



NorthStar Parent Contract



“Most striking of the characteristics that mark a successful youth organization is the nature of its expectations for youth. They hold high expectations for young people's behavior...The organizations also hold high expectations for their youth member's abilities, giving them demanding tasks to perform. They give their young members real responsibility without doubting that they can shoulder them.”

William Damon- Greater Expectations

NorthStar (NS) prides itself in providing a challenging, intense developmental environment and seeks to hold itself and its family (players, coaches, parents, etc.) to operate at a higher level than you may have experienced in the past. It is only through sacrifice and commitment to excellence that champions are developed; there can be no short cuts in effort or behavior.

The Parents Role

The existence of NorthStar Soccer is possible because of the support of parents. We realize and appreciate the importance of parental involvement with NorthStar Soccer. This is an investment in your daughter and her future, and as with any investment, it takes a commitment of time and resources from the parent(s), the family, and mostly from your daughter.

The coaches have the utmost respect for the family commitment it takes to train and play and compete at this level. After all, it is the parent(s) who pay all of the related fees and drive players to practice and games each week.

This is a contract; as such it is hoped that parents realize that there are boundaries to their involvement and implications for their actions and non-action. Over the years it has become necessary to remind parents of these boundaries - boundaries set to help players and parents receive the utmost from their NorthStar experience and player development.

To be proactive and to help this situation, the following non-negotiable behavioral expectations need to be fully understood by the player and the parent(s). It is NorthStar's expectation that all parents who want their daughter to tryout and participate in NorthStar and its affiliates will not have an issue signing this agreement. For some, it will be a relief to enjoy a match or event free from negative parental behaviors.

Your daughter will not be allowed to participate unless this contract is signed and returned.

Invitation

Your daughter's invitation and subsequently her acceptance to the team is for the entire seasonal year, August 1 through July 31, both in play as well as financial obligations. The expectation is that all team funds will be paid in full when they are due based on information in each of the NorthStar team plans and player budgets.

Your daughter has been selected from many qualified players; her acceptance has reserved one of the few roster spots on a team, a spot that would have been given to the next candidate should your daughter have declined – *please understand the gravity of this*. We are glad to have and welcome your daughter to the team, but please understand that someone else's daughter was not selected. We have a number of players who tryout several times for a spot on a NorthStar team; they seek and want the opportunity, training, and environment that NorthStar provides. Thus, serious thought should... must be given to the level of commitment and *the importance of the decision by your family* to accept a roster spot.

Philosophy

In the past our philosophy was “we will not punish the player for the sins of the parent.” This mindset has been our guiding principle, one which has been used since the beginning of NorthStar. However, because there have been no player repercussions for parental behavior, this philosophy has not been conducive enough to change or impact the behaviors of parents. It has become apparent that this philosophy, “*not punish the player*,” needs to be adjusted to include player repercussions for negative parental behaviors. Repercussions for negative parental behavior may impact your child up to and including removal from the team and or club.

The following are essential:

-READ the web site and your emails!! It is your responsibility to stay on top of schedules, details, and changes. Most information is communicated to you via the coach or business manager through an e-mail or can be found at the NorthStar website and/or your team's web page. Please check these as your first source for answers; most of the NorthStar coaches are involved in a number of other activities and your checking these sources first gives them more time to work on player and team development.

-Drop players off ON TIME for games and practices. ON TIME means early enough to be completely dressed and ready for play at the designated start time. Arriving at the start time but then putting on shin guards, socks, shoes, etc. is not on time. If you are unable to make that start time on a regular basis, it is your responsibility to communicate this to the coach. Most schedules can be easily accommodated with good communication.

- During practices, try to give your child the freedom to train with their team and without mom or dad watching every minute of every practice.

- During games feel free to positively support (not coach) and cheer the players and team by supporting great plays or good soccer for BOTH teams. ***The atmosphere should always portray that of a 'youth soccer game;' therefore, getting emotionally involved in the game is unnecessary.***

-The car ride home. We cannot tell you how many times players are upset and anxious during training and matches because they are afraid of the car ride home! And the “conversation” that will inevitably happen when a parent talks about what they think the player did or did not do well.

Our suggestion is simple: Use the three “positives” and two “challenges” rule.

1. A positive comment said and meant in sincerity – not allowing the player to brush it off.
(*Your passing was awesome today!*)
2. Followed by one suggested challenge for them at the next event...“*How about trying this.*”
(*How bout trying this?*)
3. Followed by another specific positive observation...Get Specific!
(*That scissors move you did in the first half was great!*)
4. Followed by a suggestion for change or another challenge.
(*Maybe next game you can try that move you learned.*)
5. A positive comment unrelated to the game. (I love you. Are you hungry?)

AND THAT'S IT..... Resist the urge to carry on. If you commit to these five (5) steps, you will be surprised at how much better you BOTH feel!

-At some point, your opinion of your daughter's play and abilities may differ from that of the coach. Please keep in mind that most, if not all NS staff, are professional, nationally-licensed coaches who do not have a child on the team. This often gives them an objective outlook with respect to player performance. It is from this objective position that a more reliable viewpoint is needed when it comes to critiquing a player's skills, abilities, and contribution to the team.

- If you have a question for the coach concerning an incident with your daughter that directly relates to a game, please wait 24 hours before calling or emailing the coach, and then please allow coaches time to respond to your questions.

- Please help the coach by reinforcing appropriate sporting attitudes and behaviors.

The following are deemed Inappropriate Attitude and Behavior:

- Being over zealous on the sideline during games.
- Berating or directing degrading remarks at players, opposition, coaches, or referees.
- Putting too much pressure on your child or others, humiliating them by shouting at them or degrading them in front of others, or embarrassing them by criticizing coaches and officials.
- Not following the 24-hour rule.
- Using foul language.
- Coaching from the sideline.
- Alcohol use at team events or any event/activity having to do with the team. It is NorthStar's expectation that all activities involving/impacting players and parents and their environment be free from drugs, tobacco use, and alcohol.
- Getting caught up in the passion that you have invested in the sport.

"...people tend to; when they go along to watch sport...it's a passionate type thing... People always take sides...you're not just going along to watch the game, you're cheering for your side, so there is a level of emotion and catharsis...people are into it, and sometimes that causes them to step outside their...persona. And perhaps demonstrate behaviour(s) that they normally would not do or regret immediately after doing it. "Australian Futbol Association"

Unacceptable Conduct Consequences

If it is brought to a coach/director's attention that a parent has been involved in unacceptable behavior, that parent will be contacted by the NorthStar Director(s). If NorthStar Director(s) feels a warning is the best action to take with a parent, they will be verbally warned that if the action occurs again they will be dismissed from the club. If the NorthStar Director(s) deems the parent has overstepped the boundaries, they may be told they are no longer welcome in NorthStar. This means they will not be allowed at any location, indoor arena, outdoor fields where the team is present. If a parent does not adhere to the wishes of NorthStar or are evasive in responding or complying, their daughter may be removed from the roster – without notice and without any financial reimbursement for any fees paid to date.

Collection of Player Fees

It is expected that all NS player fees/payments be made on time. REMEMBER, NS is a non-profit organization; all fees collected from players go directly toward providing NS players with the best soccer opportunities. Thus, it is necessary and expected that payments be on time.

Team managers/treasurers are volunteers. They do not need to be chasing parents down for payments! Their escalation process is simple should they decide they need help in collecting from you (after they have exhausted normal and reasonable efforts). They will contact the team's head coach; the head coach will contact you directly. Should matters elevate to this level, repercussions may be enforced that impact you or your daughter: up to and including removal from the club. NorthStar is aware that financial difficulties do arise, but it is your responsibility to inform and work with the team business manager/treasurer and the coach.

League Play, State Cup, and Tournaments

All NS teams will play in either the Michigan State Premier League or the Grand Valley Soccer Association league, and those eligible will enter into State Cup competition.

Coaches have the direct responsibility for the level of team competition, and along with the NorthStar directors, will decide upon the particular league(s) and tournament(s) for the team's play. The team plans set guidelines on how each team will operate during the season, with a breakdown of events and activities. The Team Plan is posted on the team's web page.

Fall/spring teams will play in a varying amount of tournaments, depending on the team's league schedule and budget. If a coach decides to play additional games/tournaments to further player development, the team is responsible for paying for the tournament and the coaches' expenses.

NorthStar Parent Contract

**THERE WILL BE NO WRITTEN WARNING AT ANY TIME CONCERNING PARENTAL BEHAVIOR.
THIS CONTRACT SERVES AS THE WRITTEN WARNING.**

I understand and agree to all of the above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(It is expected that BOTH parents sign the/a contract, regardless of living situation.)