning. Strive to be supportive and point out the things they do well. Make your child feel like a winner. Telling them, “I love watching you play” is more valuable than any other feedback.

Team Dress Code: All athletes and coaches must dress appropriately when representing MUSC at any event, including, but not limited to, meetings and travel, games, tournaments, etc.

Coaches

Coaches will:

- professionally represent MUSC on and off the field.
- be a positive adult role model on and off the soccer field.
- show genuine interest and concern for each player as an individual.
- be fair and consistent when dealing with players and various situations that arise.
- run an organized, fundamentally sound soccer team. The coach will assist players in improving as individuals and assist the team in performing at its optimal level.
- work hard and always strive towards excellence.



First Time Soccer Parents

Rather than concerned with scoreboard wins and losses, MUSC encourages you, as a soccer parent, to keep your eye on the Big Picture — the life lessons in teamwork, resilience, overcoming adversity, communication skills, etc., that soccer can uniquely teach. For more specific information regarding MUSC's CMSA player evaluations, please refer to Appendix A.

Here are 10 tips for parents of kids new to organized soccer, and a good reminder for veteran parents:

1. It's easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of youth soccer — we all want our children to succeed. But before your child's season starts and emotions run high, write down your goals for your child in soccer. Keep this list close by and refer to it throughout the season to help maintain your focus on the bigger picture.
2. There are a lot of youth soccer organizations out there. Take the time to evaluate options for where your child may play. Look at various organizations' websites to understand their mission statements and what kind of training they offer their coaches. Talk to other parents whose kids have played in those organizations to learn what kind of experience they had. You may want to take as much care in this matter as you would in selecting the school your child should attend.
3. Learn the names of the other kids on the team, and during a game, cheer positively for ALL the players...even the other team! You can try "no-verbs cheering" or otherwise limit yourself to shouts of encouragement. Either way, let the coaches coach and don't confuse or overwhelm your child by shouting instructions from the sidelines or stands.
4. During a season, you may see parents or other spectators behave in a way that feels out of place or just too intense for the situation — berating officials or screaming at their children or other players. You may be unsure of how to respond. One key is to consistently model the appropriate behavior. Then, if you want to help an over-exuberant spectator, sometimes all it takes is a glance or a gesture, such as lowering your palms to indicate "calm down." You might choose to distract them with a conversation about another aspect of the game, or if you feel comfortable, you can remind them about the role of parents in upholding a positive soccer culture.
5. After the game, resist the temptation to critique. Ask open-ended questions that elicit longer responses, "What was your favorite part of today's practice?" Kids love soccer so much that they will even talk to their parents about it! When they do, listen. Put the



phones away. Maintain eye contact. Nod and interject and smile so your child knows you're engaged.

6. When you do have that conversation with your child about their team or games, focus on the life lessons available from the experience. If your child seems discouraged by his or her performance, reinforce a sense of self-worth with "You're the kind of person who..." statements: "I know you are disappointed with the loss, but one thing I like about you is you're the type of person who bounces back and tries hard the next time."
7. Coaches put a lot of time into planning practices and ensuring a successful season, so be sure to acknowledge their efforts often! Encourage your child to thank the coach after each game or practice. Offer to help the coaches however you can. That may mean anything from occasionally helping at practice to creating the snack schedule or coordinating carpools. Coaches need parents' support, and your children may appreciate seeing how enthusiastically you support their team.
8. One key to a positive relationship with your child's coach is a pre-season parent meeting, where the coach explains his or her philosophy and goals for the season to the parents or guardians of all the players on the team. If any of your children's coaches do not call such a meeting, be sure to ask about their goals so that you know what to expect.
9. If you're asked to coach, or to be an assistant, strongly consider accepting! You do NOT need to be a soccer-specific expert to provide a fun environment for kids to participate in. Good organizations provide training and resources to coaches to help them do great work with their players. Remember, the top goal of a coach at every age is to be positive and create a fun and safe place for kids to play!
10. At every possible turn, let your children know that you love them unconditionally (by saying it!), regardless of their athletic performance.

Enjoy your child's time in youth soccer. It is fleeting, and you will want to look back, in conversation with your grown children, on the good old days.



Honoring The Game

Here are ways that parents can contribute to a positive youth soccer culture so that children will have fun and learn positive character traits to last a lifetime.

Before the Game

- Commit to Honoring the Game in action and language no matter what others may do.
- Tell your children before each game that you will be proud of them regardless of how well they perform.

During the Game

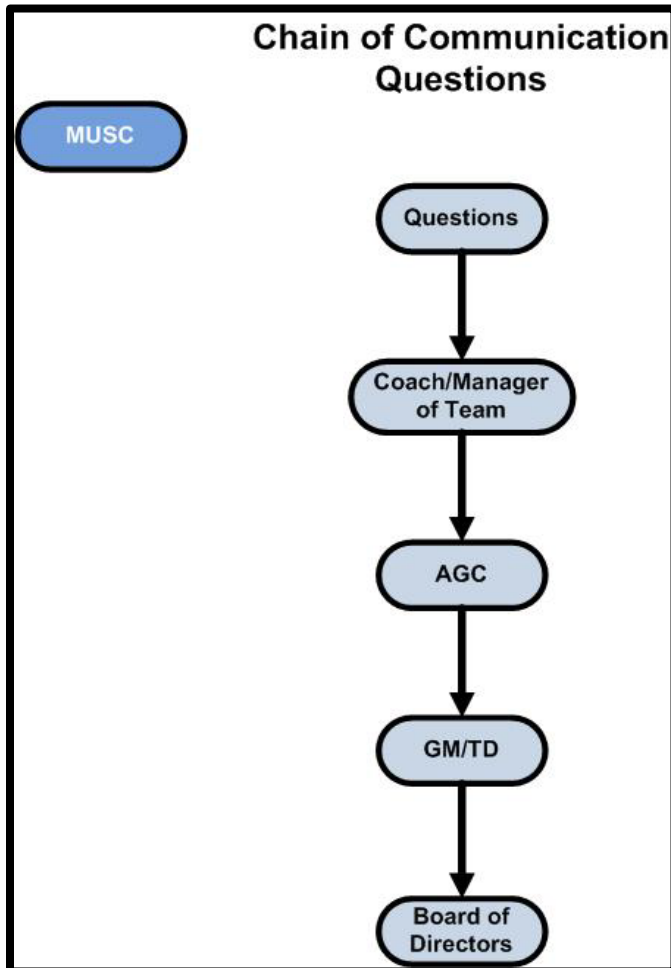
- Fill your children's "Emotional Tanks" through praise and positive recognition to help them play their best.
- Fill their teammates' tanks, too!
- Do not instruct your child during game action or at breaks; let the coaches coach. Cheer the good plays by both teams. Mention good calls by the official to other parents.
- If you disagree with an official's call, Honor the Game — BE SILENT!
- If other spectators yell at officials, gently remind them to Honor the Game.
- Don't do anything in the heat of the moment that you will regret after the game. Ask yourself, "What do I want to model right now for my child?"
- Remember to have fun and enjoy the game.
- Respect TREES (Teamwork, Respect, Effort, Environment, Sportsmanship), and encourage others around you to Honor the Game.

After the Game - The Car Ride Home

- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job for little or no pay. Thank the coaches for their commitment and effort.
- When reviewing the game with your children, ask rather than tell. Instead of immediately sharing your opinions or telling them how they can improve, ask questions such as
 - "What did you learn from that game?"
 - "What was your favorite play?"
 - "What was the most fun part of that game?"
- Remember to give your children truthful and specific praise... not just the typical "good game" but, for example, "I saw how well you moved your feet on defense."
- Tell your children again that you are proud of them, whether the team won or lost.
- The main job as a parent on your car ride home is to fill your child's emotional tank.
- The competitive nature of soccer can be stressful for players. The last thing they need is your critiquing their performance...on top of what the coach may deliver and what they



already are telling themselves. Let your children know you love and support them regardless of their performance.



Coach-Parent Partnership

The following are guidelines for how parents can contribute to a Coach-Parent Partnership that benefits their child as a youth soccer player.

Let Coaches Coach. It can confuse players to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions. Also, your instructions may counter the coaches' strategy and tactics, undermining team performance. At no time is it acceptable for the parents to coach from the sidelines.

Recognize the Coaches' Commitment. Your child's coaches have made a commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the time spent at practices and games. Quite likely in youth soccer they are volunteers. Respect their commitment and imagine yourself in their place before approaching them to discuss any issues you may perceive.

Make Early, Positive Contact with the Coach. As soon as you know who will coach your child, contact those coaches to introduce yourself and offer any assistance you may provide. Establishing a positive relationship with the coaches will help you proactively shape a positive experience for your child and will lay the foundation for respectful, productive conversations with coaches should a conflict arise later.

Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank. Too often, coaches hear only from parents who have complaints. Filling the coaches' Emotional Tanks with specific, truthful praise positively reinforces them to continue doing the things you see as benefiting your youth soccer player.



Don't Put the Player in the Middle. You shouldn't complain to your children about how poorly their math teacher explains fractions. Don't share your disapproval of a coach with your children. Doing so may force the child to take sides, and not necessarily your side! If your child has an issue with the coach and can maturely articulate it, encourage your child to approach the coach and, at the very least, learn some life lessons in self-advocacy with an authority figure. Otherwise, if you disapprove of how the coach handles a situation, seek a private meeting to discuss the matter away from the field.



Financial Information

Club Dues

Most of the expenses incurred by MUSC are financed through the player fees. Fees are set each season and communicated by the Club.

MUSC Club Player Fees include the following:

- CMSA and ASA Fees and Insurance
- Practice, Academy and Training Sessions
- Facilities Rental and Maintenance
- Club Administration Fees
- Club Programs and Equipment
- Coaching costs

The following is a partial list of additional expenses not covered by player fees and are the responsibility of each team. Typically, these are covered by fundraising activities.

- Tournament Entry Fees
- Coaches and Players Travel expenses to tournaments
- Additional Team Gear
- Team Building Events
- Extra Training Time / Friendly Games

The payment and timely collection of fees is a critical component to establishing long-term viability for our club. It is also one of the most difficult. We have spent a tremendous amount of time establishing fees that balance the needs of our club and the resources of our families.

We firmly believe that when families experience our professional training and coaching, as well as the character development of their sons and daughters, they will realize a tremendous return on their modest investment.

Fundraising

Soccer rightfully enjoys a reputation as a sport less costly than many others. And yet, when you reach the level of high-performance soccer, you necessarily begin to experience the need for better facilities, the cost of travelling to and playing in tournaments, extra uniform costs, more and better shoes, and so on.



The battle to meet the rising costs of building and sustaining a top-flight soccer program is constant. On a few occasions, we have benefited from the generosity of contributing businesses and individual friends of the Club. We need that type of special financial assistance on an ongoing basis. If you or your company could help us in meeting this challenge, please contact the Club's GM at gm@mckenzieunited.ca.

Teams are encouraged to explore fundraising possibilities that will help defray the cost of tournament travel and play. Typical fundraisers include bottle drives, raffles, and various food and vendor fundraising events, keeping in mind all [AGLC](#) regulations. If you have any questions regarding fundraising, discuss them with your team manager.



APPENDIX A

Competitive Player Evaluation Process

Evaluations are required for all CMSA (competitive) players U9 and above

Although evaluations can be a daunting and intimidating process for all participants, they are a fundamental tool ensuring players are placed in an environment where they can be successful and develop with peers at a similar stage of development.

MUSC strives to ensure that all players are provided with a fair, transparent, and objective evaluation by using independent (or non-parent) technical assessors. Player results are based on a combination of these evaluations and data collected from the player's history with the club (where applicable). The Technical Committee, comprised of the Technical Director, independent assessors, and prospective coaches, then finalizes each team's pre-season (or draft) roster.

When implemented, below is an outline of what you can expect to happen during the evaluation process.

1st Evaluation

The initial evaluation session (1 to 1½ hrs) consists of splitting the players into smaller groups with at least one evaluator assigned to each group. The players will then be asked to run through a few stage-of-development specific soccer exercises used to isolate application, which the evaluators will observe for approximately 30 minutes. The players will be moved back and forth between groups based on performance (please don't read too much into this). Players will then be taken into a small-sided game environment to conclude the session.

This session is designed to allow the club to sort/rank the players by their specific stage-of-development, technical ability, and game presence. This initial assessment will give the Technical Group an assessment of how many teams we will have for the season and at what levels (tiers) they will be entered.

2nd Evaluation

In some situations, a second evaluation session may be staged using the information gathered from the initial assessment and the coach's evaluations from past seasons (if applicable). This second session will feature a series of small-sided games where players will be asked to play a variety of positions and roles. Once again, there may be movement between fields as we get closer to establishing team cores.



Missed Evaluations

A missed evaluation will not work detrimentally to a player's selection, as the pre-season team draft will be used as another assessment opportunity. Athletes will be placed on a team where we are confident, they will have a competitive environment and where we can provide athletes with an opportunity for promotion.

Tips For A Successful Evaluation

Reminders: Here are some reminders to ensure that this process runs as smoothly as possible for your athlete

- If you are unable to attend evaluation(s), please contact the Age Group Coordinator (AGC) directly ASAP. Contact information can be found on our website.
- Please arrive 10 to 15 minutes early to register your player at the check-in desk.
- If your child has not played soccer with an Alberta-based team before, please upload a copy of proof of age document (Birth Certificate, AHC, Passport) to your registration profile as the club needs this to register him/her with CMSA and ASA.

For the evaluation, your player should be dressed appropriately:

- Shin pads and suitable footwear for the facility (outdoor cleats or indoor soccer shoes)
- Athletic or soccer T-shirt and shorts
- Water in a PLASTIC bottle with their name marked on it.

Please note that parents are asked to remain in the parent viewing area. We know you are anxious for your aspiring soccer star, but we want to ensure the environment is controlled, minimizing distractions to the athletes.

Competitive Team Selection Process

Team Notification

Based on the information gathered, the Technical Group will draft teams. Team draft notification day for all age groups will be communicated by the club for each season.

All players will be contacted directly by email initially indicating their 'drafted team', coaching staff, notified of their first team session and contacted by the coach within 48 hours. A lot of information is contained in the first email.



Team Drafts

Based on the information gathered team draft rosters will be created. Assigned players must participate in team pre-season training. Team selection will be done to minimize the movement required at this time. The club strives to provide the opportunity for upward player movement and minimize the necessity of downward movement. However, ensuring that players are placed at the most suitable level for individual success and development remains a priority. Team rosters will be finalized in accordance with the appeal process.

The MUSC *ADVANTAGE*

MUSC's program culture is designed to help our athletes become successful and confident in the game of life through the game of soccer. We want to ensure that our athletes appreciate the values of hard work, honesty, accountability, and responsibility.

MUSC advocates the use of the indoor competitive environment as a tool towards Long Term Player Development for the outdoor game.

Our roster sizes are smaller & designed to:

- Maximize time on the field & on the ball.
- Maximize player call-up opportunities.

Our programs are user-pay:

- We do not subsidize programs at the expense of others.
- We provide the best long-term value through your recreational or competitive playing experience.
- Players who qualify may receive funding from third-party organizations such as KidSport or JumpStart.

Player Placement Appeal Process

We strongly recommend that all players attend their FREE 1st academy session prior to appealing their team placement. If you are unhappy with your player's placement, all appeals need to be submitted to the Technical Committee via appeals@mckenzieunited.ca.

Please ensure that your email is titled "subject: Appeal (Player name)" by the specified date in your team notification email.

Appeals will require a \$150 administration fee, which will be refunded should the appeal be successful.



Players who have submitted appeals will be observed by an independent committee (Technical staff, Development Director) through the team draft window and receive final team placement by email before the final team roster deadline.



Appendix B

MUSC Parent (Adult) Code of Conduct

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these six pillars of character.

I therefore agree:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting events.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.



- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or another participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed-upon time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by these rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, or the president of the McKenzie United Sports Club
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file by organizations involved.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension



MUSC Player Code of Conduct

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these six pillars of character.

I therefore agree:

1. I will play soccer because I want to, not because others or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules of soccer and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper and respect my opponents.
4. I will do my best to be a team player, both on and off the field.
5. I will remember that it is more important to play fair and honorably than it is to win.
6. I will acknowledge all good plays; made either by my team or by my opponents.
7. I will respect all decisions by the coaches and officials
8. I will remember that these coaches and officials are there to help me.
9. I will respect the playing and practice facilities and equipment provided for me.



Appendix C

FAQ's

- 1) What are the roles on the team, and how do they get chosen?
 - a. The **coach**, who is appointed by the Technical Director, will determine what roles are required on the team and select from the parent group to fill these roles. It is critical to the team's success that these roles are well executed and that the coaching and management staff have a strong working relationship.
 - b. Typically, there are 1-2 **assistant coaches**, a team manager, and a bench parent. A bench parent is required if the coaching and management staff is not the same gender as the players. For example, a girls' team with all-male team officials must have a bench mom.
 - c. The **team manager** may decide to split up the duties of team management depending on what needs to be done. Some additional roles typically include a team treasurer, fundraising coordinator, tournament coordinator, and team gear coordinator.
 - d. At each league game, a **Field Marshal** is required. This role can be shared amongst the parents.

- 2) What other clubs are MUSC affiliated with?

For its AYSL program, MUSC has affiliations with other CMSA member clubs. The affiliation is designed to incorporate a common training program for both club's highest-performing players.

- 3) Does MUSC have any other partnerships?
 - a. MUSC is a nationally licensed Youth Club (NYCL) through which it participates in the Alberta Youth Soccer League (AYSL)
 - b. MUSC is a member in good standing with the Calgary Minor Soccer Association and the Alberta Soccer Association.
 - c. MUSC also maintains good relationships with other Calgary and Area clubs and will work with registered players to identify playing opportunities if not available within MUSC.

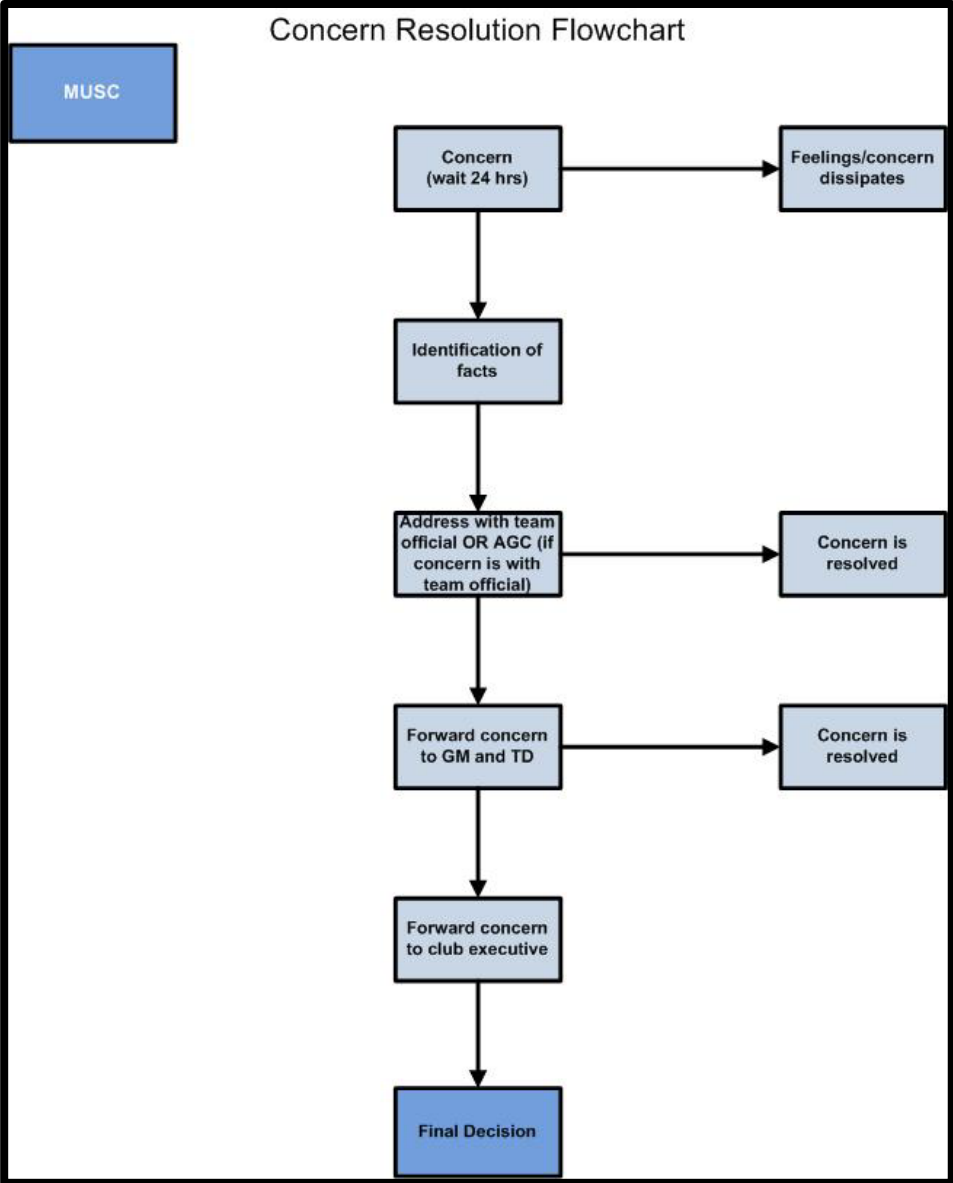
- 4) What do I do when I have a conflict with someone in the organization?
 - a. From time-to-time problems or conflicts may arise during a season. The most important thing to remember in handling these problems or conflicts is proper communication.
 - b. When a problem arises, you first need to discuss the issue with your team head coach. If, after consulting with the coach, you still feel that additional attention to the problem is needed, then you should refer the matter to the Technical Director (td@mckenzieunited.ca) and the General Manager



(gm@mckenzieunited.ca). If you still feel the issue has not been resolved, you can write an email to the Club President (president@mckenzieunited.ca). Your concern will be looked at by the Executive Committee, and their findings and suggestions will be forwarded to the Board of Directors, who will make a final decision on how to resolve the issue.

- c. We ask that you do not approach the coach or other Club official about conflicts before, during or immediately after the game. We ask that you wait 24 hours before approaching the coach after a match or a training session. We also ask the coach to wait for 24 hours before responding.
- d. Ensure you employ the 24-hour rule: collect your thoughts and wait 24 hours before approaching anyone about a conflict.
- e. Work through the chain of command on your team. First, the Coaching and Management Staff, then the club.
- f. Use these steps to help deal with conflict as it arises to avoid building resentments and dramatic situations.
 - i) Take a moment to let emotions and adrenaline clear the system. This typically takes 2-5 minutes but can take longer if the situation is extreme.
 - ii) Write down the events and situations as you witnessed them and your feelings around the situation.
 - iii) WAIT 24 hours before communicating with anyone to ensure that emotions have had time to calm.
 - iv) Start with the FACTS. Facts are indisputable and what we would expect to see if we watched a video recording of the event, situation, or behavior. Stories are our interpretations of the facts, usually judgments, attributions, and assumptions about what we did or didn't see or hear.
 - v) Think about what you really want and start your conversation there. Do you want your player on the highest tier team or where they will have the most opportunity to develop? Sometimes thinking about what we really want changes the conversation we're about to have.
 - vi) Be curious and listen to understand. Try to understand the other person's point of view before you try and communicate yours.
 - vii) If you aren't making progress, it is ok and recommended that you step out of the conversation and try again later.





Resources

- a. Canada Soccer - <https://canadasoccer.com/>
- b. Alberta Soccer - <https://albertasoccer.com/>
- c. Calgary Minor Soccer - http://calgaryminorsoccer.com/page.php?page_id=109767
- d. Pathways to Development - <https://www.canadasoccer.com/canada-soccer-pathway-ltpd--s16879>
- e. MUSC Board of Directors - <http://musc.ca/bod-list/>
- f. Club Contact Info - <http://musc.ca/club-contacts/>
- g. Alberta Soccer - Grassroots Community Soccer Parent Guide - <https://albertasoccer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ASAGrassrootsSoccer-ParentSoccerGuide-2.pdf>

