



NANTUCKET STUDENT SOCCER ASSOCIATION
DBA NANTUCKET SOCCER CLUB
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Mission Statement - Program:

Nantucket Soccer Club (NSC) strives to develop, deliver and foster quality soccer programs for island youth. The NSC is a **volunteer** organization run by a Board comprised of Nantucket residents. It is responsible for running the club's fall, spring and winter soccer programs. Our spring soccer programs are for children from Pre-K through Grade 12. Our fall soccer programs include children from Pre-K through Grade 6 and our winter indoor program is pre-K through 18. The programs are not affiliated with school athletics or the Nantucket Community School.

Belief Statement:

Nantucket Soccer Club believes the following:

- Enjoyment and Fun - Soccer is a game for everyone to enjoy.
- Participation - Each child should be given the opportunity for participation in a group. We try to find teams suitable for individuals that in a group of similar skill level will help to build the foundations for success.
- Good Sportsmanship & Ethics - Children will adopt respectful and courteous attitudes. Board members, coaches, volunteers, will model and value such behavior.

Code of Conduct:

- Respect your teammates – they'll play their best when encouraged, not criticized.
- Respect the coaches – they volunteer their time and energy and in return expect full cooperation.
- Respect the referees – they do their best to run the games fairly and should never be verbally harassed.
- Respect your opponents – they play for the same reasons we do, and should be applauded, not taunted.
- Respect boats and buses – No loud talk, no climbing on seats, clean up before you leave. Thank drivers and boat personnel when you leave.
- Respect the game – it yields the greatest benefit when taken seriously.

General Program Information:

Volunteers help run the Soccer Club. We need and welcome every parent to help with coaching, assistant coaching or other league activities.

A player must be in good standing in order to participate in club programs. To be in good standing a player must be registered with required fees paid. Fees shall be payable in advance at the time of registration or a payment plan may be set up to establish a structured payment schedule. Failure of any player to pay the required fees shall result in denial of participation. Past due fees from prior programs will also result in denial of participation until those fees are paid in full.

NSC offers a spring and fall developmental, recreational and travel program and a winter development program for many ages.

The developmental program is geared toward children who are not yet eligible to play in the MYSA Spring program. Our spring program gives younger children (ages 3-8) the opportunity to play small-sided, instructional games which allow for many ball touches per game. Spring Instructional is a non-competitive league. There are practices during the week and a game on Sunday.

The recreational program is an extension of our developmental program for ages 7-12. This program continues to focus on more in-depth training and introduces the finer points of the game to the players. There are practices during the week and a game on Sunday.

The travel program offers the highest level of soccer and is for those players who have advanced from the recreational program's basic skill levels. More intense training sessions are on island and games are played against teams from the South Coast Soccer League.

Spring Travel - Spring program is for ages 7-18. Players must be able to commit to the practice and game schedule guidelines set forth by NSC and the coach. Teams play in an eight-game season with four games being home and four games away.

Fall Travel - The fall program is for ages 7-12 and for players who are able to commit to the practice and game schedule guidelines set forth by NSC and the coaches. Teams play in a six-game season with three games being home and three games away.

Travel Guidelines

When committing to a travel team it is expected that players will attend all practices and all games. This is required so as to develop a team mindset where everyone feels that they are responsible for the overall wellbeing of the team. It also allows coaches to gauge player commitment which translates to playing time.

The travel teams participate in the South Coast Soccer League (SCSL), which in turn is part of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). The SCSL is a more competitive league; this allows some of our higher skilled athletes the opportunity to play in a more challenging setting.

For away games, we travel via the HyLine and Steamship. Departure times will vary; players and coaches need to be at the boat no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled departure. The HyLine & Steamship are supportive and provide our athletes and coaches with reduced fares.

When traveling each athlete should bring:

- **Complete uniform**
- **Change of clothes**
- **Warm and dry protective layers**
- **Water for during the game**
- **Packed meal or money for meal**

NOTE: we do not always have time to stop for a meal

For further information on Travel please see the “Travel Soccer Philosophies” section and the “Travel Soccer Player Commitment” Section.

Uniforms:

Each athlete fully registered with fees paid in full will be issued a uniform jersey, shorts, and socks. Each athlete must provide their own shin guards and cleats. This complete uniform is to be worn at each game. Players must tuck in their jersey at all times. Players will not be allowed on the field if they are not in their complete uniform as listed above. Players may keep their uniform at the conclusion of the season.

Warm-ups:

Warm-ups may be purchased separately. Please wear these at all occasions when you are representing the NSC.

Player Conduct:

It is a privilege to represent Nantucket in the South Coast Soccer League. Each athlete is expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner. Inappropriate behavior, including foul language will not be tolerated and can lead to suspension.

Parents:

NSC is a volunteer organization that needs your support. Many hours of planning and preparation by several people goes into our program. Living on Nantucket and traveling to games throughout Southeastern MA is never without flaw; weather conditions, travel times and boat schedules are a part of our daily lives but not always a primary thought in our opponent’s minds. We try to be very diligent in the administration of our program and ask that you in turn be patient and supportive.

Specific ways parents need to help:

- **Parent volunteers are needed to shuttle visiting teams from the boat to the field and back again.**
- **All of our coaches are volunteers; many have families and often two jobs. Please be mindful of this and be on time to pick up your children from practices, games, and the boat.**
- **Our coaches and athletes love to have you at their games, both home and away. Respectful behavior to opponents, coaches and referees is expected from everyone.**
 - **Due to the large number of players traveling it is always helpful when parents can accompany the coach to away games.**
- **You may be asked to provide a game day healthy snack for your team.**

Nantucket Soccer Club
Refund Policy

General Refund Guidelines:

- Program Refunds of registration fees less a \$50 cancellation fee are available prior to the close of registration.
- Late Fees are NOT refundable.
- Any refunds granted shall be subject to deductions for any processing fees or other fees incurred by the club.
- The club will grant a refund if we cannot place your player on any age appropriate team.
- As parents or guardians of players please be aware that after team formation you may not be eligible for any refund of registration fees.
- Refunds shall NOT be granted in cases where families cannot, or will not, accommodate practice and/or game schedules.
- Refunds shall not be granted in cases where the club does not accommodate a specific coach/team request or car pool request.
- Refunds shall not be granted if a family is disappointed in and/or disagrees with team placement of their player.
- In addition, injuries are a part of all sports at any level and are not generally considered as a reason for a refund. However, the club will consider prorating refunds requested due to an injury which results in a player being prohibited from playing on a case by case basis.
- Refunds on uniform fees are subject to club placed team order.
- Travel Team - No refunds, partial or full, will be made to players who choose not to participate at any point after registration for any reason, including players suspended from the program.

Questions about the refund policy or request for exceptions to this policy (medical issues, etc) may be requested by writing the Club Director and the Executive Board

Nantucket Soccer Club
Zero-Tolerance Policy

It should be known and understood that you as coaches and players represent our organization at all times. Practice sessions, games, off island trips, gatherings in public or private places, boat trips, and bus rides are some but not all situations where you are viewed as the “Nantucket” team, player or coach.

Hazing and bullying will not be tolerated. The Directors will respond swiftly and with action deemed necessary to any reports of inappropriate behavior.

NSC’s Zero-Tolerance Policy will cover all the above situations, but is not limited to those listed. Any behavior by a team, player or coach that is viewed as inappropriate by a board member, referee, an opposing coach, parent, spectator or vendor of ours will be dealt with in the fairest and quickest way possible.

The board may take disciplinary action, for infractions only after a meeting of the board of directors is called, or a meeting of the executive committee has been held. At one of these meetings the offending party may be asked to explain his or her side of the events. Neutral parties may be asked to explain the situation from their viewpoint as well.

If disciplinary action needs to be taken the Club Director and Director of Coaching and Development will notify the party in writing within seven days of notification of the incident that action is being considered. If the action has been taken against the coach or coaches the team and or parents will be notified of the punishment in a manner suitable to the timetable of the board.

Please see SCSL: Zero Tolerance Policy for further information. <http://southcoastsoccer.org/>

Nantucket Soccer Club
Travel Soccer Philosophies

U8, U9, U10 Age Groups:

At these age groups, we strive to foster and develop as many young soccer players as possible. We strive to not make cuts in this age group, but it is sometimes necessary due to team size limitations, coaching availability and player commitment. The U8 and U9 age group play 7 v. 7, including the goalie. The U10 and U11 age groups play 9 v. 9, including the goalie. Ideal roster size is 13 players for the U8 and U9 teams and 16 players for the U10 and U11 age group.

At the U8, U9, and U10 age groups, National, State, and League philosophy is centered on these age groups playing in non-result oriented games. This means that game score is not officially kept, league standings are unofficial, and at the end of the season there is a Friendship Tournament, where teams and players of all skills and abilities come together for a fun day of soccer. The U11 age group transitions into a playoff based season and hold no Friendship Tournament. These teams are eligible for the MTOC (Massachusetts Tournament of Champions).

With the understanding that different players have vastly different skill levels, and that players advance at different rates, we suggest that at these age groups each team member receive playing time equivalent to 1/3 of a game in duration. **Our coaches reserve the right to have players receive playing time based on practice attendance, player attitude, skill level, effort, etc.**

U11 Age Group:

Ideal roster size for these age groups is 16 players. This age group play 9 v. 9, including the goalie.

SCSL states there shall be no limitation on the size of each team roster for the Gr 05 and Gr 06 division 2 age groups (non-MTOC eligible teams). As per SCSL handbook Section 5 D

At this age group Spring travel teams enter league play. The chance for progression into the MTOC means players may become grouped by certain abilities. We realize there is much time for development and many children develop at different speeds. Placement is not guaranteed if circumstances prevail but every effort will be made. This is the age group where numbers often swell so teams may have to be divided in order for everyone to receive some playing time.

Players can be cut from these teams in this age group. These age groups are where individual teams become eligible to play in the MTOC (Massachusetts Tournament of Champions). Results and standings are kept, and at the end of the season, teams can qualify for the playoffs.

We feel that every player on these teams should receive a certain amount of playing time in games. However, a minimum amount of time is not guaranteed. Our coaches reserve the right to have players receive playing time based on practice attendance, player attitude, skill level, effort, etc.

U12 Age Groups:

Ideal roster size for these age groups is 16 players. This age group play 9 v 9, including the goalie.

Players can be cut from these teams in this age group. These age groups are where individual teams become eligible to play in the MTOC (Massachusetts Tournament of Champions). Results and standings are kept, and at the end of the season, teams can qualify for the playoffs.

We feel that every player on these teams should receive a certain amount of playing time in games. However, a minimum amount of time is not guaranteed. Our coaches reserve the right to have players receive playing time based on practice attendance, player attitude, skill level, effort, etc.

U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 Age Groups:

Ideal roster size for these age groups is 16 to 18 players. These age groups play with 11 players on the field.

Players can be cut from these teams in these age groups. These age groups are where individual teams become eligible to play in the MTOC (Massachusetts Tournament of Champions). Results and standings are kept, and at the end of the season, teams can qualify for the playoffs.

Playing time in games is not guaranteed. Based on the level of competition our teams will be playing against, we feel that the players in these age groups need to have an adequate level of skill. If a player lacks this skill, working with his or her coach at practice will elevate his or her skill level, hopefully leading to playing time in games. Our coaches reserve the right to determine which players play and/or how much time is played in a given game.

Nantucket Soccer Club
Travel Soccer Player Commitment (expanded)

****you have agreed to this statement when you accepted our Terms of Service during online Registration****

It should be understood that playing on a Nantucket Student Soccer Association Spring Travel Team is a privilege. **Your registration fee does not guarantee placement on a team or playing a certain number of minutes in any given game or season.**

The South Coast Soccer League, which we play in, is a competitive league; formatted around the premise of winning the league title, which will give our teams an invitation to the MTOC (Massachusetts Tournament of Champions). This structure is several levels above the developmental league, which we hold here on Nantucket in the fall and spring. The opportunity for our players to play in this league is tremendous. Our feeling is that at the very least there is minimum level of commitment that is needed by the players to make each season a success.

The time commitment for each player involves usually a three-day or four-day per week commitment. There are usually two to three practices a week and one game per weekend for a total of eight games in a regular season of play. Depending on the division, there may be post season play throughout the month of June. Players should expect to attend each practice. Missing a practice could be reason for our coaches to deny you playing time in a game. We understand that conflicts arise, and our coaches will make accommodations for those situations, provided that the player relays his or her conflict to their coach prior to the conflict.

NSC players can be asked to sign a team commitment policy. If a player continually disrupts or misses practices or games he/she may be suspended or removed from the team by the Director. The parent will be notified and must respond in 7 days. This suspension or removal could be indefinite until a resolution is found that all coaches and directors agree is in the best interests of all players and members.

Nantucket Soccer Club
Cancellation Policies

In the event of inclement weather, the following protocol will be followed:

Practice days:

It will be the coach's responsibility to cancel scheduled practices. They will be using their own discretion, and therefore some teams may be practicing when others have been cancelled. Please wait to hear from your coaches in these situations. Neither the Director nor his representative will be responsible for canceling any practices at any time unless it is a league wide decision and then all teams will not be playing due to field conditions.

Coaches will also be abiding by the Nantucket Department of Public Works (DPW), "Rules and Regulations for use of the Youth Fields". As a result, practices may be cancelled when Park and Recreation declare the fields unsuitable and dangerous for play. This can occur on very short notice. In these cases, we ask that all coaches, players and parents respect the decision made by the DPW.

"The DPW reserves the right to deny an athletic activity or event from playing on the Youth Fields. The two main purposes of this policy are to ensure the safety of the participants, and to prevent the Youth Fields from getting abused and destroyed when the sod is vulnerable."

Game Days:

The Club Director or his representative will make **ALL GAME** related weather decisions. NSC coaches individually do not have the authority to cancel or refuse travel to any home or away game. All concerns related to weather decisions should be directed to the Club Director.

Game Days - Home:

The Club Director will be informing coaches when games have been cancelled. It will then be the coach's responsibility to contact all players and make them aware of the cancellation.

Game Days - Away:

The Club Director will inform coaches of a cancellation as soon as possible. However, in most cases the decision will not be made until the morning your team is scheduled to travel. As a result, all coaches and players must be at the boat at the designated time ready to travel unless otherwise informed. The decision to cancel will only be made by the Director or his representative who will be at the boat on the morning in question. In such cases, we are asking all parents to stay long enough to be sure that your child is indeed traveling. In the instance where the opposing coach contacts our coach all information must be passed on the Club Director, this will enable transportation issues to be addressed along with other important planning issues. Coach to coach cancellation is not allowed; club directors will handle all the issues above.

Nantucket Soccer Club
Coaches Code of Conduct

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. You are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- Encourage the parents and your players to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, do not address the referee at any time for any reason unless there is an emergency on the field. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently at half time or after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your concern to your league. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same and make sure players shake the hands of the opposing team regardless of the outcome or concerns with issues during the game.
- Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players in that they need to develop. You can play an important role in helping them improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting—or even accepting your own player’s overly aggressive behavior.
- Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players’ enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice.
- If you encourage or allow your players to play outside the rules, if you’re overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.
- A coach shall, at all times in which he/she is in contact with his/her players, be sober and substance free.
- Think about what you are doing during a game. Uphold the Spirit of the Game!
- Coaches who don’t follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

Pregame Planning:

- Remember the 5 P’s: **P**rior **P**lanning **P**revents **P**oor **P**erformance
- Coaches must carry the three-ring binder provided to each game, inside will be all the necessary information.

Transportation:

- Confirm your transportation and time with the Director

The Boat:

- Have players meet you at the boat a half hour before your scheduled departure time, you then give yourself that half hour leeway to contact late arrivals.
- All players should sit in the same area of the boat. No players should be permitted outside or on deck without adult supervision.
- NO RUNNING ON THE BOAT.
- Adjust your boat ticket by having an accurate head count. Place your return ticket in your binder so that in the event of an emergency the binder can be given to the adult assuming the care of the team and all necessary items are there.

Field/Game Preparation:

- Inspect the fields prior to the start of game. Look for small rocks and twigs, paper wrappers, holes, sprinkler heads, and unsteady goal posts. Fix what you can and inform other coaches and referees of any concerns.
- Make sure the balls you are using have no open edges or cuts. These damaged balls can cut faces etc. If balls are in this condition or you have questions, remove the balls from your equipment by returning them to the program. Goals – should be anchored, without questions. Look for sandbags or anchor system.
- Always carry one of your game balls in the event the opposing team's ball is in poor condition.

Team Bag:

- Carry a team bag to all games. Inside you could include such items as the binder, first-aid kit, extra gloves, goalie shirt, warm clothing, a game ball, extra socks, shin guards, and extra uniforms (goalie included).

First Aid Kit:

- Should contain extra ice packs, an inhaler that might belong to a player, epi-pens, etc., and written permission to have the child use them at the field, and contact numbers of parents. So you are prepared, establish an emergency plan.

Traveling:

- Plan the day's activities/schedule before leaving the island. This information should be related to the players and their parents so that they will be properly prepared for the upcoming day off island (money, clothing, etc.), and a change of clothing and street shoes.

Nutritional Suggestions:

- Try to limit or set rules on candy and soda consumption, especially prior to the game. Sugars from candy are not well regulated by the body and soda has a high sodium content that does not assist the hydration process of the athlete.
- Have and drink plenty of water prior and during the game. Starting about an hour and a half before a game the players should drink 8oz of water every half-hour. The human body may not tell us we are dehydrated, but remember, an average player will run 6-8 miles during an average game.

Proper Dress:

New England weather is so unpredictable, the following are some suggestions:

- Have players wear turtlenecks under jerseys, or Under Armor type clothing
- Have players wear grip gloves when necessary

- Remind players to wear layers, they can always take it off if it is too much
- Players should always bring proper rain gear and an extra set of clothes, extra socks and street shoes
- Continually remind your players to always dress and have clothes for any type of weather

**Nantucket Soccer club
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018**

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