



Parent/Player Handbook



Las Vegas Sports Academy Quick Facts

Mailing Address:	4630 W Post Road, Suite 100 Las Vegas, NV 89118
Club Phone:	702-878-3644
Club Fax:	702-878-1571
Club Website:	www.lv-sa.com
Founded:	2007
Club Colors:	Red/Black/White
Apparel Sponsor:	adidas- www.adidas.com
Uniform Supplier:	Las Vegas Sports Academy
Age Groups:	Under 5 through U19 Boys and Girls
League Memberships:	Elite Soccer League of Nevada- www.eslnv.com Nevada South Youth Soccer League- www.nvsysl.com Silver State Girls Soccer- www.ssgslnv.com
State Association Membership:	Nevada Youth Soccer Association- www.usysnv.net
National Association Membership:	United States Youth Soccer Association- www.usysa.org US Club Soccer- www.usclubsoccer.com





FC Las Vegas Parent/Player Handbook

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Welcome to Las Vegas Sports Academy

We are pleased that you have decided to participate in what we hope will be an enjoyable and rewarding soccer experience for you and your child.

Over the years we have enjoyed many successes with our involvement in youth soccer. We have learned one key ingredient of success is clear, consistent communication between the Club, its Teams and Coaches, and Players and Parents.

This player/parent handbook has been put together in an attempt to answer some of the recurring questions about the Club, its philosophy, and the Club policies in a number of different areas.

The Sport of soccer is growing dramatically in this country and every season brings new ideas at all levels. Therefore our philosophies are also continuing to evolve, and our policies, we hope, continue to be molded and reshaped in ways that will better serve the needs of each player and of the Club as a whole. To some extent, and in order to fit peculiar circumstances, the policies of a particular team may vary somewhat from those set out in this Handbook. Look first and foremost to your Head Coach for direction.

As you have committed to become a member of Las Vegas Sports Academy, please take the time to read the following pages carefully.

If at anytime you have any question regarding this material, or something arises not covered in this material, please feel free to contact your Coach or the Club.

Club Organization

Las Vegas Sports Academy is a non-profit organization. The Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Sports Academy administers LVSA and is the only official voting members. As administrators, The Board of Directors duties include and is not limited to establishing or approving the annual budget, agreements, coach's contracts, player fees, Club Activities Calendar including sponsorship activities and appoints committee chairpersons and managers as non-voting associate members. The Board of Directors may delegate certain responsibilities to committees created by the Club.

Las Vegas Sports Academy is a member club of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association (NYSA), which is recognized by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) as the controlling authority for the development of youth soccer in the State of Nevada. The USSF is, in turn, a member of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the world-wide administrator of our sport, and the creator of the World Cup.

Las Vegas Sports Academy is also a member club of US Club Soccer, another member of USSF.

US Youth Soccer Association

US Youth Soccer is non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

US Youth Soccer is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer is a nationwide body of over 600,000 volunteers and administrators, and over 300,000 dedicated coaches, most of who also are volunteers. US Youth Soccer registers over 3,000,000 youth players between the ages of five and nineteen. US Youth Soccer is made up of 55 member State Associations; one in each state, and two in California, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

The US Youth Soccer membership is divided into four regions, each with a Director elected to the board. The regions are essentially East (Region I), Midwest (Region II), South (Region III) and West (Region IV). Each State Association has a Board of Directors, elected by delegates from their member leagues, clubs or teams.

US Youth Soccer is a member of a much larger soccer community, and therefore its players are members of this world community. Here's how it works. Boys and girls register to play with one of the 6,000 + clubs or leagues formed by their State Association. Each of the 55 State Associations across America are members of US Youth Soccer and US Soccer (there are two other divisions, US AMATEUR SOCCER for adults, and the professional division). US Soccer, along with over 197 other national soccer organizations, are members of FIFA. FIFA serves as the international governing body for soccer and US Soccer has been a member since 1913. Together, local, national and international organizations form a family of support for the young soccer players of America.

All LVSA players and teams will be registered with US Youth Soccer through the Nevada Youth Soccer Association. Normal league play for LVSA teams takes place through US Youth Soccer sanctioned leagues.

US Club Soccer

US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization committed to the support and development of competitive soccer clubs. It is founded on the belief that soccer clubs, which are in the business of elite player development, need an organization of their own to foster growth, address concerns, and sanction and provide programs with a minimum of rules and restrictions.

Policy decisions for the organization are made by a nine member Board of Directors, who must be experienced coaches in member soccer clubs. US Club Soccer is run by an Executive Director and a staff of fourteen. The administrative office is in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with regional staff in three additional locations.

US Club Soccer is a National Affiliate member of USSF, and as such registers players, and sanctions teams, leagues, tournaments and other soccer programs. Players and staff pay an annual registration fee. There are no other administrative or sanctioning fees.

All Las Vegas Sports Academy players and teams U11 and older will be registered with US Club Soccer (will be dual registered with US Youth Soccer also). Team travel, player movement and guest playing is made much easier through US Club Soccer registration.

Las Vegas Sports Academy Name, Logo and Sponsors

The Las Vegas Sports Academy name and logo belongs and trademarked to Las Vegas Sports Academy and may not be used in any way without the expressed written approval by the Las Vegas Sports Academy Board of Directors. Any reference to or the use of the name of any Club Sponsors must be with expressed written approval of the Board of Directors.

Las Vegas Sports Academy Philosophy

Las Vegas Sports Academy believes the pursuit of excellence in athletics helps develop maturity and self-confidence in a young individual. It is our belief that the experiences a player has with LVSA will prove beneficial throughout their lifetime.

The mission of Las Vegas Sports Academy is to develop well-balanced, successful student athletes in a healthy, positive soccer environment. We will promote and develop excellence in club soccer based on the values of skill, sportsmanship and character at all times. We will aim at providing the highest caliber coaching and training to our players so that they may maximize their athletic and personal potential.

While LVSA does emphasize the importance of winning soccer games, from a coaching stand point, the long term development of our soccer players takes priority.

The Las Vegas Sports Academy program reflects a uniform soccer philosophy throughout our youth teams. The general components of the LVSA teaching philosophy are structured around the technical, physical, tactical and mental aspects of the game.

Our objectives are to create an atmosphere of both motivation and healthy competition where players are responsible for implementing the LVSA philosophy as to enable them to develop into not only high level soccer players but into positive students, citizens and human beings as well.

The Club and The Team

Members of Las Vegas Sports Academy agree to put the Club ahead of the Team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the Club and a particular Team, the Club will come first. Club decisions will be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and without appeal.

The Team and The Individual

Players of Las Vegas Sports Academy agree to put their Team ahead of the individual Player and must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the Team.

It is important to understand that LVSA player membership does not guarantee equal play or specific position. The Player's playing time and position on the field will be determined by the coaching staff and decisions will be made in accordance with the best interest of the entire Team and Club in mind.

Players or Parents with genuine concerns may express these concerns to the Coaches with the intent of learning what a player might or can do differently to achieve more playing time.

Player Evaluation and Selection

Player performance will be evaluated by observing the Player under the pressures of annual open tryouts, during seasonal practices, scrimmages, and especially games. Only the Technical Director, Team Coaches and Evaluation Staff will confer in matters of Player evaluation and selection.

There are many terminologies used to categorize and describe soccer abilities. Present and potential members will be evaluated in four areas:

- 1) Mental
- 2) Physical
- 3) Technical
- 4) Tactical

Our Club Coaches make decisions on player selection based solely on the Coaches' best judgment of the Player demonstrating the highest productivity in the four areas of evaluation throughout the game of competitive soccer.

If you have any questions about the meaning of these terms, please ask the Coaches. The Coaches will base their decisions solely on the areas of evaluation and they are responsible to make decisions for the good of the Club and Team. Politics, parents position in the club, friendships, personal relationships, and financial contribution to the Club or Team will not enter into these decisions.

Your understanding here is important, for just as Players and Parents have freedom to evaluate and select a soccer club without unfair pressure and with a full understanding of what is expected, our Coaches expect the same freedom to evaluate and select soccer players objectively. We will not always agree on issues as sensitive as Player evaluation and selection. We hope you will respect our attempt to be objective in these matters.

Commitment and Responsibilities

Once a spot is accepted on a LVSA team the commitment is for one seasonal year only. The seasonal year begins in July and continues through the end of May the following year. In the event your team qualifies for regional or national competition, we expect you to fulfill your commitment to your team through the end of that competition regardless of your status with the Club for the following season. At the end of the soccer season your commitment to the Club is over, and you are free to leave the Club if you feel it is in your best interest.

We expect our players and parents to be ethical and honest and to honor their commitments, both verbal and written. Therefore, you should make your decisions thoughtfully and carefully. Once your commitment is made, the Club expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer season. Take into account that when you make your commitment, the coaching staff may need to inform other potential players that they did not make the team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decision carefully.

If you have committed to the Club, the Club will also be ethical and honest, honoring its commitment to you. No player will be cut from a team during a season unless it is for disciplinary reasons or failure to fulfill financial obligations. The Club can suspend training at any time however, if such action is necessary to enforce the collection of fees.

Playing Up An Age

Every year around tryout time a major issue that comes up is players playing up an age group. As a representative of the Las Vegas Sports Academy it is very important for you to know and understand the philosophy of our players playing up.

The consideration of what is best for players and what is best for teams applies to players playing an age group up. Again, players need to be in the right environments to become the best players. Decisions are made on a case by case basis on whether to play an individual an age group up if it is the best situation for both the player and that team in question. One train of thought is that it is always better to play up because the competition is better. That is not true if the player is not getting enough playing time against that competition. For many players the ideal situation is to stay age group appropriate, getting playing time in game situations, and then taking advantage of Varied Age Group Training and training with an age group up. If that situation does not meet the challenges that a player needs then considerations will be made on moving an individual player to a different situation.

The most important thing to understand is that every situation is unique. We are always walking a fine line to provide the best opportunities for both teams and individual players. Teams and what is best for them must always be a priority but the players that make up those teams and their personal interests must also be catered to as well. If a player is not being pushed in their own age group environment and they could make an impact on an older team then it will probably be in the best interest to move the player up. One player playing an age group up does not mean it is an open forum for all players to play an age group up. All situations involving players playing up will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Player Movement

FC Las Vegas is dedicated to putting individual players into situations that promotes their peak performance. Players need to train and compete in environments that not only push their abilities as players but also allow room for success.

A player will never reach their highest levels of play when routinely in a comfort zone, when the level is reached too easily. A player needs to have to work for success; they must have to earn the abilities that they have to reach their best. If things come to easily then the player needs more challenging situations.

A player does need to have success. If challenges are too difficult or more advanced than their basic skill set can build upon then a player will never learn how to properly learn how to do the skills necessary to advance. They will learn shortcuts or always be a step behind which can lead to frustration and disappointment which will not raise the level of performance. If there is not enough success then the players environment that they train and compete in needs to be adjusted.

Las Vegas Sports Academy provides many different means to put players in circumstances that not only challenges players but allows for success as well. Player movement within the club is one avenue to put players in positive situations to increase their learning abilities. The staff of coaches are always walking a fine line to provide the best opportunities for both teams and individual players. Teams and what is best for them must be always a priority but the players that make up those teams and their personal interests must also be catered to as well.

When players sign with Las Vegas Sports Academy the commitment is to and from the club not to a particular team. The staff may move players to different teams within the club to help players find the right amounts of challenge and success. If a player is not sufficiently challenged in their team training and in competitions then the staff may recommend that a player be moved to a team that participates in stronger competition and has more demanding training schedules. If a player is struggling to have success, keeping up with the skill level or training demand, or not getting enough playing time on their current team then the team coach and club staff may place the player on a team that is not as demanding so that they player can have more success. A player needs time in game situations to learn to play at the highest of their abilities. If a player is in a situation that they are not getting the opportunity to play much time in games then they need to be placed on a team where they will get those chances. Players must also take pride in their placement on a team. Roster spots are earned and not given away, the same way that playing time is. If players are not reaching the demand of their team, not putting in the effort, not training on their own, not having a positive attitude, creating disruptions in the team chemistry or lacking in fitness players may be moved to a new team or removed from the club. Movement can take place at any time of the year throughout either season. Player movement is an area where the interest of both the teams and the players are taken into consideration.

Player Evaluations

Written evaluations should be done twice a year by coaches, once at the end of fall season and once at the end of the spring season

The purpose of the LVSA Player Evaluations is to help a player and his/her parents identify his/her strengths and weaknesses to aid them in working to improve those areas needing work. The evaluation can also let the player/parent know where they fit in on a team, state, regional or national level standard depending on the team and what standard the coach uses. The goal is to provide an honest assessment of a player's ability.

The Team

The organization of soccer teams is necessarily built around the coaching staff. Las Vegas Sports Academy coaches, unlike coaches in some clubs, are considered part of the Club support structure, and they may change teams from time to time to meet the overall Club needs. The "team of Coaches" approach to soccer is a major asset of the Club. All Las Vegas Sports Academy coaches are there for the support of all LVSA teams. For this reason, we use a club-wide coaching concept, applicable to all ages, that is described in our LVSA Coaches Manual. Team play is a major objective, and individual players are trained within the team framework. Each team is organized as follows:

The Head Coach: A Head Coach will be designated for each LVSA team. That coach will have overall responsibility for the team, and he or she should be your first contact in the event of a problem or question. The coach is responsible for team discipline, player substitution, and game tactics. Other LVSA Coaches will participate, from time to time, in your team practices and games.

Assistant Coaches: It is desirable, although not always possible, to have at least one Assistant Coach for each team. If the Head Coach is not in attendance, the Assistant Coach will take over their responsibilities. Players and Parents are expected to show the same respect they show the Head Coach to the Assistant Coach.

Team Manager/Registrar: Help with player registration at beginning of season. Help register any new players that join the team mid-season. Distribute any club and/or coach information, as directed by the club and/or coach, to team members

Be the team contact person for fundraising activities. Distribute fundraising information provided to you by club to all team members. Collection and accounting of orders and payments for fundraising activities. Club will provide fundraising information, forms and support for club fundraisers. Teams will be allowed to coordinate their own fundraising also.

Help coordinate the uniform sizing, ordering, payment collection and distribution for your team. All sizing and fittings will be done by at our club office location. Majority of this work will be done at the beginning of the season.

Team Tournament/Travel Coordinator: This person will be responsible to complete and submit all tournament applications as directed by the team head coach and/or club by the application deadline. The coordinator will also be responsible for coordinating and securing travel plans (including hotels, flights, rental cars, etc.) for the players, parents and staff attending tournament.

Team Treasurer: Responsible for the collection, accounting and depositing of all team money for tournaments and travel and coaches travel. Assist Club in collecting of club dues as needed. Making all payments for tournaments and travel and coaches travel. Provide an accounting of the collection and use of team funds to all parents on a monthly basis. A copy must also be sent to the club.

The Player

As a player you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability will be expected at all times. The Club asks that you care about yourself and the sport of soccer. This requires that you maintain a healthy life style and a healthy Team attitude. Any use of drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes is not acceptable. The Club will insist you maintain a positive Team attitude and a personal sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

At all Club or Team functions you will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectable manner and to represent the Club and your Team in a positive way.

Players are responsible for adhering to the following Code of Conduct. Failure to follow the Player Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action and/or termination from the Club.

General

Players must act within the boundary of fair play, the Laws of the Game and the highest levels of sportsmanship. Players shall always promote the widespread interests of soccer with courtesy, honesty and respect.

Players shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer. Players shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others and shall actively oppose any such abuse at all levels of soccer. Players are required to notify team head coach or the Technical Director of any such cases.

No player shall counsel, solicit, or encourage any player to transfer from or drop a club or league team affiliation for any purpose.

Players shall always respect teammates, coaches, officials and parents.

Training and Games

From the designated arrival time at all practices and games, Players are expected to concentrate on soccer. Players must arrive on time with required equipment (shoes, uniform or practice gear, soccer ball, shin guards, etc.) and be ready to practice or play. Since practicing and playing their best requires undivided attention, there will be no visiting between Players and Parents, family, friends, pets or others (who might cause Players to lose focus on soccer) from immediately before the practice or game until they have been dismissed by the Coach. This includes half-time and the conclusion of games, when Players are expected to get water, then immediately join the Team and Coach for game discussion or Team adjustments. When necessary, Coaches may ask Players to do hard physical workouts immediately following games. When Team responsibilities are over, Players are then free to join family and friends.

We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer and, in terms of priority, family and schoolwork come first. However, if other recreational activities during the season affect your commitment to your team, it may affect you're playing time and/or your status with the Club. As a player of Las Vegas Sports Academy we expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and your Team as your first recreational activity and priority during the Club season.

All players will be expected to arrive at the field at the time specified by the coach. From time to time we realize things may arise that will cause you to be late. If it is looking as though you are going to be late please get your gear on in the car and then make sure to jog over to the field as soon as you get out of the car.

During all games players are expected to sit in the team area at the center of the field. This area is where all equipment, water and any gear necessary for the game should be kept. At no time shall players sit with their parents, families or friends during a game or warm-up.

All players shall wear the practice kit (for training) or game kit (for games) provided to them. Shirts are always to be tucked in, socks pulled up and shin guards worn. Players are also expected to bring with them to all trainings and games their provided ball properly pumped up and their own water bottle. Practice shirts are to be worn for game warm-ups.

Players are responsible for collecting all team equipment at end of training sessions or games. This includes but is not limited too: balls, pennies, cones and flags.

Uniform Policy

Whenever a Las Vegas Sports Academy player is in uniform, they are representing the Club and they should wear the uniform properly and with pride. Please read and abide by the following guidelines.

- Players must wear the proper training attire at all team and club training sessions.
- Players should bring all jerseys, socks and shorts to every game. Players are responsible to keep these items clean and in good shape at all times.
- All uniform items worn for training and games needs to be the most current seasonal years uniform items.
- Jerseys will always be tucked into shorts whenever you are wearing the uniform (not just during the game). Sliding pants should be the same color as the shorts and should not extend below the uniform shorts.
- Uniform socks will be pulled up whenever you have them on. Shin guards must always be covered by socks.
- Have your equipment bag with you at all practices and games. Put bags carefully in a row on the sidelines at all games. Keep bag in proper team location at practice.
- Bring your soccer ball to every game and every practice. Make sure it is always properly inflated. Ball should not be colored or marked, with the exception of player name, number and team in black permanent marker.
- Leave your rings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, other jewelry and hairpins (except for rubber bands or other elastic bands) at home or in your equipment bags.

The Parents

Parental support and involvement in the Club are essential. If your child is selected and chooses to commit herself to Las Vegas Sports Academy, your commitment is also necessary.

Practices

If Players are to fulfill their quality commitment to the Club and their Team, Parents must see to it Players attend all possible Club and Team training sessions and events. There will be times when conflicts cannot be avoided and other more important events occur. The Club requires your communication, planning, and understanding so we can minimize these conflicts. It is the Coaches responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow you time for your planning. When Parents or Players have an unavoidable conflict, the Club expects timely communication to see if the Club or Team can make any necessary adjustments.

During practices nobody other than players will be allowed on the playing field. This is necessary to help keep plenty of open space for the Teams to practice on and to avoid any possible distractions. If parents have any questions or need to speak to the coach for any reason please wait till the end of the training session unless it is an absolute emergency.

Games

In an effort to make sure the Team and your child are prepared for their games, it is very important that you arrange to have your daughter to the field at the time specified by the Team Coach. If you personally have conflicts getting your child to the field at this time please plan ahead and arrange for your child to ride with another parent.

Sideline Coaching! There will be no coaching by Parents. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your child or yelling (complaining) to officials during games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play. "Go" or "Shoot" etc. are interpreted as instructions and as such are not desirable. It is important Players not be distracted at practices (Parents and friends please stay off the designated practice area, including the goal mouths), during games, and the Players are given only one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after practices and games. For this reason, the Club insists the Coaches be the only voice at all games and

practices. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit within 10 yards of either side of the half before and during games (please respect the space and privacy necessary for the Coach and Team to carry out their responsibilities).

The Club's first concern is for the long-term growth and development of your child as a person along with their soccer abilities under pressure. There will be times Coaches make decisions and Players are instructed in a manner that Parents may not understand. Club, Team and Player development will sometimes be given a greater priority than winning, especially in the years prior to high school. Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy Team environment. Remember, playing only to win without taking healthy Club, Team, and Player development into account will not result in a solid foundation upon which your child will be prepared for winning.

Tournaments and Travel

In an effort to give our Team's and your child the competition to help them develop into a better player, some teams may plan on attending a number of out of town tournaments throughout the year.

It is your responsibility to arrange for your child to be at the tournament on the date and times requested by the Coach. If you can not personally get your child there by the time set forth by your Coach, please plan ahead and arrange for your child to ride with somebody else. If you will not be traveling to the tournament it is your responsibility to arrange for your child to stay with somebody else on the Team.

The club will have certain rules and expectations for the players to follow while traveling to these tournaments. It is your responsibility as a parent to help with these rules and expectations for your child. These rules and expectations will all be listed in the tournament and travel section of the handbook. You as a parent need to set a good example for the players and are also expected to act and present yourself in an appropriate way while at these tournaments. Failure to follow the rules and expectations by either the player or the parent may result in disciplinary actions.

The Coach

The Coaches for Las Vegas Sports Academy are instructed to conduct themselves first as teachers and second as soccer Coaches. Nothing positive will come of the Club's efforts if our Players develop themselves to become world-class Players who do not know how to conduct themselves as positive and successful human beings. In the regard you should expect Las Vegas Sports Academy Coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and display appropriate behavior. Our Coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on Players' lives.

Coaches are responsible for conduct of the Team on and off the field when the Team is together and part of the Club event. We insist our Players are polite, well behaved, and respectful. Players and Parents should expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from the Coach.

Las Vegas Sports Academy Coaches have been responsible for helping numerous state, regional, and national caliber Players, many of whom receive college scholarships and play on top college teams. The commitment the Club and Technical Director makes under no circumstances guarantees Players will be offered a college scholarship, or be considered for a state or national team. The Club and the Coaches do guarantee to give Players the tools and skills to enable them to become as good as their ability, desire, commitment, and effort take them.

The Technical Director and Team Coaches are responsible to create an environment where you can play quality competitive soccer. The soccer we play will be taken very seriously. We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer. In terms of priority family and school work come first. However, if the Coaches see you are not willing to put your soccer above other recreational activities during the season, it may affect your playing time and/or your status with the Club. As a member of Las Vegas Sports Academy we expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and you Team as your first recreational activity and priority during the Club Season.

Do not expect the Coaches to praise everything you do well. After a time there are things the Coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when the Coaches will say very little, and times they may yell out instructions. There are times they will be critical of Players, and other times they will be generous with praise. Players and Parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to deal with both.

The Team Coach will be available to provide instruction in soccer for 4-6 hours per team per week. During the later parts of the season instruction hours will go up due to tournament play and State and National Cup preparations. The Team Coach will attend practices and will coach at games. In situations where conflicts do occur, and they will, the Technical Director will designate a Coach to cover that particular practice or game. There will be times when the Team is asked to be in charge of themselves so the Players grow in leadership, maturity, and responsibility.

Tournaments and Travel

Types of Travel

Las Vegas Sports Academy encourages travel to tournaments for player development and player showcase purposes. The Club will have teams travel in one of two manners:

- 1) Individual Travel: Individual players travel with their parents and stay in hotel rooms with their parents. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to games and team meetings. For non-team meals, parents are responsible for supplying meals for their child.
- 2) Team Travel: Chaperones will accompany players from the team's departure from Las Vegas until the team's return. Chaperones monitor and transport the players to games and meetings. Players will stay in rooms with each other. Players will also eat meals together.

When players travel as a group they will not get to choose who they get to stay with. Coaches and Staff will make all rooming decisions. Up to 4 players will be put in a room with chaperone rooms as close by as possible. Issues are bound to arise at some point with the players staying together. Some examples might be, "Jane wouldn't turn the tv off", "John and Jim were up late talking and I couldn't go to sleep". While we will have very strict rules for the girls and we expect them to be followed or the players will have consequences, some things are bound to happen. Besides the benefit of team bonding, a major reason for these trips is to start to teach the kids to be responsible on their own (with chaperones and coaches close by of course) and to also learn how to deal with things on their own. These trips will put many of the players in situations they've never been in before and it will be very beneficial for their personal growth. They might have to ask a teammate to turn the tv off or to be quiet because it is late. We'd rather them learn how to deal with things like this now than grow up in life and not know how to handle or feel comfortable handling these situations. Coaches will of course be there to help guide them in handling these problems on their own, to make sure it is done in a proper manner.

General Guidelines

Players are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which is in keeping with representing Las Vegas Sports Academy and will not bring discredit upon the Team.

When traveling with a Las Vegas Sports Academy team, each player is expected to dress appropriately as befits representing LVSA or as directed by the Coaching Staff.

Respect for property of others, adherence to the rules and guidelines as specified here or by the Coaching Staff / Administrator and observance of State and Federal laws are required for participation with this team.

Discipline Rules

1. Substance use and / or possession thereof (drugs, alcohol and / or tobacco by minors) are cause for the immediate dismissal from a team trip.
2. Having a member of the opposite sex in your hotel room is cause for the immediate dismissal from a team trip.
3. Persistent irresponsible and disrespectful behavior is cause for dismissal from a team trip.
4. Destruction of property or violation of State and Federal laws is cause for dismissal from a team trip
5. Failure to comply with any and all team rules (curfew, attendance, dress code, schedules, etc.) may be cause for disciplinary action. Persistent failure will be cause for dismissal from a team trip and could affect a player's future participation on the Team.

NOTE: If dismissal from a team trip occurs, the player may be sent home immediately at the parent's cost by whatever means is most convenient for the coaching staff. This will most likely be the parent/guardian of the child being dismissed having to come and pick them up. No reimbursement of trip fees will be made to the dismissed player or the player's family.

Tournament and Coaches Travel Fees

All tournament and Coaches travel fees are to be covered by the individual teams. All players on the team are responsible to pay their share of the tournament and coaches travel fees. This money needs to be given to the coach prior to the trip by the team manager. Coaches shall receive travel fees for the following amounts and items:

- Coaches meal per diem- \$40 per day. This is broken down as follows: \$20 for dinner, \$10 for lunch and \$10 for breakfast. If a coach leaves Las Vegas before 9:00am breakfast should be included for that day. If a coach leaves Las Vegas before 12:00pm lunch is included. If a coach leaves Las Vegas before 7:00pm dinner should be included. If a coach returns to Las Vegas after 9:00am breakfast should be included for that day. If a coach returns to Las Vegas after 1:00pm lunch should be included for that day. If a coach returns to Las Vegas after 7:00pm dinner should be included for that day.
- Coaches mileage- \$0.50 per mile
- Coaches hotel room- actual cost of room and tax

- If a trip is over a 5 hour drive the coach has the option to fly. At which point the coaches actual flight cost, rental car cost and gas are to be paid by the team. Coaches should book cheapest flight possible and rent the cheapest rental car available. If a coach wishes to fly to a trip that is closer than a 5 hour drive they can do so but will only be given the \$0.50 per mile that the trip would have been if they would have drive.

All tournament and coaches travel fees are due within 14 days of being informed by team manager or team treasurer. Failure to pay these fees will result in disciplinary action by the club.

Las Vegas Sports Academy Programs

College Preparatory Program

The Las Vegas Sports Academy College Preparatory Program is designed to help address the needs of the aspiring college soccer player and family. Its purpose is to assist them in finding a college setting that is right for them. With more and more players interested in playing soccer at a collegiate level, knowing the steps to take has become very important. LVSA will help players by giving them college research assistance, contacting college coaches and reviewing any materials prepared by players. The players will also be provided with a high level of exposure to college coaches. We will create these opportunities through showcase tournaments, profiles and clinics. The club supports the work put in by the players by listing profiles on the web-site and having them available at all showcase tournaments. LVSA will also help by holding periodic college information meetings with both players and parents to give information, keep up to date records and to answer any/all questions about the process. The players will be supplied with worksheets, tracking logs and examples of initial letters, tournament information letters, follow-up letters and resumes. The staff at Las Vegas Sports Academy also has many professional contacts, alliances and relationships that can offer players credibility. The club will act as a representative for players when contacted by a college coach. The staff will always hold the highest standard of credibility regarding a player's attitude, work rate and abilities. Las Vegas Sports Academy is willing to help any player through the process of searching, selecting, and applying to college. Ultimately, the research and completing the work necessary will be done by the players themselves. The College Prep Program is open to all LVSA high school aged players at no charge.

Technical Training Program

In a continued effort to provide our players with the best training, Las Vegas Sports Academy is excited to offer our Technical Training Program. One of the characteristics that players are lacking in is their technical abilities, their comfort on and ability to manipulate the ball. These sessions will involve various technical aspects to improve overall individual player performance. The Technical Training sessions are optional and open to all LVSA players U9 and above.

Juggling Club

The Las Vegas Sports Academy Juggling Club is a program to promote ball mastery and confidence for players of all ages in the club. Juggling is one of the best ways to get comfortable with the ball with all surfaces of the body. Touch, how hard and how fast you play a ball, is also a very important skill that juggling teaches through repetition. It also is a great way to gain core strength and balance. Juggling also helps player gain confidence through achievement. Players learn that with time and dedication they can learn to do things that seemed impossible to do when they first started. The juggling club is designed to help increase both the physical and mental sides of soccer.

Players are rewarded when they reach various levels of achievement. A coach must call the club and verify that the player did reach their goals. A player then receives recognition on the club website and also an award of achievement. The following are the various levels:

- 25- Recognition on the club website.
- 50- Recognition on the club website and a LVSA pencil.
- 100- Recognition on the club website and a LVSA t-shirt.
- 250- Recognition on the club website and a LVSA shoe bag.
- 500- Recognition on the club website and a LVSA sack pac.

Speed, Agility and Injury Prevention Training Program

Las Vegas Sports Academy Players (U11-U19) will have specific training each week concentrating on increasing, speed, agility, vertical leap, core strength, balance, and flexibility. The program also puts an emphasis on injury prevention with specific attention given to ACL injuries. This program is instructed and designed by the LVSA Athletic Trainer / Speed and Agility Coach.

The program itself is broken down into many specific exercises including, footwork, technical running, cutting, hurdles, power running, over-speed running, strength exercises, and stretching. Each weekly training session will consist of several different drills designed to improve the individual player's and the team's athleticism.

Olympic Development Program

During the soccer season players from Las Vegas Sports Academy are encouraged to tryout for the Nevada State Olympic Development Program (ODP). The player's decision about whether to participate in ODP will be left up to the player and parents. There will be times where players selected for ODP will encounter conflicts between Club events and ODP. The ODP policy clearly state that the Club always has priority unless your LVSA Team Coach in coordination with the Technical Director decides otherwise. You agree to follow this policy.

Guest Play Opportunities

Las Vegas puts individuals and teams first. The club believes that the success of its team is largely to individual players to play up to their potential. The club aids players to play at many different levels and with different teams. If a player's team is playing in a tournament then the players' responsibility is to their team. If their team is not participating then the club promotes players to play within the club with other LVSA teams that are participating. Players also get opportunities to play outside of the club with other clubs/teams. Clubs that our players have played with, include, but are not limited to Slammers FC, OJSC Barcelona, Pro Select, Honolulu Bulls, and Ohio Select.

While we strongly support Las Vegas Sports Academy players guest playing, we do want to make sure the appropriate procedures and rules are followed. According to league and state rules, if a coach from another team would like to use a player from another team as a guest player they must first contact that players coach. Once permission is given, the coach asking for the guest player can then contact the player they would like to guest play. If the proper procedures are not followed, recruitment is taking place and we will not allow the players to guest play.

At times your Las Vegas Sports Academy teams may have guest players join them also. They may be from other LVSA teams or from outside of the Club. Either way when we invite guest players to join one of our teams they become part of the team. Just because they are guest players doesn't mean they shouldn't play as much as the regular members of the team. The coach will make the decisions on playing time and these decisions should be respected.

Recruiting

The NYSA rules provide strict limitations on conversations with non-club members about a team's selection process. These rules are designed to prevent the improper "recruiting" of players from other clubs, and they apply to coaches, parents and team members. Prior to the end of the spring season, it is improper to recruit a player from any other club. If you would like to share information about your team or its selection process with a member of another club, first check with your Las Vegas Sports Academy coach for guidance. The penalties for improper contracts with other team members or their parents can be severe.

Athletic Training

The Las Vegas Sports Academy Athletic Training program is designed to help injured athletes return to play as soon as safely possible. When an injury occurs to one of your athletes please have them contact the clubs athletic trainer as soon as possible, as early recognition and evaluation of injuries is a key in the rehabilitation of athletic injuries. The procedure for taking care of athletic injuries is as follows.

1. Recognition of an injury.

- If the injury to one of your athletes appears to you to be life threatening (Call 911) then call the clubs athletic trainer.
- If the injury seem serious but not life threatening call the clubs athletic trainer.
- If the injury does not seem serious call the clubs athletic trainer after your game or practice, **do not** have the athlete participate until after a consultation with the Athletic Trainer

2. Evaluation Injury and Rehabilitation.

- Evaluation and treatment of new injuries will occur after each practice.
- Rehabilitation of injuries will occur before most practices, please see the website for times and locations.

3. Return to play criteria.

- An athlete may return to play after an injury when either the athletic trainer or a physician (with documentation) has deemed it safe to do so.

The Las Vegas Sports Academy Athletic Training program is directed by Tedd Giroaurd MS ATC. Tedd is currently licensed to perform athletic training services by the State of Nevada. For a complete list of all licensed athletic trainers in the State of Nevada please go to this website. <http://www.nevadaathletictrainers.nv.gov/>

Insurance Coverage

The Insurance provided through the Nevada Youth Soccer Association affiliation may change in its exact coverage from year to year. The precise terms of the insurance and coverage are set out in a Master Policy available at the Nevada Youth Soccer Association. In general:

- The following are covered as named insured under the General Liability policy: the Association, its member teams and leagues, all registered players, all players participating in try-outs, coaches, officials, managers, sponsors, volunteers, directors, officers and any other members affiliated with the Association.
- The following are covered as named insured under the General Liability policy: the Association, its member teams and leagues, all registered players, all players participating in try-outs, coaches, officials, managers, sponsors, volunteers, directors, officers and any other members affiliated with the Association.
- The Accident policy covers: all registered players and players participating in try-outs, coaches, managers, volunteers and other participants affiliated with the Association.
- The accident and liability policies provide coverage to insured persons while participating in the following covered activities: Scheduled games, team practice sessions or sponsored activities, provided they are under the direct supervision of a team official; or sanctioned local or national tournaments as a member of a contestant team.
- Group Travel directly to or from such scheduled practices, games or sponsored activities is covered under the accident policy. The liability policy provides non-ownership liability only while an automobile is being used in the official business of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association.
- No liability coverage is provided to parents, coaches or volunteers while using any automobile to transport team members or volunteers to any practice, game or activity.

How to file an Accident Claim

Obtain a Bollinger Accident Claim form from the State Association office, or your Club or League Office. In the event of an injury requiring medical treatment you should:

1. Complete the top portion of the claim form marked "To be Completed by Insured" and include complete copies of all itemized bills.
2. Note: this is an Excess Policy. If you are covered under any other Insurance or Health Care Plan, you must submit your bills to your other insurance carrier first. After your other carrier has paid their share of the claim, you may then submit any remaining balances due under this plan. Be sure to send copies of all invoices and the Explanation of Benefits form detailing benefits paid from your primary carrier with this claim form.
3. After you have completed the claim form, the bottom portion marked "To be Completed by Policyholder/ Administrator" must be filled out and authorized by the State Association. Please send the claim form and all relevant materials to:

**Nevada Youth Soccer Association
5650 W. Charleston Blvd., #13
Las Vegas. NV 89146**

The State Association will then forward the claim to **Bollinger** for processing and payment.

For current and more exact information, or if you have questions, please feel free to contact the Nevada Youth Soccer Association at 702-870-3024.

Lightning Policy

While thunderstorms may come at any time of year, we here in Las Vegas have an increased chance of thunderstorm activity during the Summer Monsoon Season. This often falls when many of our teams are just starting up the new season. With thunderstorms come lightning. Each year, about 400 children and adults in the U.S. are struck by lightning while working outside, at sports events, on the beach, mountain climbing, mowing the lawn or during other outdoor activities. About 80 people are killed and several hundred more are left to cope with permanent disabilities. Many of these tragedies can be avoided. Finishing the game, getting a tan, or completing a work shift aren't worth death or crippling injury. Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm.

In an effort to keep our players, staff and parents safe we have created the following Lightning Policy for all our club members to fall.

If our coaches/staff see or hear a thunderstorm coming, they are to immediately suspend the game or practice and instruct everyone to go inside a sturdy building or car. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, and bleachers. If no sturdy building is nearby, a hard-top vehicle with windows closed will offer some protection. The steel frame of the vehicle provides some protection if you are not touching metal.

Since most of the times we will not be in a situation to take shelter in a building, players will be instructed to get into their parent's cars. If a player's parent is not there, the player will be instructed to wait in the car of a teammate. The most important thing is to not have them outside.

Procedures for Handling Problems

From time to time problems or conflicts may arise during a season. The most important thing to remember in handling these problems or conflicts is proper communication. When a problem arises you first need to discuss the issue with your team Head Coach. If after consulting with the Coach, you still feel that additional attention to the problem is needed, then you should refer the matter to your age group Director. If you still feel the issue has not been resolved you can fill out and submit a Conflict Resolution Form which can be found and submitted online. Your concern will be looked at by the Discipline Committee and their findings and suggestions will be forwarded to the Board of Directors who will make final decision and how to resolve the issue.

We do ask that you do not approach the coach on any problems or conflicts before, during or immediately after the game.

Disciplinary Actions

Our attempt with this handbook is to present in clear detail exactly what will be expected of you and what you can expect of the Club, the team, and the coaches. If you are uncertain what is expected, it is your responsibility to ask one of your coaches. Knowing and understanding these things, your participation in the Club will be positive for you as you develop your soccer abilities to the highest level possible. We have expectations of the Club, the team, the coaches, and you.

These expectations are really rules, regulations, and policies for Las Vegas Sports Academy. So that you and every player in our Club can get the maximum benefit, we need you and every player to abide by Club rules, regulations, and policies. If disciplinary actions are necessary, the following steps may be taken:

1. The Team Coach and/or a Director will discuss the problem directly and privately with the player, with the assumption the problem will be corrected immediately.
2. If the problem persists, the Team Coach and/or a Director will communicate with the player's parents to discuss the problem and lack of response on the part of the player. Parents will have the opportunity to be involved with correction of the problem at this time.
3. If the problem still continues, the Technical Director and/or Team Coach may temporarily suspend the player from training. If the situation warrants, the Technical Director may recommend to the Board that the player be removed from the Club. The Board of Directors will notify the parents of the recommendation.
4. The parents of any player recommended for removal from the Club may request to meet with the Board and the Technical Director.

Our desire is to work in a positive, constructive way with our players. Everyone has problems from time to time and we will make every effort to work with you to help solve the problems you may have. After we have exhausted all efforts to solve the problem, we will be left with little choice other than pursue disciplinary action as outlined above.

Player Release

Just as the Club has committed to your child for the entire year we expect the same commitment from you and your child. We do understand that from time to time situations do arise in which player releases will be requested. All Las Vegas Sports Academy player releases will go through the club. Coaches will not release any players. If a player is requesting a release they first need to notify their coach so they are aware of the situation. As soon as the desire to be released has been expressed to the coach or any other staff member, the player is no longer to attend any team or club events or functions. The coach will turn the player card and player paperwork in to the club. The club will then correspond with the family requesting the release on all steps necessary for the release. No player will be released until payment in full has been made for the entire year.

Club Dues

The majority of the expenses incurred by Las Vegas Sports Academy are financed through the Player Fees. To help keep these fees as low as possible the Club participates in fundraising events such as the Vegas Cup Soccer Tournament, Las Vegas Sports Academy Golf Tournament and a wine tasting event.

Club Payment Policies

Overview

The payment and timely collection of fees is a critical component to establishing long term viability for our club. It is also one of the most difficult. We have spent a tremendous amount of time establishing fees that balance the needs of our club and the resources of our families. We firmly believe when families experience the professional training and coaching as well as character development of their sons and daughters, they will realize a tremendous return on their modest investment.

Collection Procedures

Families have two options when making fee payments:

- 1) Payment in full in advance
- 2) Payment plan as described in Financial Commitment Agreement (FCA) portion of the new season Player Registration.

Every Las Vegas Sports Academy Player must have a parent or legal guardian sign a Financial Commitment Agreement (FCA). An electronic signature is acceptable on the new season Player Registration via the "gotsoccer" system. This document states that you are fully aware of the costs associated with LVSA and understands that all team uniforms, equipment, gear and anything else provided by the Club to the parents or players are property of LVSA until all payments are paid in full.

If a Player leaves Las Vegas Sports Academy at any time they are still fully responsible for the entire payment amount for the entire soccer year, Fall and Spring. Any refunds or exceptions will be at the sole discretion of LVSA.

For players on the payment plan, failure to make payments by the scheduled dates may result in disciplinary actions towards the player and/or parents. Payments that are more than 10 days past due will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Payments that are more than 30 days past due will result in player card being pulled by the Club and player having to sit out from all Club and Team activities until payments become current. No player will be released from an LVSA Team until payments for the entire soccer year, Fall and Spring, have been made. Any legal fees associated with the collection of delinquent fees will be charged to you.

All tournament and coaches travel fees will be collected by the teams on an individual basis as the teams near the tournaments. All players on the team are responsible to cover their share of the tournament and coaches travel fees for all events listed on the beginning of the year team information handout. If a player is not attending an event that was on the team information handout they are still responsible to cover their share of the tournament entry fee and coaches travel. From time to time event schedules do need to change for a number of different reasons. When a team attends an event that was not on the original team information handout, only those players that are attending the event are responsible for the tournament entry fee and coaches travel. The exception to this is if the event is on the same dates and in the same general location as the event that it is a substitute for. Players should have these fees to the team manager or treasurer within 14 days of being informed of the fees. Failure to pay these fees will result in disciplinary action by the club.

All returned checks will be charged a \$25 fee.

If a team is no longer able to continue because of a low roster number or other reason, Las Vegas Sports Academy will place your child on another LVSA team. If we do not have a spot on another LVSA team for your child a refund will be given for the remaining months in the seasonal year.

Player Accounts

The purpose of this section is to help you understand how and when the funds in your Las Vegas Sports Academy Player Account can be used.

All fees paid by you or earned fundraising or through sponsorships will be credited to your Player Account. The funds in this account go to cover club fees and any excess funds remaining in your account can be used for future club fees or the following expenses:

- Uniforms
- Tournament entry fees
- Coaches travel fees

Money can not be taken out of your Player Account for the items listed above until your club fees have been paid in full for the year. Once you club fees have been paid in full you can not use money in your account to cover the above items if it takes your Player Account below the total club fees due for the year. For example, if you total club fees due for the year is \$915.00, and you have a tournament fee due of \$30.00, you must have at least \$945.00 credited in your account. If you only had \$915.00 credited towards your account you would not be able to use money in the account to cover the tournament because it would take you below the \$915.00 that was your club fees due for the year. Excess money in your Player Account can not be used for personal travel expenses to tournaments.

If you should leave Las Vegas Sports Academy, any remaining fees (in excess of what is due for the entire year) in your Player Account, minus a 10% administrative fee, can be transferred to another non-profit organization of your choosing. Remaining fees can not be refunded directly to player.

Fundraising

Soccer rightfully enjoys a reputation as a sport less costly than many others. And yet, when you reach the level of select soccer, you necessarily begin to experience the need for better facilities, the cost of traveling to and playing in tournaments, extra uniform costs, more and better shoes, and so on.

The battle to meet the rising costs of building and sustaining a top flight soccer program is constant. On a few occasions, we have benefited from the generosity of contributing businesses and individual friends of the Club. We need that type of special financial assistance on an ongoing basis. If you or your company could help us in meeting this challenge, please let us hear from you.

Teams are encouraged to explore fund raising possibilities that will help defray the cost of player fees, uniform costs and tournament registration fees. At the same time, the club has an interest in assuring the fundraising efforts do not conflict with the club activities or policies, or with the activities of other Las Vegas Sports Academy teams. As a result, all fund raising activities should be cleared in advance with the club.

Sponsorship

Las Vegas Sports Academy operates as a non profit organization that strives to serve the community through offering outstanding soccer programs for players aged 5-18 years. While the club adopts a pro-active fundraising strategy, donations and sponsors are still very much an essential ingredient to the short and long terms goals of the program. Support through sponsorship allows us to provide a high quality soccer program while maintaining reasonable club fees. Las Vegas Sports has many sponsorship opportunities that will suit the individual, a small business or a larger corporation. We thank you for your consideration and if you wish to discuss any opportunities please go to the sponsorship page of our website.

Financial Assistance Program ~ Will resume for Fall 2011-Spring 2012 Season

One of many of the goals of Las Vegas Sports Academy is to ensure that any child with the desire, commitment and ability to play for one of our teams be given the opportunity regardless of their financial situation. We realize that the costs of competitive soccer can be quite high and we pledge to offer as many fundraising opportunities during the year as possible. Families in need of additional assistance may apply for financial assistance in the form of extended/alternate payment plans or scholarships. Financial assistance funds are limited and will go to those showing the most need, as determined by Las Vegas Sports Academy. Financial assistance and scholarship awards are restricted to assist in covering 50% of club monthly fees. **All LVSA players are required to pay for their travel expenses, team tournament fees, uniform package and league fees, even if they qualify for financial assistance.**

In order to be eligible for financial assistance, a player must meet and adhere to all guidelines set forth in the Financial Assistance Application. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of any financial assistance awarded. Financial assistance will be considered for LVSA Players with illustrated financial need who complete and submit a signed application form before the deadline. Those requesting financial assistance greater than \$300 must qualify for free or reduced lunches according to Clark County School District guidelines and show documentation from the Clark County School District of such. If players do not meet guidelines, they may still apply for a partial scholarship or alternate payment plans. For information on the free lunch program you can go to the Clark County School Districts Food Service Department website at <http://www.ccsd.net/foodservice/1-NSLP.html>

The application form must be filled out completely and received by FC Las Vegas before the deadline for your application to be considered. **Applications should be mailed to:**

**FC Las Vegas Scholarship/Financial Assistance Committee
4630 W Post Road, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89118**

The Scholarship/Financial Assistance Committee will review your application and a letter indicating any award or denial will be sent to you by. Applications must be submitted, reviewed and approved annually and are not automatically renewable.

Volunteer Commitment

Many of the costs associated with operating Las Vegas Sports Academy are covered by Fundraising Events hosted by the Club. Without these events the Club would be faced with having to raise the player fees or take away valuable resources and opportunities the Club provides for its players.

To maximize the funds raised the Club will rely on parent volunteers to help with the many different aspects of these events.

All parents will be required to volunteer for 6 hours during the soccer year at one of our Las Vegas Sports Academy fundraising events. Families with multiple children in the club will be required to volunteer 6 hours per child, up to a maximum of 12 hours per soccer year per family.

The 2 main events where volunteer hours will be needed are:

- Vegas Cup Labor Day Weekend
- Vegas Cup MLK Junior Weekend- January