

## Fusion FC Academy Player Agreement:

### Background

The first objective for the Fusion FC Academy is to create an environment which allows a player to think independently, be creative, experiment, and rehearse the technical elements they are learning without fear of failure.

The second objective for the academy is to foster a passion and love for the game by developing some knowledge about national, professional and college teams.

The third objective for the academy is to support an individual's desire for excellence and identify players who show the ability and commitment to compete at a high level.

### Player Expectations

Respect the game, respect your coach, respect the referees, respect your opponents, and respect your teammates. As a member of the Fusion Academy, players will be exposed to all levels of ability and only positive comments and gestures are acceptable. The coach is accountable for critiquing players and players are responsible for supporting their teammates. Negativity will result in discipline such as reduced playing time, additional fitness work, or in extreme cases suspension or removal from the academy.

Players are expected to be reasonably fit to play the game. They are expected to eat and sleep properly prior to training and games. Players are expected to be on time for practices and games. Players who are consistently late to practice and games or demonstrate a tendency to be unreliable could have their playing time reduced as compared to their peers.

Academic accountability is always the top priority. Players in the academy who do not have the discipline to perform well in school will not have the discipline to develop in our academy. We require players to maintain good grades and a good standing at their school.

### Parent Expectations

Parents should support their kids through positive reinforcement. Fusion FC coaches are licensed and trained to critique and develop kids appropriately. Parents should avoid impacting their child's love for the game with their own frustration.

Parents should NEVER publically criticize or confront a referee, opponent, or opponent's parents. This type of activity will not be tolerated at the Academy and generally will not be acceptable at any level of Fusion FC. Soccer can be a brutally physical sport and parents should be prepared to handle situations where their child is injured without recourse. Players are coached to handle confrontations on the field as a team and to support their teammates in these situations. It is a part of the game that parents must accept.

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Player \_\_\_\_\_

## USSF Player Progression

In the U10 age bracket, the kids are typically playing in a 6v6 arrangement with a goalkeeper. When they move to the U12 age they will change to an 8v8 arrangement but will typically not move to a full 11v11 competition until they are 13. This mirrors the strategy used throughout the world to most effectively allow kids to compete in the sport.

The United States Soccer Federation has a structured licensing process to ensure kids at a young age are being coached with a focus on techniques and skill instead of game tactics. If you are focusing on teaching a strategy to win games, the tactics will change considerably from 6v6 to 11v11 and you will limit the progression of a player's ability to be creative in complex game situations. Significant time spent on tactics at the developmental age level will also likely result in skill gaps which players will never have the time to fill.

Through the academy style of training, players are coached to focus on skill development. Players are encouraged to develop technical ability, good discipline, respect, and a strong work ethic. They are also encouraged to develop the mindset of a protagonist which refers to a desire and will to struggle to be the main character.

## Fusion FC Academy Development and Selection Model

Players will be evaluated continually throughout the season to match players with similar ability, desire, and maturity into training pools regardless of gender. Training will then be adapted to meet the needs of the different levels of players within the pools. The training and competition will be structured to allow each player to be challenged to grow at a rate determined by their capability and desire. As players begin to exhibit traits needed to advance to a different training pool the coaches will request to have the player moved.

Players are expected to be committed, have a coach able attitude, and have a passionate desire to learn and compete. Player Training Pools will be organized based on the following characteristics:

Technical Ability, Knowledge	Physical Ability	Desire	Maturity
juggling passing (left foot) passing (right foot) dribbling inside of foot (left foot) dribbling inside of foot (right foot) dribbling outside of foot (left foot) dribbling outside of foot (right foot) trapping out of the air (left foot) trapping out of the air (right foot) shooting Cruyff (left foot) Cruyff (right foot) pull back (left foot) pull back (right foot) throw-in recognizes proper restart event understands positions and roles understands formation communicates well on field	speed quickness size balance strength Aggression general athleticism endurance	game knowledge passion practice habits attention to detail in practice completion of homework attends other games attendance	ability to retain concepts attention span in practice general behavior grades stays engaged in game (field) stays engaged in game (side) supports team mates can effectively lead warm-up understands game flow handles pressure situations respect for teammates respect for opponents respect for referee respect for game mental preparation for games mental preparation for practice physical preparation for games physical preparation for practice



FUSION

FC

TENNESSEE

VIRGINIA

## **Practice Pools**

Academy Black – Top 25% of Academy. Must be able to juggle at least 5 times

Academy Red – Top 25% to 50% of Academy

Academy White – U9s and U10s

U8 Academy Select – Most U8 Players. Some U8 Players will be assigned to other pools.

## **Academy Team Assignments for Games**

Generally we will try to keep age levels together for friendly games. On occasion we may supplement teams with players from a different age group in order to provide a specific training opportunity or avoid a large talent difference with our opponent.

When we play in competitive tournaments where age classes may be mixed, players will be selected based on the coach's opinion of ability and needs to win the tournament. Playing time will also be dictated by ability and the coach's decisions to try to win games. It is our goal to win all competitive games. It is also our goal to develop player ability during friendly matches and this will influence our ability to win these games. Players will be asked to play positions which might be unfamiliar and awkward. Adapting to the situation and developing the will to win is important. Occasionally we will play friendly matches against teams from high profile clubs and for these matches we will also use selection criteria to make the team assignments.

Players come to Fusion FC to play with dedicated and talented players who give them the best chance to win championships and develop into an elite player. Teams will be selected based on that philosophy.

