

ARLINGTON TRAVEL SOCCER CLUB Policy Manual

Following are the policies adopted by the Arlington Travel Soccer Club (ATSC) over the past years. These policies provide the framework for the organization, structure, and function of travel soccer in Arlington. All teams are expected to comply with ATSC policies.

1. MISSION STATEMENT March 1998 (Executive Board)

The mission of the Arlington Travel Soccer Club (ATSC) is to provide Arlington and Falls Church City youth the opportunity to play soccer at the highest level commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest.

ATSC Goals

- Provide an attractive soccer environment that nurtures the highest level of competition.
- Provide every interested Arlington and Falls Church City 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.
- By the 1999-2000 season, at least one half of the age groups (U-11 and above) in WAGS and NCSL should include an Arlington team which is in Division 1 or has moved up at least 2 divisions within the preceding two season-years.

ATSC Objectives

- At U-9 and U-10, form and support at least two teams in each gender age group, comprised of players of various abilities, with the primary goal of developing the players.
- At U-11 and above, support at least two teams in each gender age group, with the goal of the first (A) team being to advance to as high a division as possible in WAGS or NCSL; the goal of the second (B) team to play competitive soccer at a mid-level division in WAGS or NCSL; and the goal of the third (C) team, if one exists, to develop players for the two higher teams and provide a playing option for players with less skill and commitment.

2. ATSC TEAM MANAGEMENT POLICIES

May 13, 1998 (Club Council)

1. Tryouts

ATSC will conduct open tryouts for every age group each spring to determine team rosters for the following year. The Team Management Committee will provide scheduling, publicity and other administrative support. All players wishing to play on an ATSC team, including current players, must attend the tryouts. Exceptions may be granted only by the Team Management Committee. Final roster decisions will be made by the age group coaching staff.

Grandfathering: U-14 (Fall 1998 [08/01/84-07/31/85]) and older

2. Team Format

U-11 and older teams will be tiered according to ability (A-B-C).
U-9 and U-10 teams will be balanced.

Grandfathering: U-14 (Fall 1998 [08/01/84-07/31/85] and older);
 U-10 (Fall 1998 [08/01/80-07/31/81] only)

3. Age Group Coordinated Coaching

Age group coaches are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication to foster the best developmental program for each player, and to work together during tryouts and throughout the season. The age group coaching staff will designate who among them will coach each team. If this cannot be resolved by the coaching staff, a panel of the Club Coach, Commissioner, and a Team Management Committee member will decide. The Club Coach will provide candidates for every open coaching position. Coaches for newly forming teams will be selected by the Club Coach, Commissioner, and the existing coaching staff, if any.

Grandfathering: n/a

3. ATSC UNIFORM POLICY

May, 1998 (Club Council); Amended March, 2002 (Club Council)

ATSC has a club-wide uniform for use by all Arlington travel teams. Newly forming teams are required to purchase the ATSC uniform. Existing teams not wearing the current ATSC uniform are required to purchase it, if, for any reason, they are no longer able to maintain their existing uniform and must, as a team, change styles or manufacturers. All teams are encouraged to use the ATSC logo on any other suitable team equipment such as alternate t-shirts, warm ups, team bags, etc.

4. ATSC VOLUNTEERS

March, 1999 (Club Council)

Beginning in Fall 1999, each ATSC team is required to provide at least one person to the ATSC who can serve in a leadership role, participate on an ATSC committee of his/her choice, and/or assist with ATSC activities.

5. ATSC SCHOLARSHIP FUND GUIDELINES

January, 2001 (Executive Board)

The ATSC Scholarship Committee has adopted the following guidelines for distribution of funds. These guidelines will apply during the Spring 2001 season and thereafter unless modified by the Scholarship Committee or by action of the ATSC Board.

1. Each team filing a scholarship application will receive a rebate of ATSC fees for each player that is unable to pay full team dues. Full team dues shall include club fees, uniform costs, coach and/or trainer costs and tournament costs.
2. Each team will be expected to fund the cost of one player who cannot pay full team dues. Additional players who cannot pay full team dues will qualify as "scholarship players."
3. Each team will receive an equal amount for each scholarship player, provided that the difference between the amounts contributed by a scholarship player and the team's dues is greater than the applicable scholarship amount as determined under the formula set forth below.
4. The formula for determining the applicable scholarship amount is as follows.
 - a. The maximum scholarship available to any team will be \$200 per scholarship player.
 - b. The applicable scholarship amount will be determined by dividing the total funds available by the total number of scholarship players. The total funds available shall be the total of (a) the amount budgeted by the ATSC for scholarships, (b) the amount received by ATSC from contributions designated for scholarships, and (c) one-third (1/3) of the amounts contributed to the Klurfield Fund during the preceding calendar year.

6. ATSC POLICY EXPECTATIONS FOR TEAMS - COMPLIANCE & SANCTIONS

January 16, 2001 (Executive Board), Amended February 20 (Executive Board)

Arlington Travel Soccer Club expects member teams to be in good standing and support and adhere to the policies adopted by the club. A team in good standing is a team which follows the written policies of the club including, but not limited to: participating in annual, age-group open tryouts, prompt payment of all fees and dues, using a developmental approach at U9 and U10, replacing old uniforms with ATSC club uniforms, providing at least one ATSC volunteer, and coach participation in age-group appropriate licensing and coach development. Teams in good standing are eligible to receive ATSC scholarship funds, reimbursement for coach licensing courses, access to summer and winter (indoor) practice space, and other club benefits. Teams not in good standing with the club will receive sanctions which may include but not be limited to: lowest priority for practice scheduling, ineligibility for ATSC-coordinated summer and winter practices, ineligibility for scholarship funds and coach licensing reimbursements, fines, and expulsion from the club.

All ATSC policies adopted by the Club Council and/or Executive Board will be compiled into one document. This ATSC Policy Manual will be distributed to all teams and posted on the ATSC web site. Addendums will be distributed to each team as needed. It is the responsibility of the Coach and Manager to ensure that their families are aware of ATSC policies. These policies will include but not be limited to: Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives; Club Uniforms; Tryouts; Team Format (developmental/equal teams at U9/10, A/B/C teams at U11 and older); Compliance and Sanctions; Age Group Coaching; ATSC Team Volunteer; Scholarship Fund Guidelines; and Code of Conduct.

7. RULES AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

February, 2001 (Executive Board)

A Rules and Discipline (R&D) Committee will be established to review complaints made against teams that are believed to be in non-compliance with one or more ATSC policies. The President will appoint a Chairman and four additional committee members, to include the Girls and Boys Commissioners. Three members will hear each case, including the Chairman, the appropriate Commissioner, and one additional member, who shall rotate on cases. If a team subject to sanction is connected to a member of the R&D Committee, that member shall recuse him/herself and his/her spot shall be taken by the ATSC President.

If the R&D Committee finds that a violation may exist, it will inform the team involved. Such team is entitled to a hearing before the R&D Committee to present its position on the existence and extent of any potential violation and the appropriateness of the sanction(s) therefor, if any. As soon as practicable thereafter the R&D Committee will inform the team of its decision. Teams may appeal the decision of the R&D Committee to the ATSC Board by submitting a written statement of the reasons why the decision should be modified. The ATSC Board will consider in such appeals only questions related to the ATSC policy(ies) involved and the sanction(s) imposed, and not any finding of fact by the Committee. The sanction of expulsion from the Club can also be appealed to the Club Council as provided for in the ATSC Constitution.