



WILLAMETTE UNITED CLASSIC AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PARENT HANDBOOK

Club Mission Statement

Willamette United Soccer Club is a community based soccer club which, through strong coaching and high quality programs, will strive to provide our youth with personal growth, on and off the field.

Club Philosophy

The philosophy of the Willamette United Soccer Club is to create an environment in which players learn to achieve excellence derived from our philosophy of developmental soccer. We believe that through athletic competition, we strive to teach the highest degree of integrity, sportsmanship, fair play and mutual respect in preparation for good citizenship and leadership in society. The Willamette United Soccer Club is committed to developing soccer players on and off the field. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to helping your child share these experiences with us.

Willamette United wants to create a safe environment where children can develop positive behaviors that will help them grow. Coaches and families can serve a fundamental role in many ways, but primarily in the following areas: 1) the courage to try, and fail, and try again, 2) to think independently, 3) the discipline to set and achieve goals, and, 4) the importance of working as a team.

The nature of competitive sport will always create a winner and a loser; this cannot be avoided. But the process itself can help children learn to cope with future successes as well as failures. Parents play an important role in contributing to the needs and development of their children. Through their encouragement and good example, parents can help assure that all children learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In soccer, young people learn leadership, cooperation and courage.

Introduction

Willamette United is committed to the development of soccer players and good citizens. To achieve this goal, we must provide tools that aid in the accomplishment of this task. This can be achieved in part by providing a clear

understanding of how Willamette United is managed and organized.

This handbook will help players, families and team managers better understand the commitment expected from our participants and the program. The handbook describes the club and contains the operating rules pertaining to the club. Adherence to the rule contained herein is an expectation of participation regardless of role. In any situation where there is a conflict between this handbook and the policy manual, the policy manual will take precedence.

Club Administration

Willamette United has an executive board which consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreational Director, and up to four at-large positions. All policies created and managed by this board to comply with the club's by-laws. The club operates a year round office. The office has full-time and part-time employees to service its membership. All questions or inquiries pertaining to off-field issues should be addressed to the club office where they can be directed to the responsible party.

Club Manager

The club manager is responsible for all administrative aspects of the club. All non-coaching related issues that cannot be resolved by the responsible administrative party should be directed to the club manager. All issues regarding policy are determined by the Board of Directors and implemented by the club manager and director of coaching.

Coaching

Director of Coaching and Associate Directors of Coaching

The club has a Director of Coaching and the DoC has associate directors to handle all coaching management and direction within the club. The Director of Coaching will have full jurisdiction for all Willamette United coaches with regard to the following:

- Recruitment, placement and replacement of coaches.
- Recruitment, placement and replacement of coaches for academies that Willamette United may conduct during the year.
- Participation in classic program tryouts.
- Administering coaching retreat for classic and academy coaches.
- Providing feedback to the team coaches throughout the season based on practice and game observations.
- Curriculum
- Resolving any Coach/Player and Coach/Parent conflicts
- Manage the education and management of all coaches.

Staff Coaches

All staff coaches are employees of Willamette United. By agreeing to coach the coach agrees to abide by Willamette United policies and guidelines set forth by the Board of Directors and Executive Board members.

A Willamette United coach:

- Possesses a clean 'disclosure to coach' form on record with the club office.
- Abides by the Rules and Policies set forth by the Executive Board.
- Abides by the coaches code of conduct and supports the parents' and players' efforts to abide by their own codes of conduct.
- Does not perform preventative injury applications (taping ankles, etc.) unless qualified.
- Manages parental group with the help of the team manager.
- Keeps Willamette United office informed of all team travel plans in timely manner.
- Attends general parent meeting set up by club.
- Conducts a minimum of two (2) training sessions per-week during season and arranges for a qualified Willamette United coach to stand in for them when they cannot attend practice.
- Attends all league and state cup games (unless prior arrangements with coaching director are made).
- Attends coaching meetings as set by coaching director.
- Attends coaching retreats as set by coaching director.
- Gains more coaching skill through ongoing licensing and coaching education.

Managers

Willamette United will assign each classic team with a team manager who is responsible for passing on information from the office. Managers cannot set or change club policy. Managers will not be asked by the club to resolve any player, parent or coaching issues nor will they be authorized to do so using their own jurisdiction. A manager's position is for one year or season of play. The club reserves the right to replace the manager if deemed necessary. Managers can also be asked to remain with a team for a longer period than one year or season. Managers are volunteers, are responsible to their team and the club for the job description contained within the policy manual. Manager responsibilities are extensive, so delegation of tasks is encouraged.

Players

Willamette United considers appropriate conduct and respectful behavior to be extremely important. The code of conduct in the policy manual is the guide to what the club regards as acceptable. Players are required to sign a player parent conduct agreement prior to participation that includes that players must:

- Treat coaches, teammates, referees, spectators and opponents with courtesy and respect.
- Accept the decisions of the referees without gesture or argument.
- Not criticize the play of others and does not blame others for mistakes.
- Obey any team rules the coach puts in place.
- Conduct themselves in accordance with Willamette United's policy manual.

- NOT use alcohol
- NOT use drugs

Parent Conduct

Parents are expected to have a positive, supportive influence on their child's soccer experience in all dealings with others involved with WILLAMETTE UNITED activities, and in assisting with the responsibilities necessary to support the Club.

The objectionable behavior of parents at youth sports events is very destructive and adversely affects coaches, referees, the game and the players. Willamette United will not tolerate any negative behavior by parents at any game.

Parents also have a code of conduct contained within the club's policy manual. The only parent interaction at games should be positive reinforcement for good play. No coaching or negative comments directed toward the pitch or bench will be tolerated. The code of conduct includes that parents should:

- Never openly express criticism for players of either team, referees, the coach or team manager with emotional issues in front of players.
- Ensure that your child has the means to arrive and be picked up on time for practices and games.

Email Behavior

With regard to electronic communications, parents and players are reminded that they should not send "reply all" emails that are inappropriate or critical of coaches, players or the club or its employees. Generally accepted email protocols should be followed with club emails. Issues of concern must be dealt with in person or by phone and in an appropriate manner. It is best to always keep communication amongst parents open and positive.

Program

Costs & Fees

WILLAMETTE UNITED operates year-round programs. The cost of each program depends on which age group the player participates in. Generally, team membership fees include the league, club, referee, field, administrative, tournament, and coaching fees. Fall teams will train during the winter and participate in a spring league, which is included. Winter team fees will include season and post season play and all costs associated with that. Uniforms are purchased for use throughout the year from Tursi's or other vendors as directed by the Club Manager or other staff. The Director of Coaching determines choice of uniform colors and styles. Styles change every three years. Uniforms will be the property of the player.

The Willamette United office will collect the fees on-line or by check for the amount. All balances must be paid by the start of the league competition. Payment programs are available. A 10% discount is included for multi-player families.

A scholarship program is described within the policy manual. Requests must be submitted within 30 days of team selection to be considered.

Team Formation

Willamette United will form teams from open try-outs held under the rules and regulations of the OYSA. The number of teams per age group will depend upon the number of players attending try-outs and if the club feels that the teams meet club standards. Willamette United reserves the right to not field a team at an age group if there are not enough players at try outs or if the players at the try outs are not skilled enough to participate at the classic level. This decision will be made by the Director of Coaching.

Following try-outs, players will be informed whether they have been invited to join the team. The club reserves the right to select up to a maximum of 18 players per roster. Players may be asked to “play up” an age group. The parent(s) and player will be informed of this before that roster spot is offered to them.

Teams will practice at least once per week during the summer and at least twice per week during seasons of play. Teams will also participate in summer tournaments. Playing time will be determined by the team head coach. Willamette United policy is that each player will play an average of 50% per game during the season. Coaches are not required to keep ‘stats’ on playing time but are experienced enough to see that playing time is fairly distributed. The only time that this policy is not required to be followed is during State Cup and Qualifying tournaments where the result could ensure more games being played on subsequent days or higher league status attained.

All Willamette United teams will attempt to play in the highest division possible within the OYSA program. If appropriate, teams will participate in qualifying tournaments to determine their appropriate division.

Willamette United has a policy in place with regards to multiple sport participation. All players are free to participate in multiple sports at any age. In the fall, U-11 through U-14 players must make this club’s soccer their priority in cases of conflict. In the winter, U-15 and up must make this club’s soccer their priority in cases of conflict.

Players are not allowed to play for two different soccer clubs within any season. Questions about this matter must be directed to the Director of Coaching.

Refund Policy

Circumstances may arise where a player feels it necessary to drop from the team once selections have been made. If this occurs, the refund policy is contained within the policy manual.

Commitment

If a child is participating in the classic program it is important to know that this is a serious commitment. Try-outs, tournaments, practices and games are mandatory unless previously approved by the head coach. Appropriate reasons for missing an

event include extra school work (children need to figure out on their own how to finish their normal homework within the training schedule), faith based holidays, sickness or injury and family emergencies. By choosing to miss team activities players let their coach, team, and themselves down. Classic soccer must be a priority if you choose to take this competitive path. Missing practices and tournaments may result in losing playing time.

Conflict Resolution

Conflicts that arise between parents and coaches should be resolved confidentially and in an expedient manner. The Club has adopted the following steps to help facilitate issue resolution. Parents must first discuss their concern with the relevant team head coach at an appropriate time.

If the issue is not resolved by the team coach, contact the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching may be able to resolve the issue directly or may consult with the President or Willamette United board.

Rumors, gossip, or inappropriate communications can ruin a team's morale. The club reserves the right to ban parents from watching Willamette United games and may ask a family to leave the club in the most extreme situations.

Summary

We fully appreciate your dedication as a parent to enable our coaching staff to teach your child the game. Please allow the coaching staff to do this. Your son or daughter will learn from our coaching staff the values of the sport when they are on and off the field of play. We need your help to achieve this by being their encouragement regardless of score or game outcome.

Soccer is the world's game. It is the most popular team sport that is played and watched. As the parent of a player please allow your child to enjoy this wonderful sport for as long as THEY desire.