



## PLAYER/PARENT HANDBOOK

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Durango Youth Soccer and our Durango United teams! Durango Youth Soccer Assoc.(DYSA) is the premier soccer club in the Four Corners area. We welcome any youth who has a love of soccer, a desire to develop his/her skills in the game, and enjoys the spirit of competition.

This handbook is a reference guide for players, parents and coaches and makes readily available the information necessary to assist you in your role as a club member. It outlines the responsibilities of its members for fees, codes of conduct, volunteering, team structures and assignments, game and tournament opportunities, administrative policies and procedures, etc.

DYSA continuously strives to improve the experience of its members, and realizes it is the members that create the culture. Therefore, we have an open door policy with all members, and any suggestion, recommendation, or concern can be presented at anytime to the Director of Coaching, the Board President or any member of the Board of Directors.

## **GOAL**

The Durango Youth Soccer Association (DYSA) is a non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of Durango's area youth through the sport of soccer.

The purpose of the Durango Youth Soccer Association is to teach and promote the game of soccer, while providing competent coaching, adequate physical facilities and a comprehensive soccer program. DYSA is committed to teaching and promoting the characters of sportsmanship, fellowship as well as the physical and mental health aspects that are associated with soccer.

The goal of Durango Youth Soccer Association is to create an environment in which each soccer player may develop a passion for the game while fulfilling their potential as a soccer player and young person.

## **BACKGROUND**

DYSA is a member of, and sanctioned by, Colorado Youth Soccer, which is a member of the US Youth Soccer Association. US Youth Soccer is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Founded in 1913, U.S. Soccer was one of the world's first organizations to be affiliated with Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), soccer's world governing body.

DYSA registers its players and teams with Colorado Youth Soccer. By doing so our teams can play in leagues and tournaments that are sanctioned by US Youth

Soccer. It also provides liability insurance for the club and supplemental medical insurance for players and coaches who are injured during sanctioned events (including practices, games and tournaments). In order to have the coverage, all the participating coaches and players must be registered with Colorado Youth Soccer. That is one important reason why we do not allow unregistered players, coaches, or managers to participate. Colorado Youth Soccer also provides many services and programs that are important to DYSA. To learn more about Colorado Youth Soccer please visit its website at [www.coyouthsoccer.org](http://www.coyouthsoccer.org)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

DYSA is governed by an elected Board of Directors. The Board consists of up to 15 Directors that include a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The responsibilities of the Board are set forth in the By-Laws, which can be found on the DYSA website [www.durangosoccer.com](http://www.durangosoccer.com) under "About DYSA".

In addition to the Board of Directors, DYSA has a Director of Coaching who is in charge of coach and player development and the assignment of players to teams. We also have an Administrator and Club Registrar to handle organizational matters. Volunteers will be needed from time to time to help with administrative and organizational matters.

**Monthly Board of Directors Meeting:** DYSA Board of Directors meets the first Wednesday of each month at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Many things that have direct impact on teams, players, and parents are discussed at Board meetings. These meetings are open to any member, parent, or coach. The **DYSA Annual Meeting** is held at the beginning of each Fall Season and we urge teams' parents to attend since Board members are nominated and elected at this meeting. Meeting dates and times are posted on our website.

## **REGISTRATION**

Players, other than High School Boys, register during the summer for a yearly program that begins in the Fall and continues through the Spring season. High School Boys register at the end each calendar year. Teams are formed based on these registrations. Each player's commitment to play for a team is important since the entire team depends on each player's participation and contribution.

Players registering after the initial teams are formed are placed on teams as space is available or when there are enough players to form another team.

All players are required to fill out an online Membership Registration that can be accessed from our website [www.durangosoccer.com](http://www.durangosoccer.com) and found under "Resources". Parents also need to provide a small picture for a player card and

pay the Annual Membership Fee and Volunteer Deposit. All new players to the Club must also submit a copy of a state issued birth certificate.

## **TEAM FORMATION**

U09-U12 TEAMS – if there is more than one team within an age/gender grouping, the teams will be as even as possible with regards to skill and number of players.

U13-U14 TEAMS – Players are evaluated and placed on teams based on their skill, attitude, coachability and commitment level. If numbers warrant, a Competitive and Developmental team will be formed for these age groups based on the criteria above.

U15-U18 TEAMS – Teams are structured based on age group, grade and number of participants. Any player movement between age groups is done at the discretion of the Director of Coaching.

8<sup>th</sup> GRADE U15 BOYS – Fall of 8<sup>th</sup> grade year will be allowed to practice with a U14 boys' squad. Game participation is based on an available roster spot for that particular game. It is also contingent on permission from the opposing coach and or league rules. No tournament play with the U14 squad. After the Durango High School boy's fall varsity soccer season concludes, the U15 player will be moved to a U15 team.

8<sup>th</sup> GRADE U15 GIRLS – in spring, follows same policy listed above for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U15 boys.

All teams will participate in local and out of town games and tournaments.

**Player Placement:** The Club Director of Coaching is ultimately responsible for the placement of all players. When a player commits to a team, the commitment is for two seasons—Fall and Spring.

## **PLAYER EVALUATIONS**

Tryouts for the U13-14 Teams are held each May to form teams for the next soccer year.

### **Please Note**

Players are required to attend these sessions for proper evaluation.

U13-U14 – Two Tryout Sessions will be scheduled.

## **DURANGO UNITED GUIDELINES**

**SOCCER YEAR:** August through July

For High School Boys: Jan. through Dec.

**FALL PLAYING SEASON:** mid Aug. – last game or tournament

**SPRING PLAYING SEASON:** Mid March – last game or tournament

<b>Age of team</b>	<b>U9-U10</b>	<b>U11 - 12</b>	<b>U13 - 14</b>	<b>U15 - 18</b>
Roster Size Max.	12	14	18	18
Ball Size	4	4	5	5
Game Format	6v6 <u>or</u> 8 v 8	8v8 <u>or</u> 11v11	11 v 11	11 v 11
<b>Proposed # of games (includes tournaments)</b>				
Fall	10-14	14 - 18	14 - 18	15 - 20
Spring	10-14	14 - 18	14 - 18	15 - 20
Proposed # Tournaments	1 per season	2 per season	3 per season	3 per season
First practice fall	4th week of Aug	3rd week of Aug	2nd week of Aug	1st week of Aug
First outdoor practice spring	2nd week of Mar	2nd week of Mar	2nd week of Mar	2nd week of Mar

**Team Makeup:** U09, U10, U11, & U12 teams are not structured by ability. U13-U14 teams are structured on age, gender and ability. U15-U18 teams are structured on age and gender.

**Playing time:** U09, U10, U11, & U12 teams should strive for even playing time for all players. As players mature, playing time can be administered based on effort and participation in practice. Playing time administered based solely on ability is discouraged.

U13 through U18 teams - playing time should be determined by the coach based upon the attitude, effort, commitment and ability of players.

**Players Added Mid-Year** would follow these guidelines:

- 1) Add to existing roster if there is space available (U09-U12)
- 2) Add to Competitive 2 roster (U13+)
- 3) Form a new team if numbers warrant.
- 4) All players will be placed by the Director of Coaching.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Durango United teams generally participate in at least two tournaments per season. The Director of Coaching is responsible for making tournament recommendations based on each team's skill and age level.

## **TEAM COACH & MANAGER**

Each team will have a Coach and a Team Manager. If the team has a parent volunteer Coach, a Skills Trainer will be provided.

**COACH:** The Coach works directly with the players, the Team Manager, the Director of Coaching and the Skills Trainer.

**TEAM MANAGER:** The Team Manager is a volunteer who works directly with the Coach and is the liaison between the Coach and the parents, the Club, and other managers. Team Manager duties include communication regarding practices, games, cancellations, field use, and help recruiting volunteers.

### **TEAM MANAGER DUTIES:**

#### **Player cards and birth certificates:**

Managers are responsible for collecting the printed registration form which includes medical information that parents were instructed to print after registering their player online, a small picture for each player, and obtaining copies of birth certificates for new players. After the Registrar makes Player and Coach cards, the Manager gathers player and coach signatures and returns the cards to the office for lamination. The team book, containing player cards and registration forms needs to be at all practices, games and tournaments and may be kept by the coach or team manager.

#### **Tournaments:**

The Team Manager is typically the person who sends in Tournament Applications and collects tournament fees and coach per diem from parents. For out of town tournaments, either the Manager or another parent must also make hotel arrangements for the team. If a player cannot attend a tournament, it is that player's responsibility to notify both the coach and the Team Manager.

**Team Member Contact List:**

The team manager will give player and parent contact information including email addresses and phone numbers to all team parents.

**Maps:**

For away games, the Team Manager should notify players and parents about the pre-game rendezvous time and place and provide maps and directions to the away field locations. Maps can often be found either on the DYSA website or the website of the Club hosting the games or tournaments.

**Recruits Team Parent Volunteers:**

The team manager recruits and coordinates team parent volunteers for various team duties and DYSA club events.

## **COSTS – Membership Fee, Tournaments, Volunteer Deposit and Uniform**

### **Membership Fee**

The amount of the annual membership fee depends upon the age of the player. Current Fees for the soccer year are as follows:

U09 – U12	\$280.00
U13 – U14	\$330.00
U15+	\$305.00

There is an **early bird discount** of \$25.00 if fees are paid in full before July <sup>1st</sup>. Early Bird discount for HS Boys will be announced at the beginning of each calendar year.

**A family discount** is also available to parents with more than one player participating in DYSA. The Family Discount is \$25.00 for the second and all subsequent players.

**Before a Player will be allowed to play or practice** either full payment or payment plans must be made, or Scholarships must be arranged through the DYSA Administrator. **The Family Volunteer Deposit** of \$40.00 must also be paid.

Once the fees have been paid, the player has committed to the team. If a player withdraws from the team thereafter, the fee is not refundable unless there are unusual circumstances such as an injury that prevents play for an extended period of time or a move out of town. Refunds always require Board approval.

The Annual DYSA fee is used by the Club to pay the following areas of expense:

- coaching and coaching structure
- coach development
- insurance through Colorado Youth Soccer
- referees
- field maintenance

All subsequent Club costs and player benefits are covered by moneys generated by the Durango Shoot Out Tournament and other fundraisers.

### **Payment Plans and Scholarships**

Payment plans must be made through the Online Registration System.

Scholarships are available through the DYSA office. All Scholarship requests must be submitted in writing and approved by the DYSA Board of Directors.

### **Tournament Expenses**

In addition to annual fees, players will be responsible for team tournament expenses, which consist of a Tournament Application fee and coach's per diem expenses. All players are responsible for a share of the tournament expense, whether or not they participate in the tournament.

Paid Coaches are to receive per diem for each tournament.

### **Volunteer Deposit - one per family per year**

In an effort to keep annual fees at a reasonable level, DYSA hosts annual tournament fundraisers. These tournaments require significant man-power in order to function properly and be successful, so having member parent volunteers at these events is crucial. In instances where there are insufficient volunteers, DYSA must recruit paid help to assist with the event(s). Therefore, each family is required to pay one Volunteer Deposit of \$40.00 per year that will be refunded upon completion of an assigned volunteer duty associated with these tournament fundraisers (team fundraisers and events do not qualify for refunds). Non-refunded deposits will be set aside to cover expenses in the absence of volunteer help. Team fundraising activities (of any kind), team "helpers" and team community service projects do not qualify as DYSA Club volunteer events. Only DYSA Club-sponsored events qualify for refunds. Officially assigned Coaches and Managers are exempt from this deposit.

### **Uniform**

A standard Club uniform is a required set of equipment for all players. A uniform package is not covered in the annual club fees and must be purchased individually by each player. Durango United uniforms can be purchased from

Apex Total Sports, 970-560-0610 or [apextotalsports@yahoo.com](mailto:apextotalsports@yahoo.com) . Jersey numbers are assigned by DYSA.

The Club is not responsible for lost or damaged uniforms. Care, maintenance and replacement are the responsibility of the member. The member has the right to loan, sell or donate uniforms to other members at his/her own discretion.

## **VOLUNTEER WORK**

Families are expected to participate in DYSA volunteer work. Volunteers are always needed at our Shoot Out tournament and other club fundraisers. In order for player fees to be kept at a reasonable level, these club fundraisers must generate at least 30% of our annual budget. Without the commitment and hard work of volunteers the financial success of these fundraisers is not possible.

## **VOLUNTEER POLICY**

Each family is required to pay a \$40.00 Volunteer Deposit per year that will be refunded upon completion of an assigned volunteer duty associated with our club tournament fundraisers. Team fundraising activities (of any kind), team “helpers” and team community service projects do not qualify as DYSA Club volunteer events. Only DYSA Club-sponsored events qualify for refunds.

When the Club needs volunteers, the Club Volunteer Coordinator will contact the Team Managers with a list of assigned or requested duties. The Manager will then recruit volunteers from among team family members. This is an important part of Club soccer and all families are urged to participate.

## **TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Being registered with more than one soccer club (“dual registration”) at any given time and holding more than one player card is strictly prohibited by USYSA. This does not prohibit a player from guest playing for a team from a different club, out-of-State clubs included, as long as that club is a member of USYSA.

If a player is registered with DYSA, and decides he/she would like to register with a different club, he/she must get permission to be officially released from DYSA.

To be released from DYSA,

1. The player must submit a request to the Director of Coaching outlining reasons for the release.
2. The Director of coaching will deem if a release is warranted and establish the terms of the release
3. Final decision for a player release shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **FIELD CLOSURE**

DYSA does not own any fields and is dependent on other community owners for field use. Field availability for games and practices is determined by our stewardship of these fields. **Fields shall not be utilized until teams receive permission from the Club.**

Fields can be badly damaged if played upon when conditions are too wet. The decision to close the fields is usually made by the Director of Coaching or the DYSA Field Marshall. In the event of field closure, teams will be notified and under no circumstances should any team be utilizing the fields for practices or games.

## **NO DOGS**

Dogs are not allowed on any of the field venues and surrounding properties. This is part of our agreement with the City of Durango and School District 9R. If you have a dog with you at any practice, game or tournament, you will be asked to leave. The Field Marshall can take whatever action is necessary to have the dog removed from the property.

## **REFEREES**

Most of our referees are local players and residents. They work hard to provide a good game experience, and are always working to get better. Though you may not agree with every call a referee makes, you do not help anyone by yelling at the ref before, during, or after a game, nor will you “improve” an official’s call by exhibiting such behavior. You serve your team and the soccer community best by keeping quiet. However, if you think a referee has done a good job, a word of appreciation is always welcome after the end of the game.

If you would like to become a referee, a referee training and certification class is sponsored by DYSA each fall. Please call the DYSA office for up-coming classes.

# **CODES OF CONDUCT**

## **General Principles:**

- DYSA will not tolerate sexual, racial, or any other type of discrimination
- DYSA will encourage an atmosphere of openness, cooperation, respect, and support.
- DYSA will encourage loyalty within the team and the Club.
- DYSA members will positively promote the image and development of the game of soccer.

## **USYSA's**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SOCCER SPECTATORS**

1. As spectators we will refrain from booing or yelling at officials at any time during a match because we are aware of the following:
  - a. Such behavior on our part sets a poor example of sportsmanship.
  - b. Such behavior reflects negatively on our community, our team, our players and us.
  - c. Most youth soccer officials have had limited experience and formal training and do the best job they can, given these limitations.
  - d. Most soccer officials make correct calls even though we sometimes see the incident otherwise.
  - e. If officials do make incorrect calls during a match, the following circumstances usually apply:
    - i. The number of poor calls usually balances out for both teams.
    - ii. No one is perfect.
    - iii. The officials don't have the same observation point afforded the spectators sitting in the bleachers.
    - iv. An occasional incorrect call seldom affects the outcome of a match.
    - v. There are more effective channels for correcting poor officiating than verbal abuse during the match.
    - vi. We don't really know how difficult it is to officiate a soccer match until we've run on the 'pitch' in the official's 'boots.'
2. During a match we will refrain from yelling at players on either team because we are aware of the following:
  - a. They are young people, not soccer professionals, who, due to limited playing experience and great enthusiasm, may make mistakes.
  - b. Encouragement and praise should be made in public; constructive criticism is best made in private.
  - c. The coach is the best equipped to analyze and correct deficiencies in soccer skills. Our attempts to be helpful in this respect may only confuse the players.
  - d. The golden rule applies. Treat other players with the same courtesy,

respect and consideration, that we want other supporters to show our own player.

3. At soccer matches we will refrain from being argumentative or using abusive language towards supporters of the players on the opposing team because we are aware of the following:

a. Others are judging us on our actions and words. We will always strive to insure that the results of this judgment are a verdict of "GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP".

b. We will conduct ourselves in such a courteous and restrained manner that if called upon to do so, we could line up in front of the bleachers after the match and shake hands with each supporter of the opposing team in the same way players are expected to do after each match.

4. If our team loses, we will demonstrate our ability to cope with the loss in both deed and word, because we are aware of the following:

a. In soccer, as in other aspects of life, it is not always possible to win no matter how supreme the effort.

b. When victory eludes us, we must learn to accept it as graciously as we do our triumphs.

c. It may be just possible that a loss is due to the fact that the opposing team played the match better than our team.

d. Our players should learn from our reactions to a loss that:

i. We feel they played their best; which just wasn't good enough on this particular day.

ii. They should hold their heads up high; there is no shame attached to honest effort – win or lose.

iii. There is always something to learn from a loss.

iv. There is nothing gained from brooding; players should be encouraged to put the match behind them and look forward to the next opportunity to play.

v. Seeking scapegoats, such as "biased officials", "poor turf", or "poor performance by one or two teammates" is not a mature or healthy reaction to the loss. Such a crutch prevents acceptance of reality.

5. Whether away from or at the field, our words and actions should convey a philosophy of soccer which includes:

The real purpose of soccer competition is to have FUN, to be able to participate to improve skills, to learn sportsmanship, to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline, to develop a group loyalty and comradeship, to learn to compete within established rules, to accept decisions of authorized officials, to seek interpretation or change through proper channels and to develop sound minds and bodies.

**FIFA Code of Conduct:**

The DYSA endorses the FIFA's rules for fair play:

- Play the game for the game's sake.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be graceful when you lose.
- Be fair always no matter what the cost.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
- Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.

**DYSA Players' Code of Conduct:**

- Understand the rules of the game and play by them.
- Be punctual and prepared for all training sessions and games. This includes having equipment on and being dressed appropriately.
- Cooperate with and be respectful to all coaches, teammates, opponents, and match officials.
- Support your teammates, Club members, teams and coaches.
- Be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat.
- Do not talk to fans during matches.
- Do not argue with officials.
- Talk to opposing players should be limited to congratulations and offers of assistance.
- Do not use abusive or profane language.
- Fighting or physical violence will result in a mandatory suspension; fighting after a suspension may result in dismissal from the Club.
- The DYSA Board will review the status of any player who is ejected from two games in a 12-month period or accumulates excessive cautions.
- No consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.

**DYSA Coaches' Code of Conduct:**

- Understand the rules of the game and ensure that players understand and follow them.
- Be punctual and prepared for all training sessions and games.
- Show respect for your players and opponents.
- Do not use abusive or profane language.
- Be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat.
- The Director of Coaching will review the status of any coach who is ejected from a game. The DYSA Board will review a second ejection.
- Do not talk to fans, opposing players, or opposing coaches during games, except to offer congratulations and assistance.
- Coaching from the sidelines during games should be limited and positive.
- Do not argue with officials or make derisive comments to or about them.
- Do not criticize a player in front of other players.

- Support other DYSA coaches, teams and players.
- Wear appropriate attire to all training sessions and games in accordance with club and coaching policies.
- Tobacco, alcohol, and non-prescription drugs are prohibited during all training sessions and games.
- Improper contact or relationships with players will result in immediate expulsion.

**DYSA Parents' Code of Conduct:**

- Provide only positive support during games.
- Do not criticize your child's teammates or coaches in the presence of your child or his/her teammates or other parents.
- Do not talk to players or coaches for either team during matches, except to offer support, congratulations or assistance. All parents must remain on the opposite side of the field from the coach and team during a game.
- No abusive or profane language.
- Do not argue with or make comments to officials.
- Be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat.
- Parents will not knowingly participate in or knowingly permit violations or circumvention of DYSA rules.
- Do not argue with opposing fans.
- Do not criticize opponents in their presence or in the presence of their fans.
- Fighting or physical violence will result in automatic suspension from DYSA premises and activities. Repeat violations will result in expulsion from the Club.
- The DYSA Board will review the status of any parent who is ejected from a game.
- If you have a problem with a member of the DYSA coaching staff, please give a 48-hour cooling off period before contacting the individual concerned.
- Dogs are not permitted on any part of the soccer fields or sidelines unless they are trained to provide special assistance for persons with disabilities. This applies to both games and practices.

**I will discuss issues concerning my child:**

- Only with the coach first, then the Director of Coaching
- Not with the manager or any other parent
- Only at a time mutually agreed upon with the coach
- Not immediately prior to, during or directly after a game

## **Violations of Code of Conduct:**

Coaches have primary responsibility for addressing violations by players. The Director of Coaching has primary responsibility for addressing violations by coaches.

Parents should do their best to hold other parents accountable for following the Code of Conduct. If violations persist, the team manager or any team parent should report the activity to the club President, Director of Coaching, Administrator, or any Board Member. They, in consultation with the DYSA Board of Directors, will address serious or repeat violations or any other inappropriate behavior.

Sanctions that may be imposed include, but are not limited to, reprimand, suspension from team or Club activities and facilitates, and in certain cases, expulsion from the Club. When appropriate, the Board of Directors will report violations to Colorado Youth Soccer. DYSA will support and impose all sanctions recommended or imposed by Colorado Youth Soccer.

## **GRIEVANCES**

All grievances and complaints should be resolved in accordance with Club and Colorado Youth Soccer rules, policies, and procedures. If no clearly applicable rules, policies, or procedures exist, the Board of Directors will make the final determination.

Grievances or complaints about team matters should be directed to team managers and, if possible, should be resolved at the team level. If the matter cannot be resolved at the team level, the team managers should present the grievance or complaint to the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching may assist in resolving the matter or refer the matter to the Board of Directors.

Grievances or complaints about player issues should be discussed with the team coach and, if possible, should be resolved at that level. If the matter cannot be resolved with the coach, the issue should be taken to the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching has the authority to resolve the matter, make a recommendation to the Board, or refer the matter to the Board.

## **APPENDIX:**

Please see our web site [www.durangosoccer.com](http://www.durangosoccer.com) for the following documents and schedules.

- **Coaches Per Diem**
- **Club Contact List**
- **DYSA Fundraising Policy**