



# Los Alamos Youth Soccer League

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**Competitive Program**

**Commitment Agreement 2010-2011**

Welcome to the Los Alamos Youth Soccer League Competitive Program. The LAYSL competitive program is the natural progression for players that want to test their skills at the highest level in New Mexico. Along with this increase level of play, comes a larger commitment from players and parents alike. The competitive program emphasizes player development over winning. Teams practice 2 or 3 times a week, with games at the Bernalillo Soccer Complex on Saturdays. Teams will often do a tournament in the Fall season as well as another in the Spring, but this frequency is up to the individual team coaches.

Some of the concepts stressed to players are: Self-discipline, Health, Fitness, High Expectations, Respect for Self and Others, Self-improvement, Desire, Competitive Spirit, Fundamental Skills, Teamwork, Communications, Planning, Thinking, Confidence, Positive Attitude, Sportsmanship, and yes, even Winning.

## **Treatment of Players:**

Each player matures physically and emotionally at an individualized rate, not an age chart. Those who do not display natural talent in some skill areas now may blossom later. Those who are less talented may get more out of themselves than more talented players. However, each player should improve individually as much as possible in a team context. A natural fact is the players will NOT BE TREATED EQUALLY. No two children are exactly alike, and each has unique needs. Personalities often respond to different treatments. While equality is not a goal, or an expectation, fair, reasonable, honest, and respectful treatment should be expected.

In sports, harsh treatment of players by coaches should be expected at times. Sometimes, harshness is the most effective way to make a point or to overcome resistance or misbehavior by players. This means your child may be yelled at, singled out for mistakes, and expected to perform difficult tasks. Sports psychology involves many factors, and it often means a player must endure difficult and emotional experiences. This sometimes means a child faces embarrassment. Failure is a given because that is a reliable indicator of a player's limits. Are we saying that this will happen on a daily basis? No. Please let the coach know first if you have concerns, then the league office.

**Physical violence by a coach against a player is always unacceptable, and should be brought to the attention of the board of directors immediately.**

## **Playing Time**

The object of the competitive soccer program is to improve the players' skill levels and to play competitive soccer. It is possible that players will not receive equal playing time. However, practice will improve every player's skill and this is the building block for his/her future sports achievement and pleasure. Player/parent relationship is critical in supporting this improvement. Teams do not win without good bench players. Remember, the coach selected your child because

he/she saw potential in their ability. Playing time issues must be addressed off the field and in an appropriate manner. The coach has the final say with regard to playing time.

### **Player Commitments:**

- 1) Attendance at practice and games is mandatory and requires parent notification/doctor's note in order to be excused.
- 2) Be prepared to begin practice at the appointed time, fully dressed, with the appropriate attire. All jewelry is to be removed, with the exception of medical ID jewelry, but may be asked to be taped to skin if too loose.
- 3) Practice is a vehicle to improve skills for life and soccer, it is not to become a social gathering.
- 4) Pay the proper respect to everyone. Respect for coaches is understood by most, but LAYSL expects respect to be given to their teammates, the other team, the referee, and all fans at the games.
- 5) Everyone is expected to conduct themselves with respect to all laws and rules of the county of Los Alamos, State of New Mexico, and the United States of America. Violation of any of these laws or rules may, after consultation with the team coach and approval of the President or Vice-President of the league, result in any or all of the following consequences: (a) reduction of playing time; (b) being left off the roster; (c) suspension from the team; (d) loss of eligibility for future competitive teams; (e) such other appropriate consequences as may be approved by the Los Alamos Youth Soccer League Board.

### **Parent Commitments:**

- 1) Your kid's attendance at practice is mandatory and requires parent notification/doctor's note in order to be excused.
- 2) All absences must be approved by the coach prior to the event the player is to miss.
- 3) Players are not allowed to be dropped off at the field without supervision. One of the coaches will be at the practice field no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of practice. The only exception to this rule is for players 16 years and older.
- 4) Payment in full and all forms properly filled out is required to participate in the Competitive Program at LAYSL.
- 5) Parents are expected to volunteer for team positions. These positions include, but are not limited to, manager, treasurer, snack coordinator, tournament coordinator, travel coordinator, uniform coordinator, socials coordinator, fundraising coordinator, and team referee.
- 6) To attend all games, including at least one game during Spring Break week.
- 7) To attend all parent/team meetings.

**Coaches Commitments:**

- 1) Have a representative at the field no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of practice.
- 2) Use proper language at all times.
- 3) Treat players, coaches, referees, with respect at all times.
- 4) Prepare a practice that will develop each of the player's skills and talents.
- 5) Establish a set of team rules that must be followed by all players equitably throughout the season.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ a player in the Los Alamos Youth Soccer League, have reviewed and discussed with the coaches and my child the rules and regulations of the competitive teams.

I agree to accept and abide by these rules and will be a positive, supportive influence to my child, the other players and coaches and the team in general.

I have been made aware of the travel schedule and understand the commitment required as a parent and as a player, and will give 100%. I will be available for practices, games, and tournaments and will participate with the team.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Player Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Accepted and Approved**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Coach Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**