



INTRODUCTION

One key ingredient to a successful youth soccer experience is clear, consistent communication between the Club, its teams and coaches, and all Club players and parents. This Player/Parent Agreement is one way of explaining, in detail Lowcountry Rush Soccer Club (the “Club”) expectations of you as a member of the Club and what you, in turn, can expect from the Club. The Player/Parent Agreement (the “Agreement”) is intended to help you identify potential issues and at the same time answer questions about the Club’s decision-making process. Please read the following pages carefully. This Agreement must be accepted and followed in order to be a player on a Club team. This Agreement covers the seasonal year that runs from August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

TRYOUTS

Club tryouts are held annually and are open to all players who meet the pertinent age requirements. Each prospective Club team player will be given a fair opportunity to make the club. The Club will announce the open tryouts to inform the public of the specific tryout dates and times.

PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Current Club team players are evaluated throughout the season during practices, scrimmages, and games, as well as during annual tryouts. Prospective Club team players are evaluated during annual tryouts, special clinics, scrimmages and under game situations when possible. Current and prospective Club team players will be evaluated in four areas:

- 1) Psychological (character, discipline, and leadership)
- 2) Physical (endurance, strength, and speed)
- 3) Technical (skill level)
- 4) Tactical (understanding/reading game situations).

Lowcountry Rush Staff will base their decisions and selections solely on the four areas of evaluation.

PLAYER COMMITMENT

Lowcountry Rush is a competitive soccer club geared toward players who love the sport of soccer and are serious about their development as soccer players. It is important to recognize that players and parents invest significant time and resources in playing club soccer and expect the Club to create and foster an environment that will allow players to compete at the highest level of soccer possible given individual talent and commitment levels.

Your commitment to the Club and the Club’s commitment to you are for one soccer year only and, toward the end of each seasonal year, you must try out again. At the conclusion of the year your commitment to the Club is over and you are free to leave the Club if you feel it is in your best



interest. The aim of this policy is to create an appropriate competitive environment for the proper development of our players. The intention is not, however, to create an environment where coaches are unnecessarily recruiting large numbers of new players each year simply to win games and move up the competitive ladder of the league. Also, no player will be released from a Club team during a seasonal year except as a result of disciplinary issues, family moving outside our service area, or failure to fulfil financial obligations.

Players are expected to commit to Lowcountry Rush as their first recreational activity priority during the fall season. If a player has a scheduling conflict due to the player's participation in another sport, it is the Club's policy and practice to manage and resolve the issue in an equitable manner that respects the player's participation in multiple sports.

We expect our players and parents to be ethical and honest and to honor their commitments. Therefore, you should only play for a Lowcountry Rush team if you are prepared to make the required level of commitment. Once your commitment is made, the Club expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer season. You should be mindful of the fact that when you make your commitment, the coach or manager may need to inform another prospective player that he or she did not make the team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decision carefully. If you have committed to the Club, the Club will also be ethical and honest, honoring its commitment to you.

In the event that a player, after signing the Player/Parent Agreement, fails to demonstrate the requisite commitment level to his or her team, the team coach may recommend that the Board of Directors take disciplinary action, including but not limited to a player suspension. All decisions made by the Board of Directors in this regard will be final.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance at games, including scheduled tournaments, is mandatory. During games, players are expected to follow the instructions of their coaches (the team coach and, in some instances, the team manager). Players not on the field are expected to sit and watch their teammates from the sideline. Players are expected to try their best within the rules of the game and compete aggressively but fairly at all times.

Players are expected to condition themselves both during the season and in the off- season. Failure to be in good physical condition will affect a player's ability to perform and will likely have an effect on the player's playing time during the season. Likewise, players are expected to work on soccer skills year round either on a formal or informal basis. Players need touches on the ball as much as possible throughout the year in order to develop. Practices are mandatory and should only be missed on account of illness, religious obligation, or other special circumstances. Please inform your coach and/or manager in advance if you cannot attend a practice. Players should use the bathroom prior to practice and should be prepared to train when they arrive, with shoes tied, pumped up ball, shin guards in place, and adequate water to drink throughout practice. Nutrition and rest are also the responsibility of the player. We expect players to eat nutritious, healthy food in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with performance.



As a member of Lowcountry Rush, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability are expected at all times. The Club asks that you care about yourself and the sport of soccer. This requires that you maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy team attitude. In addition, the Club will insist that you maintain a positive team attitude and a personal sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

OFF THE FIELD

Lowcountry Rush players are expected to carry themselves as young ladies and young men both on and off the field. At tournaments, player behavior is expected to be exemplary before, during and after games. As elite athletes, players are further expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect at home and at school. Disrespect of adults, including teachers, referees, and parents, will not be tolerated. Poor behavior by one player reflects badly on a player's teammates and the Club.

SCHOOLWORK

Part of the commitment of playing for Lowcountry Rush is a commitment to being able to handle all the obligations that a student has in his or her daily life. It is expected that all players be prepared to play soccer at games and practices. This demands that players do their best in school and budget their time in order to fulfil their obligations as students. Players who are not doing their best in school and/or are not meeting their homework obligations are jeopardizing their position on their team and letting their teammates down.

PLAYING "UP" or "ON LOAN"

With respect to players temporarily playing for another Lowcountry Rush team, all teams must follow the rules of the leagues in which they play. There are two circumstances in which you may be asked to play for another Lowcountry Rush team. Circumstance #1 is where you are being asked to play for either an older team or another team within your age group that plays at higher level. Lowcountry Rush encourages the development of players and will encourage players that exhibit exemplary skills to challenge themselves through competition. This decision is always based on the recommendation of the coach and Director of Coaching and is decided upon in collaboration with the player and parents. Circumstance #2 is where you may be asked to play for another team within the club in order to ensure that the team has sufficient numbers for a game or tournament.

You are responsible for knowing what is going on with your team. There are times when changes are made (sometimes last minute) to practice and/or game dates, times and/or locations. Most teams communicate primarily via Band and e-mail, so you must check these daily. If you are unable to attend a practice or game (or if you plan to arrive late or leave early), you must notify your coach and/or manager as early as possible.



THE PARENTS

Parental support and involvement in the Club are essential. Parents must ensure that their child attends all team events (practices, games, meetings, etc.). We understand there will be times when conflicts cannot be avoided and that your son or daughter simply cannot attend a team event. The Club requires your communication, planning, and understanding so we can minimize conflicts. It is the team's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for your planning. When parents or players have an unavoidable conflict, the Club expects timely communication to allow the Club or team adequate time to make any possible adjustments. The coach/manager will make final decisions as to scheduling after careful consideration of the needs of the team.

SIDELINE COACHING

With the exception of official and registered Lowcountry Rush staff, who may be asked to assist the team coach during games, there will be no coaching by parents. "Go," "shoot," "pass," "send it," and the like are interpreted as instructions and as such are not desirable. No matter how good your intentions are, the Club insists that there be no shouting of instructions to your child or any other player on the team. We also insist there be absolutely no yelling or complaining to referees or officials during or after games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after good play. Please do not criticize or "moan" with disappointment when mistakes are made either by players or game officials. The players are well aware of mistakes they make, and we strive to teach our players that overcoming and learning from mistakes are important parts of the learning process.

It is important that players not be distracted at practices or during games and that players are given only one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after games. For this reason, the Club insists that the coach or other Lowcountry Rush staff be the only voices before, during and after all games. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the team bench before and during games. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for the coaches and team to carry out their game responsibilities.

Please respect all of the other players on the team and do not make critical remarks to others about other players on your team. Many times, these comments are overheard by the players or others and can be quite hurtful and foster an unhealthy team environment.

Please respect your coach and do not make negative remarks to others about coaching decisions. The Club's first priority is the growth and development of our players as individuals along with their soccer abilities under pressure. Team and player development take priority over winning, especially in the younger age groups. Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this philosophy in order to maintain a healthy team environment. Playing only to win without taking team and player development into account benefits no one. Lowcountry Rush believes in and teaches players the benefit of having mental toughness to guide their intense focus on the game of soccer. We will instruct your child to ignore adverse conditions such as bad referees, name calling, foul language, rough play, cheating, poor weather, negative behavior by parents or opponents, etc. We expect our parents (as well as our staff) to have this same mental toughness.



THE COACH

Coaches retained by Lowcountry Rush are instructed to conduct themselves both as teachers and as soccer coaches. Nothing positive will come of the Club's efforts if we produce world-class players who do not know how to conduct themselves as successful human beings. In this regard, you can expect Lowcountry Rush coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and display appropriate behavior. Our staff recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on players' lives. Staff are responsible for the conduct of their teams, both on and off the field, whenever the team is together as a group. We insist that our players are polite, well-behaved and respectful. Players and parents can expect honesty, appropriate communication, consistency, and reliability from the Coach.

The Club and the staff are committed to giving players the tools and skills to enable them to become as good as their ability, desire, commitment, and effort allow. Coaches are committed to creating an environment that is conducive to the development of quality competitive soccer. We recognize that in life there are far more important things than soccer. In terms of priority, family and schoolwork come first. However, if the coach sees that you are not willing to put soccer above other recreational activities during the season, it may affect your playing time and/or your status with the Club. Do not expect coaches to praise everything you do well.

After a time, there are things the coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when coaches will say very little, and times they may yell 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 constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done and be able to deal with both. The coach will attend practices and will coach at games. In situations where conflicts do occur, which is inevitable, the Club will attempt to designate another coach to cover that particular practice or game. The coaches will make decisions as to player selections, game lineup, player positions, amount of playing time, etc.

Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the team at any moment, even if that role has them coming off the bench or playing a new position. If conflicts or issues arise between a player and/or his or her parents and the team, then the coach will be responsible for addressing and responding to the conflicts or issues and making decisions for the good of the team. These decisions will be made at the coach's absolute discretion. The coach's decision will be final. The player and his or her parents must agree to abide by the coach's decision. There are some coaches who train two or more teams. All such coaches will attend all training sessions and games to the extent possible. There will be times when conflicts occur and, in those situations, another Lowcountry Rush technical staff member will be asked to cover the pertinent training session or game.

The Club holds the coaches it secures to the highest standards. There may be times when you do not agree with the coach's conduct. If you have tried to communicate with the coach about an issue that is of concern to you and you are still unsatisfied, please contact the Technical Director to look into the matter.



THE MANAGER

A team manager is ordinarily a parent with a player on a given team who has volunteered to manage the team's scheduling, participation in tournaments, etc. Please cooperate fully with your team manager at all times. Be courteous and respond to telephone calls and e-mails in a timely fashion in order to allow the manager to fulfil his or her important role.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time for any individual player is completely at the coach's discretion. At the younger developmental ages, players should get substantial playing time so they can be exposed to as much of the game as possible. At the older levels playing time will vary from game to game. At these levels of play, outcomes become increasingly important, so a coach's discretion is critical in playing time. No coach should exclude a player from participating in an entire game.

Playing time will also reflect a player's level of commitment. Attendance at training and games is critical to a player's development and to the fabric of a team. A player who misses multiple training sessions and games cannot reasonably expect to play as much as a committed player who attends every team event.

FEES

The Club is a non-profit organization. As such it relies on the timely and full payment of all of its players. Because the Club is not designed to make a profit, every penny spent goes toward improving the services we provide to our players.

Any requests for financial assistance should be submitted to the club for their consideration.

MARKETING "OPT IN" – PLAYER LIKENESS USEAGE

In order to market Lowcountry Rush, representatives of the Club might take photographs or videos of training sessions or league games. These photographs and/or videos may be used for various marketing opportunities such as the Club website, printed and electronically distributed program flyers, and Club marketing videos.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

It is imperative that all players and their parents abide by the Club's rules, regulations, and policies, including those contained in the Club's By-Laws and this Player/Parent Agreement. Everyone has issues that arise from time to time, and we will make every effort to work with you to help resolve them. In extreme cases, the Club may have no alternative but to pursue disciplinary action as outlined below. The same procedures will apply to situations where the actions of parents or coaches are adjudged by the club to warrant appropriate discipline.



Offensive Actions

Any individual violating the Code of Conduct set out here shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as set forth in the Disciplinary Procedures below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of the Code of Conduct above, the following actions are specifically prohibited (“*Offensive Actions*”):

- a) Refusing to abide by an official’s decision.
- b) Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Lowcountry Rush staff.
- c) Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Lowcountry Rush staff.
- d) Stalking, tailing, or attempting to intimidate any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Lowcountry Rush staff.
- e) Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, such as throwing equipment or other objects.
- f) Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
- g) Unless specifically allowed by the rules of the sport, pushing, shoving, or striking any player.
- h) Using drugs or alcohol while coaching, attending, or participating in any Lowcountry Rush events.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Reporting Improper Conduct

Lowcountry Rush provides a forum to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to report to the Club any issues they observe before, during, or after practices and games.

Reporting by Parents and Spectators

Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the Technical Director. If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact a LRSC official.

Procedures for Addressing Improper Conduct

Lowcountry Rush will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported to the Club. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the Club in its sole discretion. However, the Club will provide any person accused of misconduct a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

After a reasonable investigation, the Club will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any Offensive Action.



- 1) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.
- 2) The Club will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while taking into account the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.
- 3) The Club will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.

The Club will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall document each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.

All decisions made by the Club are final and cannot be appealed.

1) Penalties

The Disciplinary Committee shall determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of the Code of Conduct and any Offensive Actions. Penalties may include any one or more of the following:

- a) Verbal Warning
- b) Suspension
- c) Expulsion from LRSC

2) Additional Considerations

- a) If a coach or parent is expelled from the Club, any child associated with that person is also expelled from the club.
- b) Behavior of players may also subject them to discipline under the Lowcountry Rush code of conduct.
- c) There are no refunds for any person being removed from the Club.

We (parents and players) have read and hereby agree to abide by the LRSC code of conduct. We also understand that failure to do so is subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination, at the discretion of LRSC.

- Oral or written warning
- Suspension or immediate ejection from any LRSC event

- Suspension from multiple LRSC events
- Season suspension
- Permanent termination from some or all LRSC events
- Notification of and request for support by local law enforcement

Note: No reimbursement of fees will be made due to the dismissal of a player from a game or the Club for not adhering to this contract as outlined.