



Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association

Policy Number: B001

Policy Name: Player Behavior, Conduct and Expectations

General:

Once you make a commitment to Atlanta Fire, you thereby agree to abide by the policies set forth by the club and your respective team. The commitment is for the seasonal year, which begins in August and runs through the following July.

A key ingredient in the success of our Atlanta Fire program is clear, concise and consistent communication between the association, its teams, coaches, players and parents. This agreement is one way of both explaining and gaining agreement with our expectations of you, as a member of Atlanta Fire.

Please take into account that when you make your commitment to Atlanta Fire, the Coach and/or Executive Director of Coaching may need to inform other players that they did not make the team. Be sensitive to those others and consider your decision to fully commit carefully. Once you have committed to Atlanta Fire, Atlanta Fire commits to you.

Should any conflict arise between the team and a player, the team coach, under the direction of and with input from the Executive Director of Coaching, will be responsible to make decisions for the overall welfare of the team and players. Decisions will only be made after gathering all relevant information and upon consulting with all parties involved.

Our coaches will always seek to make the best decisions possible for the players and team. Players and coaches must agree to work as a team. Ultimate decisions as to playing time, positions, formation, discipline, suspensions and terminations from team will be made by staff, and based on the coach's and club's expectations and objectives.

Atlanta Fire player expectations include:

- General
 - Conducting yourself and representing the club in a respectable manner at all times
 - Being honest and reliable at all times
 - Maintaining good grades and behavior in school
 - Maintaining a healthy lifestyle and team-oriented attitude
 - Avoiding the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol or any prohibitive substances (violation may result in suspension or dismissal from the club)
 - Displaying sportsmanship and fair play towards the team, opponent, referees and coaches at all times
 - Keeping a positive presence on social media platforms
 - Avoiding the use of profanity at all times
 - Dedicating yourself to your development through work outside of team training sessions and off-season conditioning and training
 - Accepting discipline from coach as to playing time, suspensions or termination from team
 - Doing what is in the best interest of the team
 - Bullying will not be tolerated

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- Training
 - Arrive prepared! Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the training session
 - Notify the Coach in advance via phone and email of any expected tardiness or absence from any training session
 - Attend, to the greatest extent possible, all training sessions
 - Wear only designated training attire, with appropriate equipment in proper condition (cleats, shin guards, properly inflated and sized ball, etc.)
 - Maintain a positive mental attitude towards training
 - Direct your full attention to coaches or trainers when they are speaking
 - Be supportive and positive towards their teammates
 - Commit to giving 100% effort during training
 - ALWAYS LEAVE A CLEAN BENCH AREA!
- Games
 - Arrive prepared! Arrive early, as requested by the Coach.
 - Notify the Coach in advance via phone and email of any expected tardiness or absence from any game
 - Attend, to the greatest extent possible, all games
 - Wear only designated pre-game warmup and game uniform attire, with appropriate equipment in proper condition (cleats, shin guards, properly inflated and sized ball, etc.)
 - Maintain a positive mental attitude towards games and be ready to compete
 - Direct your full attention to coaches or trainers when they are speaking.
 - Do not question a referee's decision by word or gesture.
 - Always be respectful of opposing players, coaches, fans and referees.
 - Shake hands with opposing team and coaches after each game.
 - Be supportive and positive towards their teammates.
 - Commit to giving 100% effort during games.
 - Personally, speak with coach in regards to any game situation concerns (i.e., playing time, positions, etc.)
 - ALWAYS LEAVE A CLEAN BENCH AREA!

Disciplinary Action:

Our attempt in this policy is to present in clear detail the expectations of you as a player of Atlanta Fire. If you are ever uncertain about any of the rules and regulations, please ask your team coach or the Executive Director of Coaching. Knowing and understanding these responsibilities and policies will help ensure that your participation in the club will be positive for you, your team and your coach. **We have high expectations of our coaches, the club, the parents and players.**

We believe behavior is so crucial to team success or failure that a willingness to abide by agreed upon values is indeed a qualification for membership. When players refuse to abide by these expectations, they are in effect deciding not to be on the team. Players that are allowed to remain in spite of their behavior will undermine the team's morale and performance as well as the club's image and reputation of excellence in character. Atlanta Fire coaches will not permit this to happen!

If disciplinary action is necessary, the following steps will be taken:

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1. The Coach will discuss the problem directly and privately with the player with the understanding that the problem will be corrected immediately. The Coach will also inform the Executive Director of Coaching (and/or program DOC) of the situation.
2. The Coach will communicate with the player's parents to discuss the problem and lack of response on the part of the player. At this point in time, the parents will have the opportunity to be involved with the process of correcting the problem. This will be done in private and without the knowledge of other parents and players.
3. If the problem continues, the Executive Director of Coaching may temporarily suspend the player. If the situation warrants, the Executive Director of Coaching may recommend to the Executive Board the permanent dismissal (expulsion) from the club. The parents will be notified by the Board of the decision.
4. The parents of any player recommended for removal from the club may request the opportunity to meet with the Board and/or Executive Director of Coaching.
5. Serious infractions that may warrant immediate suspension or dismissal from the club include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Violence, abuse, theft, and dishonesty.
 - b. Drug, alcohol and tobacco use.
 - c. Behavior that brings serious disrepute to Atlanta Fire.

Our club strives to maintain a national reputation of excellence and this policy has been established to make our environment more professional, enjoyable and safe for everyone.

I acknowledge that I / we have received an Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association Player Behavior, Conduct and Expectations Policy, and agree to abide by this guidance. I will not compromise myself in such a way as to do harm to AFU, knowing that players may be dismissed from participation, with possible loss of payment or dues, for violent conduct or unsportsmanlike behavior on or off the field of play.

Team & Coach: _____

Player Printed Name: _____

Player Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____