



# Parent Handbook



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# Welcome to VYSA!



The Valley Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) would like to welcome you into our outstanding organization.

The purpose of this document is to give a general overview of our organization to help familiarize you with the many different aspects of VYSA. Please use this as a reference; however, if there are additional questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Contact information is available on the website at: [vysasoccer.org](http://vysasoccer.org)

VYSA is dedicated to soccer players ages 5-19 where good habits are taught, encouraged and expected on and off the field while being trained in an appropriately positive and competitive environment.

VYSA uses competition as a positive force within the club. Various types of competition separates the level of soccer activity from other previous experiences.

VYSA is dedicated to making decision that are the most beneficial to players while keeping the integrity of soccer and what is good for the game.



## VYSA Mission

Valley Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the development and promotion of competitive soccer for boys and girls of the Lewiston, Clarkston Valley and surrounding areas.

VYSA is committed to fostering the physical, mental and emotional maturity of youth through:

- 1) knowledgeable educated coaching
- 2) efficient administration
- 3) unifying leadership amongst players, coaches, parents and the community.
- 4) Instilling a lifelong passion for fitness and for the sport of soccer.

VYSA is Serious coaching. Serious soccer. Serious fun!

# Parent Expectations

By agreeing to be a coach, player, or parent of a player at VYSA, members automatically agree to all policy in VYSA bylaws, this handbook, and any items posted on [www.vyasoccer.org/parents](http://www.vyasoccer.org/parents)

The 24-Hour Rule is designed to protect the coach from inappropriate parent conduct. There is a time and a place to address a coach. Unfortunately, coaching often leads to issues with the parents on your team concerning playing time, coaching style, playing formation, etc...At no time are parents of players allowed to discuss any issues they may have with a coach before, during or immediately after matches. This includes face to face conversations, email, or phone communication. This will be **strictly enforced by the Club's Board of Directors**. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to banning parents from matches and loss of club membership. By allowing 24 hours for emotions to calm down, a more positive solution can be made to the problem that the parent may need to address.

## A. Game:

1. Have children at games one hour before kickoff, **dressed to play before leaving vehicle**.
2. Be positive at games. VYSA has no tolerance for poor sideline behavior including negative comments made to opposing parents or player, officials and tournament staff.
3. Support coaches' and referees' decisions.
4. Praise all players during the game, even opposing players.
5. Pick up children on time if not attending.

## B. Practice:

1. Have children at practice 10 minutes early, **dressed to play before leaving vehicle**.
2. Watch practice as often as possible.
3. Ask your children what was taught at practice.
4. Arrive to pick up your children from practice five minutes early.

## C. Other Expectations:

1. Parents are expected to help with team fundraising, team activities, VYSA events, travel coordination, and club assigned activities.
2. Good nutrition can make more than 70% different in a player's performance.
3. Watch soccer with your children.
4. Increase your knowledge of the world's game.
5. Be respectful to opposition.
6. Encourage communication with the coach and the manager.
7. Maintain the integrity of the club and abide by the code of conduct.



# Volunteer Expectations

Each family will be expected to provide 2 hours per season of volunteer service. Families choosing not to participate in volunteering may opt out by paying for their hours instead of volunteering. Each hour is worth \$35.00. Families will be billed at the end of the season who have not volunteered or paid for their hours in monthly installments. Team Managers will keep track of volunteer hours. The VYSA Volunteer Form is available on the website for families to download and turn into the TM after completing their hours. (mandatory)



# Code of Conduct

## Players

1. All VYSA players will represent themselves as a positive influence to teammates, coaches, managers, and parents.
2. Sportsmanship and fair play will be uppermost in determining who has an active role in game situations. **Winning is an attitude we encourage, but we will not tolerate winning at all costs.**
3. Players will not use foul, abusive or profane language towards anybody for any reason.
4. Use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs while representing VYSA will result in immediate suspension.
5. Referee calls will be final.
6. Any deviation from VYSA policy will be dealt with severely and may result in suspension.

## Coaches

1. All coaches will promote a positive influence on all players as well as require all players to encourage, uplift and promote a positive attitude to each individual player.
2. Sportsmanship and fair play will be uppermost in determining who has an active role in game situations. **Winning is an attitude we encourage, but we will not tolerate winning at all costs.**
3. A coach will not allow or take part in any foul, abusive or profane language on or around the practice field or before, during or after a game.
4. Coaches will set a good example to parents on the sidelines. Coaches should address parents who are making comments to officials or opposing team parents.
5. Referee calls will be final.
6. Any deviation from VYSA policy will be dealt with and may result in suspension of coaching duties. Multiple deviations from VYSA policy WILL result in termination of coaching duties

## Parents

1. All parents will promote a positive influence on all players as well as require all players to encourage, uplift and promote a positive attitude to each individual player.
2. Parents will not take part in any foul, abusive or profane language before, during or after matches.
3. Referee calls will be final. Yelling at or arguing with match officials will not be tolerated.
4. Parents will not engage opposing parents. Like their players on the field, VYSA parents are expected to focus on their team and the good of the game that soccer represents.
5. Negative comments to opposing players are unacceptable.
6. Parents should NEVER enter the field of play, unless called over by an official.
7. The 24-Hour Rule is designed to protect the coach from inappropriate parent conduct. There is a time and a place to address a coach. Unfortunately, coaching often leads to issues with the parents on your team concerning playing time, coaching style, playing formation, etc...At no time are parents of players allowed to discuss any issues they may have with a coach before, during or immediately after matches. This includes face to face conversations, email, or phone communication. This will be **strictly enforced by the Club's Board of Directors**. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to banning parents from matches and loss of club membership. All coaches will contact the DOC if a situation has occurred. By allowing 24 hours for emotions to calm down, a more positive solution can be made to the problem that the parent may need to address.

## Managers

1. Managers will comply with all the above rules for parents & coaches.
2. Managers will always report inappropriate coach/parent/player behavior to the DOC or the Vice President.
3. Managers will role model and promote constructive ways to deal with team issues, and promote open conversations about individual or team problems.



**By agreeing to be a coach, player, or parent of a player at VYSA, members automatically agree to all policy in VYSA bylaws, this handbook, and any items posted on the website.**

### **A. Parent to Coach:**

All soccer issues that are directly related to practices, games, tournaments, team rules, team/player discipline, and anything else that affects the technical, tactical, psychosocial, or physical mechanics of the team should be referred to the coach, or assistant coach. If a parent has a serious concern that cannot be handled in a short conversation, they can request a phone conversation as coaches are usually very busy before and after training. Anything that cannot be resolved in a short conversation should be referred to the Director of Coaching.

The 24-Hour Rule is designed to protect the coach from inappropriate parent conduct. There is a time and a place to address a coach. Unfortunately, coaching often leads to issues with the parents on your team concerning playing time, coaching style, playing formation, etc...At no time are parents of players allowed to discuss any issues they may have with a coach before, during or immediately after matches. This includes face to face conversations, email, or phone communication. This will be **strictly enforced by the Club's Board of Directors**. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to banning parents from matches and loss of club membership. All coaches will contact the DOC if a situation has occurred. By allowing 24 hours for emotions to calm down, a more positive solution can be made to the problem that the parent may need to address.

### **B. Parent to Director of Coaching:**

Any soccer related question/issue that is not answered by the team coach should be referred to the Director of Coaching. See contact information for means of communication.

### **C. Parent to Manager:**

All soccer issues that are **not** directly related to soccer, i.e., fundraising, fees, paper work, travel, and anything else related to the administrative part of the game, should be referred to the team manager.

### **D. Parent to Board of Directors:**

When a question **not** related to soccer cannot be answered by the team manager, a board member may be contacted. See contact information for the appropriate board member to contact.

### **E. Parent to Vice President:**

Any grievances not resolved by communication avenues listed above, can be referred to the Vice President who is in charge of hearing all grievances. To resolve problems, the Vice President can mediate issues, refer issues to the board, or convene a committee to address/correct the issue.

# Evaluations/Tryouts



Team selections are uniform for each age group. Tryouts for each entire soccer year (spring & fall) occur immediately after the Spring season and will consist of an evaluation for U10 to U12 and a tryout for U13 to U18; teams will be chosen based on playing ability and proper competitive levels of play. Supplemental tryouts if needed, may occur depending on remaining roster spots available.

VYSA provides the best positive developmental environment at U-10 and U-11. This environment begins at tryouts. It is the goal of VYSA to make the transition from recreational soccer to competitive club soccer painless and positive. At the U-12 to U-19 age groups, the majority of club members will have at least one year of development training; therefore, integration into competitive club activities is expected and anticipated. With a combination of structure and self-realization, players are trained to be well-rounded athletes when faced with situations on the field and in life. Players are trained by an excellent coaching staff, dedicated to personal education.

# Professional Staff



VYSA employs a full time Director of Coaching and Technical Director focusing on player development year round. VYSA has strong relationships with Lewiston Orthopedic Associates and S.P.O.R.T. Physical Therapy to professionalize club athletic training and physical therapy, and has one of the lowest non-contact ACL injury rates in the area. The combination of these professionals, provides welcomed input to the VYSA Director of Coaching when creating the club year-long calendar and training program. This calendar is designed using US Soccer Coaching Methodology to maximize all athletes; gender specifically and age appropriately; the result is individual success, quality team play, and club unison.

VYSA Staff maximizes our student athletes into well educated, competent individual players that easily fit into the team concept; the result is individual success and team success. VYSA provides an atmosphere for players that simply love the game, and for players that wish to continue through High School, State Teams, Regional Teams, Olympic Development Programs, College and US National Teams.

VYSA is proud of the strong relationships we have made with other quality clubs, state associations and other professional staff which has allowed our players to guest with other clubs and programs around the Northwest .



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# Year Round



VYSA offers a year round program with a predictable year-long calendar that incorporates club wide breaks. Players are expected to follow the calendar as it is designated appropriately per age. The calendar may be adjusted by coaches based on team schedules (e.g. State cup finalists).

# Fees

Club financial policies will be set by the Board of Directors prior to try-outs each year. As of the fall of 2011, VYSA's fees will be \$210 per year. Payment will be initiated by all players at the team registration meeting directly after try-outs and can be made in whole or part. Payments can be made monthly for 6 months at \$35.00 per player/month (or 3 months for \$35.00 per player/month for one season only players.)

# Scholarships

Partial or full scholarships are available for those in need to cover registration fees. A letter requesting a scholarship should be submitted at the Team Registration meeting and will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the finance committee within one week of request. Scholarship applicants will be expected to perform extra volunteer hours if possible.



# Fall Club Raffle

Each player will be required to sell 25 raffle tickets for our annual raffle in the fall.

This is the equivalent of \$100. Families may choose to buy their raffle tickets if they prefer not to sell them. Any required tickets that are unsold will be charged to the family.

# Team Fundraisers



Team Fund Raisers are allowed and encouraged, but must be board approved. The Team Fund Raising Request Form is available at [vysasoccer.org](http://vysasoccer.org). The team must clarify in advance how the money is to be raised and who on the team will benefit from the proceeds (ie just the individuals helping or the team at large?). All monies made for the team will be turned into the VYSA treasurer and will be used solely for VYSA approved events. (Examples would include but not be limited to tournament registration fees, tournament hotel expenses, Club registration fees and camp registration fees). Team Managers will be expected to keep track of the earnings information.



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