

Arlington Travel Soccer Club

Proposed Player Movement Guidelines November, 2002

Over a year ago, ATSC held meetings and discussions with the Director of Coaching, interested coaches, and other interested parties to discuss the issue of player movement and recruitment within ATSC. An examination of existing regulations from NCSL, WAGS and ODSL revealed a significant disparity between the leagues. The following guidelines have been prepared to deal with these issues within ATSC when the appropriate league regulations are silent or do not address certain situations.

Concern about recruitment and transfers has arisen when a player is recruited from one Arlington team by another, particularly when such a move occurs close to the start of a new season. This is usually a case of higher level team taking a player from a lower level team in the same age group. A main factor in the resulting friction is the lack of communication between coaches within an age group. We have had several instances of situations involving both boys and girls teams in ATSC where coaches have recruited players from another ATSC team without first contacting the coach of the ATSC team to which the player is currently rostered. While these guidelines will not guarantee to stop inappropriate recruitment, they establish ground rules and set the tone for all teams to follow when existing league rules do not apply or do not exist.

ATSC's R&D Committee is given authority in the guidelines to determine if violations of this policy have occurred and to sanction offending coaches. It was felt that the R&D Committee was better suited for this task than the Director of Coaching. The sanctions proposed, stipulating maximum rather than minimum punishments, give the R&D Committee flexibility to deal with specific situations.

Note, however, these guidelines do **not** address a situation where a player approaches the coach of another team and requests a tryout or transfer. Players have a right to seek positions on new teams, whether higher or lower, and to leave a team at any time. Players who request their release from a team must be granted the release immediately.

In addition, these guidelines are targeted to the time period after the fall teams have been formed in spring/early summer tryouts, and to the period between the fall and spring seasons. They do not apply to tryout situations, although coach communication is strongly encouraged at all times.

ATSC Player Recruitment and Transfer Guidelines

November 2002

The purpose of ATSC is to provide an avenue for the development of players in competitive soccer. The following guidelines for player movement between ATSC teams are designed to promote the orderly and equitable transfer of players. In its mission statement, ATSC's goals are listed as:

- Provide an attractive soccer environment that nurtures the highest level of competition.
- Provide every interested child with the opportunity to qualify to play competitive travel soccer.
- Develop superior life skills in ATSC participants through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work.
- Develop elite soccer players who have an opportunity for success at the state, regional, and national levels.
- Develop strong Arlington teams able to compete effectively at the local, tournament, state, regional, and national levels.

The following guidelines shall regulate player transfers for all ATSC teams, effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Directors. All ATSC teams must abide by their respective leagues rules for the recruitment and transfer of players. In addition, all ATSC teams must abide by these "ATSC Player Recruitment and Transfer Guidelines." If the ATSC Guidelines are in conflict with written policies of NCSL, WAGS, or ODSL, the league guidelines and policies shall prevail and take precedence. In the event the team losing a player and the team gaining a player are in different leagues, ATSC guidelines shall apply.

1. Upward and downward player transfers within ATSC shall be allowed and approved. All such transfers must be in conformance with respective league rules and/or ATSC guidelines. Coaches cannot prevent players from moving from one team to another.
2. Initial contact for the recruitment or transfer of a player within ASTC must be between coaches. A coach may not approach the manager of another team, the parent of a player, or the player him/herself to recruit a player until the two coaches have discussed the possible recruitment or transfer. Violations of this guideline may result in sanctions against offending coach, to be imposed by the R&D Committee.
3. If a player is to be offered a position on a higher or lower team, both coaches should talk with the player/parents together, if at all possible.
4. If a coach drops a player from his roster, the coach must assist that player in finding a position on another ATSC team but there is no requirement that a position must be found. It is expected that a player being dropped from a higher level team within an age group will be given every consideration for placement on lower level teams in the age group, although placement is not guaranteed. Coaches may not drop players from their rosters,

except in extreme circumstances governed by VYSA rules, between the fall and spring seasons.

5. Coaches desiring to obtain a player must notify the ATSC Director of Coaching (DOC) when contacting the other coach, preferably by e mail. The DOC will keep a written record of these requests.

6. At the end of the fall season, the coaches within an age group shall meet to discuss any player movement between the fall and spring season. It is recommended that this meeting take place before the end of November after the conclusion of the NCSL, WAGS and ODSL seasons. Coaches cannot require players to switch teams between the fall and spring seasons.

7. The ASTC Open Tryout Policy may result in teams dropping or adding players in June for the next soccer season. These guidelines are to address the movement of players up or down at all times other than during the Open Tryouts.

8. In order to better facilitate the movement of players during Open Tryouts and to make coaches better aware of the abilities of players on other teams, it is suggested that coaches switch teams for practices during the course of the fall and spring season, and otherwise observe the other teams in the age group. ATSC stresses the importance of regular communication and cooperation between coaches in an age group.

9. The maximum sanction for a first offense is a 3 game suspension and subsequent violations will result in a maximum of a 5 game suspension. These sanctions are served against the coach since it is the coach that is ultimately held responsible regardless of whether it was the coach, team official, player or parents acting on behalf of the team that is accused of recruitment. The R&D Committee shall determine whether violations of this policy have occurred, and the appropriate sanction.