

TAOS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Competitive Teams Codes of Conduct

Coaching Staff

Head Coach:

Assistant Coach:

Technical Skills Trainer:

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Taos High School Soccer Program. We, as coaches, are dedicated to helping our young athletes achieve their highest potential by maintaining an educational, challenging, safe, and enjoyable environment. This must be a cooperative effort between the coaches, athletes, and parents. We are also responsible for setting guidelines for team members and their parents based on our knowledge of the sport. Our athletes and their families must know and understand our team philosophy and guidelines (please find enclosed). They reflect what our experience has taught us and what we believe is to be in the best interest of the individual athletes and our team.

The philosophy for our program is not based solely on soccer but on very important life qualities. The qualities developed through our program can be instrumental in your child's development and success later in life. Our goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of our team members and to develop happy, healthy, confident players. We believe the training we will give will greatly add to the development of your child's physical and emotional well-being. We will strive for quality and excitement in our competitive program. Our program will be directed initially toward developing individual skills and, later, when those skills are mastered, toward developing team skills. It is also our goal to support the aspirations of each of the individual players and the team.

Although winning is enjoyable, an indicator of team progress, and good for team morale, winning is not a priority for the coaches. It is unrealistic to believe we will win all our matches. The development of technical, physical, and social skills, as well as the enthusiasm of our players, are the measures by which our success is determined. In general, young athletes do not care what position they finish in. They play because they love to compete and because they love the game. Adults and/or parents tend to measure success by the score of a game, the season standing, or the final placement in a tournament. We hope this will not be the case with our parents and that you will help your child to recognize all their accomplishments regardless of the outcome.

We look forward to coaching your children and hope this will help you understand our intentions. We intend to have many fun-filled, successful years ahead. Please have your child read the team philosophy and guidelines to you. Participation in the Taos Soccer program acknowledges your willingness as a player and parent/guardian to comply with our Codes of Conduct, Team Philosophy, and Guidelines.

Sincerely,

Taos Coaching Staff

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- **MUTUAL SUPPORT:** We will work hard to help each other always improve. A team can only be as good as the individuals within the team. No unconstructive criticism or denigration of teammates will be allowed. You each, as individuals, have your own goals and dreams, but you are also here to help and support your teammates. Encourage your teammates when they attempt new skills and support them when they make mistakes.
- **BE COURTEOUS:** Demonstrate the highest regard for the game and your hard work by arriving to all competitions and practices prepared and on time. Conduct yourself in a manner that honors the sport of soccer and accept all outcomes in a positive manner. Oftentimes, we learn more from our mistakes than we do from our successes. Always treat teammates, opponents, referees, parents, and coaches with respect. Remember to thank your parents, coaches, referees, and event organizers for their time and effort whenever possible. Without them, you would not be able to participate. Observe the rules of play. Be a good sportsman for the sake of everyone.
- **EMBRACE MODESTY, DO NOT BRAG:** When complimented, always respond with a simple “**Thank you.**” Always carry yourself with humility. Have enough confidence to keep your personal or team success to yourself.
- **NO TRASH TALKING, NO TAUNTING:** This is a common practice in sports today, used to create a psychological edge during a match. This will not be tolerated in any form on our team. Resorting to these tactics usually indicates a lack of ability and or self-confidence. Let your play and your actions speak for themselves.
- **RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL SELF:** Soccer demands that you fuel your body with nutritious food (drink a lot of water and/or scientifically researched sports drinks), rest your body, get to bed early, and most importantly, listen to your body when it tells you to stop because of illness or injury.
- **RESPECT YOURSELF:** Give your best every time you step on the playing field, whether it is a practice or a match. Competitive players who aspire to be good/great understand that achieving their goals requires discipline and dedication. Only you can achieve this. Someone else cannot do it for you. You develop the necessary skills and confidence to become a better player through hard work.
- Success will not be given to you. There is no magical phrase to make it appear. It will not come unless you earn it. You must pay your dues through honest effort and commitment to achieve success. The more you practice, the better you will become. The better you become, the more fun you will have. If you do not work hard to meet your potential, others who have made that commitment will steal your potential glory.
- However, it is up to you to make the commitment. Your coaches will assist you as much as possible, but ultimately, only you can make it happen.
- It is important to remember that if you practice more than someone else, there is a good chance you will become better than that other person. However, if that other person practices more than you, that person will probably become better. Do not settle for mediocrity; the world is filled with mediocrity. Strive for greater heights. A champion is working to exhaustion when no one else is watching.
- Life as an athlete is not always fun; practice is not always fun, and games are not always fun. It is misleading to believe that playing should always be fun. The game takes tremendous effort, and you will have numerous failures; at moments, you may abhor the sport, but it is not the sport you hate; it is simply your own personal frustration. You will **not** play well every time out. Not only is playing soccer physically demanding, but it is also a very technical sport. You will be confronted with numerous emotional setbacks. Amongst them are frustration, fear of failure, and defeat. Take these as challenges, embrace them, and overcome them, learn from your failures. If not for failure, progress can never be achieved. Set high goals and standards for yourself. Strive to achieve and maintain them, step by step. Maintain a positive sporting attitude when facing adversity. With a positive attitude, your weaknesses and frustrations

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can and will be overcome through hard work. Knowing you accomplished something you never deemed possible - this is where the “fun” truly lies.

- **RESPECT AND LOYALTY TO YOUR TEAM:** Every event is important in some way; while some games may appear to be more important than others (e.g., district or state games), ultimately, all games are part of the development process and, therefore, are equally important. We expect all team members to attend every practice (unless you are sick) throughout the season. It shows respect for your hard work, respect and loyalty to your coaches, and, most importantly, respect and loyalty to your team. Give your very best effort before these all-important events. Athletes who inexcusably miss a practice in the weeks before games or events risk losing their teammates' and coaches' respect and trust. They will likely also see less or no playing time.
- How you behave with your team at practice is a personal reflection of your respect for yourself, your teammates, your coaches, and your families. How you act at tournaments, team functions, and while traveling to and from tournaments is a public statement about how you feel about yourself, the team, and the sport of soccer. Only the highest standard of behavior will be acceptable.
- **NO PROFANITY, NO FIGHTING:** Our team activities should be enjoyable and safe for everyone. We must represent ourselves and each other responsibly as a team. If a problem occurs, tell your coaches or the referee in a game. **Do not retaliate.** Have enough respect for yourself and toward your teammates to not engage in improper behavior.
- **THE USE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND TOBACCO IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED:** We as a team will dedicate numerous hours striving to give our absolute best effort, and all of that work is an absolute waste of time if you don't have enough self-respect to stay away from drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Engaging in any of these **illegal** activities will result in the following: (See the Taos Municipal Schools – Athletic Participation Agreement)
- We will not have tryouts to cut/eliminate players. All players who meet the NMAA (New Mexico Activities Association) and TMS (Taos Municipal Schools) requirements will be allowed to participate. Our choice is not to eliminate valuable players/individuals from enjoying invaluable life experiences. Additionally, we will not discriminate based on race, religion, national origin, color, sexual preference, religious preference, age, or disability.

PLAYER GUIDELINES

- Athletes must attend classes to be eligible to participate in a practice or competition on that day.
- Athletes placed on school suspension will not be allowed to practice, participate in, or compete in contests/events during the suspension period.
- Attend all practices, competitions, and special events. Arrive on time, prepared, and remain until the event is over.
- Call in advance to alert the coaches if you will be absent.
- If you know you will be absent in advance, please send a detailed note. Without this documentation, it is difficult for coaches to remember which team members will be absent.
- Arrive on time, prepare for practice, and remain until practice is over. Failure to do so will result in less or no playing time, which will be decided at the coach's discretion.
- You must participate in and complete all warm-up activities with your team. If an individual needs additional warm-

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up activities, they must be done on their own before the beginning of the team activities. As this is a safety issue, failure to participate or complete the team warm-up activities will result in less or no playing time. When and if a participant is to play will be decided at the coach's discretion.

- You are expected to work hard and give your very best. This is all we ask of you and is always what you should demand of yourself.
- Always come to practice prepared with the following: shin guards (with socks over the shin guards), water or sports drink, soccer cleats, turf shoes, a warm-up, gloves, and an ear warmer.
- **You will not be allowed to participate without shin guards.**
- Treat other athletes respectfully and be kind and helpful to those younger than you.
- Do not hold yourself in higher esteem than those around you. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses; if you have not found your weaknesses yet, you will.
- Always ask permission when leaving practice early or going to the restroom. The main reason is so your coaches know where you are always. Do not wander off. This is for safety reasons. Please let us know if you do not have a ride home after practice. You will not be allowed to remain unattended.
- Tell your coach when your body tells you to stop or slow down. This shows respect for yourself and your coach.
- If you are sick, on medication, or are injured, we need to know, and you need to listen to your body. Pain is the body's way of telling you to stop. In addition, alert your coach if you have engaged in any strenuous activity before practice. We do not want to risk injury by over-taxing your body.
- Sometimes, players will feign an injury or illness to get out of activities they do not want to participate in, but when they see an exercise they like, they become miraculously cured. This will not be allowed. If a player says they are ill or injured, they will have to sit out the remainder of practice and not be allowed to rejoin the activities.
- If a player is ill, they will not be allowed to participate until we have proper approval for them to do so. If the player is ill, they should **not** attend practice. We do not want the sick athlete sharing this with the rest of the team! If the player sought treatment from an outside source, we would need a formal release before the player can participate. A parent's written approval will suffice if the player does not pursue outside medical care. This is for the safety of the player and his or her teammates.
- A player's participation will cease after a player's injury has been recognized and/or reported to the coaching staff. The player cannot rejoin the activities without the parent's written approval.
- **IMPORTANT:** If a participant has pursued treatment and or care from an outside source, they will not be allowed to resume play until we receive a medical clearance and/or release from that source. Once an outside source has been pursued for treatment, a letter from a parent clearing their child will **NOT** suffice. (E.g., outside sources may include but are not limited to the following: medical doctors, physical therapists, natural healers, chiropractors, etc.) This is for the safety of the player.
- If your child sees an outside source for maintenance health care, please inform the coaching staff at the start of the season and bring a note signed by the health care provider stating the nature of the care given and the fact that it is preventative or maintenance.

TAOS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Competitive Teams Codes of Conduct

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- No one will be allowed to play injured. The coaches can advise, but we are not doctors or family.
- If your child suffers an injury, we expect them to attend practices if/once they can. They can learn by watching and listening and may have the option of alternative activities. They are still part of the team.
- Provide your body with nutritional food and drink and get proper sleep. This will help you stay healthy and perform to the best of your ability. Avoid junk food and sodas.
- Please respect and care for all the equipment. Each player must ensure all equipment is picked up and put away after practice. This job is for all team members, not just a select few.
- Always act in a way that shows respect for yourself and your teammates. The time we will spend together is to be a happy, motivating, and uplifting place.
- There is no place for rude or belittling comments, displays of anger or disgust, talking back to coaches or other adults, or crying because you have given in to your frustrations or fears.
- Be honest. Lying and cheating are the highest forms of disrespect. Participants who display these negative behaviors disrespect their teammates, coaches, parents, and, most importantly, themselves.
- If you cannot or will not complete an activity, be honest about it, but also understand that choices have consequences.
- Players who are unprepared due to missing practice or an inability or unwillingness to apply themselves at practice may see less or no playing time. This is to be decided at the coach's discretion.
- A player may be suspended from a game or tournament due to poor attendance, work ethic, or a negative attitude.
- As a student-athlete, you are expected to conduct yourself in a mature and responsible manner. Therefore, a player may be disciplined for inappropriate behavior or actions. This includes improper behavior or actions outside of the soccer program that may have a negative impact on the team or the program. The decision to do so and the course of action are at the coach's discretion. A player cannot return until the disciplinary action is satisfactorily completed.
- Players may be permanently dismissed if they do not conform their behavior to the team's and/or the coaches' expectations. We will not allow one player's bad attitude to bring down the spirit and work ethic of an entire group.
- Additionally, we will not tolerate discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, color, sexual preference, religious preference, age, or disability by either a parent or player. Failure to comply with this may result in the player's permanent dismissal.

PARENT GUIDELINES

- Parents play a huge role in developing a successful athlete and team. Your role is every bit as important as that of the coaches and every bit as difficult. We welcome your presence at every practice, team function, and event. Our goal is to be family friendly. We want your input and support because we want your child to succeed.
- The players will train in a safe, well-equipped, organized environment under the direction of organized, experienced, licensed coaches.

TAOS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Competitive Teams Codes of Conduct

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- Your child's involvement in soccer will be an investment of time, money, and effort.
- The coaches believe our training, educational opportunities, and emotional support are valuable and important. The coach's responsibilities are enormous. In addition to the amount of time they spend planning, training, and traveling, the coaches are also meeting with parents and players, writing letters, arranging for practices and fields, returning phone calls, taking care of and ordering equipment, organizing and administering all fundraising, games, tournaments, taking care of travel and sleeping arrangements and maintaining and improving the program. All this is in addition to the actual time they spend coaching. This may be a labor of love, but it is still labor. So please volunteer to help with any of the administrative duties. **We especially need help with fundraising!!!!**
- Since some of our young athletes are still unable to drive, it is your responsibility as parents to ensure your child arrives on time for all practices is dressed and ready, and stays until practice is over.
- Your child may leave when practice ends, and all the equipment is picked up.
- Out of courtesy, make sure you pick up your child on time.
- Before practice, please let a coach know if you think your child might have a problem due to illness, medication, or injury.
- We **will** practice under most conditions, including light rain, or if rainy weather looks like it might break (so dress appropriately).
- We will **not** practice under heavy snow, bitter cold, heavy rain, or when lightning is near.
- If you are unsure whether there is a practice and do not see the coach at the field on a bad weather day, do not leave your child there.

If at any time you are unable to attend an event, please take care to cover the following details:

Communicate clearly with your child who will pick them up when they return.

Make sure to send your child with everything they will need. All team equipment, personal items, etc.

Provide your child with a number where you can be reached and an alternate number to call in an emergency if you are not there.

Send enough money to cover meals, snacks, and drinks.

Send them with drinks (water and/or sports drinks).

- Parents perform their roles at home and outside the practice area. During our team sessions, the coaches perform their roles. Please do not coach your child!
- When parents start coaching their children, they interfere with the very performance we are trying to improve. A parent who chooses to coach their child or interferes with what we as coaches attempt to achieve will force us to remove the athlete. The player will see less or no playing time until this is resolved.
- We will be developing very specific skills at specific times, and each stage must build on the previous stage. We like

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to think of it as a pyramid, with ball mastery and individual skill development being the foundation. Without that, nothing else can be further developed.

- Telling your child to do something other than what we tell them will only confuse and upset them. No matter their choice, someone will be upset with them, and they will no longer progress as they should. Coaching your child puts them in a no-win situation. This is unfair to them and to the coaches.
- Encouragement and support are the best way to improve your child's play.
- We encourage all our parents to attend every game or event. A strong cheering section does wonders for team motivation. As parents, you should be reminded that you, too, represent our team and our team philosophy.
- Cheer loudly and often but do so in a courteous manner. Cheer for all team members, and feel free to cheer for a fine play by the other team.
- The only time a parent should approach an event official, a referee, or another coach is to thank them for a job well done. If you have a complaint, you must bring it to the coach's attention, but please do so after the game.
- Please do not talk to your child once they are on the playing field. We ask them to focus all their energy on their roles and competition, and we want as few distractions as possible.
- Although many of the players are very good students, there may be times when a pressing assignment or test means a shortened or missed practice. We have no problem with this; just let us know in advance.
- Please attend all team parent meetings. This allows coaches to communicate detailed information with plenty of time for questions and answers.
- If you need to talk to us one-on-one, please feel free to arrange a time when we can meet.
- We usually cannot visit before practice because there is much work to do to prepare for it. So please don't think we are rude or ignoring you.
- Please do not discipline your child by restricting them from participating with our team. By doing so, you are punishing the coach's preparation as well as all the other members of the team. As with school, your child is also responsible and obligated to our team. If, at the end of a season, you need to remove your child for disciplinary measures, that is your decision, but during the season, your child occupies one of a limited number of positions and needs to fulfill his or her obligation to the team.
- Please do not complain to other parents. Complaining to other parents cannot solve your problem, and it is very disrespectful to the coaches and the team. Come to us, the coaches, if you have a problem or concern. The coaches cannot help solve your concerns if we do not know about them. Your thoughts are important to us.
- This does not necessarily mean any changes will be made, and we ask that you respect our decisions. If you respect us enough to allow us to play a large role in your child's life, please respect us enough to know that we have your child's best interest at heart.
- We do not want to have dissension amongst team members because they have overheard parent's ignorant and/or malicious comments. This is very harmful to the children and very disrespectful to the coaches. There will be no place

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for this in our program.

- It is possible that a player will have to leave the team because of his or her parents' actions or inactions.
- While we never want to punish a child for his or her parent's actions, we will not tolerate parents who, through their words and deeds, do not support the policies and values of our team program.
- **Lastly, it is important to remember that the coaches work as well and that they, too, have families and obligations of their own. They spend much time and energy benefiting your children and your families. Please respect and appreciate all that they do for your children.**

I have read and agree with the philosophy and guidelines for Taos Soccer and will abide by them.

	First Name	Last Name
Athlete		

Cell Phone	<input type="text"/>
Home Phone	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Signature:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	<input type="text"/>

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	First Name	Last Name
Mother/Legal Guardian		

Cell Phone	
Work Phone	
Home Phone	
Email Address	

Signature:	
Date:	

	First Name	Last Name
Father/Legal Guardian		

Cell Phone	
Work Phone	
Home Phone	
Email Address	

Signature:	
Date:	