

Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club Player/Parent Handbook



Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club
922 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
702-258-0279
www.downtownlvsc.com

DLVSC Players/Parents,

This document is presented to all Downtown LVSC players/parents. It is to be used as a reference and guide to help our members. It contains necessary information that players/parents may require in order to understand the DLVSC club programs, policies and your role in maximizing the potential of the parent/player within the DLVSC club structure and its philosophies.

Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club:

DLVSC is a fully registered Nevada Non-Profit Corporation, and have been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be a Charity under Rule 501(c)3.

DLVSC Vision:

Quality player development, education and inspiration through the sport of soccer.

DLVSC Mission:

We strive to develop both male and female soccer players to their maximum abilities, by providing some of the highest level of coaching available in Greater Las Vegas. Our focus is to put children in a challenging soccer environment, with the goal of every child acquiring a passion for the world's greatest game. Our youth soccer program hopes to teach character and confidence in these kids, by participating at their highest levels achievable.

Core Values:

To provide quality staff who challenge and inspire young athletes to reach their highest level in the sport of soccer.

To provide quality athletic and educational facilities where talented young soccer players are able to mature and reach their full potential.

To fulfill civic responsibility by actively participating in community activities.

To encourage and provide support allowing our athletes to achieve academic success.

To provide a pathway for young soccer players to reach their full potential regardless of sex, race, religion, or economic background through identification, training, and competition.

To provide an environment where young soccer players learn important life skills such as time management, civic responsibility, self confidence, respect for others, property, and diversity.

To provide an environment where open honest communication between staff and players/parents is encouraged.

To provide a structure and environment where winning is important but player development is paramount.

Colorado Rapids adidas Alliance:

Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club is the only adidas Alliance partner club in Nevada and the only youth soccer club in Nevada to have a daily working relationship with a professional soccer organization. As such, the structure for player development, the knowledge that players are working under the guidance of a professional coaching system and the opportunities for DLVSC players to play for the Colorado Rapids Development Academy teams cannot be found anywhere else.

The adidas Alliance was created as a partnership between the Rapids, adidas and clubs sharing the desire to become a part of an elite player development system.

As an Alliance club, Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club has access to the Rapids methods, curriculum and programming. Alliance clubs are development centers that closely replicate the environment created in the Rapids Academy professional player development program.

The Rapids provide DLVSC with the curriculum and syllabus of player development used in their own Academy programming. DLVSC coaching staff is educated in the implementation of this program throughout our age groups.

The Rapids Alliance Technical Director and other academy staff work within each partner club in week long blocks working with players, coaches, parents and administrators to improve the daily environment for player development and identify players with potential for the Rapids Development Academy.

The adidas Alliance program is a critical element in the structure of the Rapids Academy. Current adidas Alliance partners are Downtown Las Vegas Rapids, Colorado Edge, Colorado Fusion, and Colorado Storm.

DL VSC Player Development Stages:

Las Vegas Rapids Little Kickers Program:

Through games and activities carried out in a fun filled environment, we will develop in players some of the fundamental techniques of the game while providing kids with the social, self confidence and health benefits along with the motor skill development that comes with taking part in soccer activities. This will help children to develop a true enjoyment of sporting exercise while building a love for the game.

U6-U10 Program:

Focus is on the individual player in training sessions and games. Individual based technical development of the fundamental techniques of the game. All games are small sided.

U11-U14 Program:

Focus is on the individual player in training sessions and games. Individual based technical development of the fundamental techniques of the game. We progress into the application of individual techniques in the game, individual tactical decisions, and the role of the individual within a small group/team framework.

U15-U18 Program:

Continue to focus on individual based technical development in the techniques of the game. Progressing to a greater emphasis on the functional aspects of player performance and more advanced execution of technique within the team framework. Small group and team tactics will be taught in more depth in order to maximize the player's understanding of the game, and the performance of the team as a whole.

General Player Guidelines and Expectations:

- Players should understand the mission and philosophy of the club.
- Players are reminded that they represent Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club and should behave in an appropriate manner. Swearing, fighting, bullying and bad behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Players must make a commitment to academic achievement and ensure they complete their individual studies at school.
- All players are expected to keep themselves physically healthy at all times outside of the club training program through a sensible nourishing diet, appropriate rest and strict avoidance of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- Players are required to wear club issued gear for all training sessions and matches.
- Jewelry must not be worn for matches or training sessions for personal safety and that of other players. The club will not accept responsibility for jewelry or valuables brought to training sessions or matches.
- Players should be punctual to all training sessions. This means arriving to training fifteen minutes before the designated time. Attendance and commitment will be a major factor with player development – therefore, players that do not show to team events may jeopardize playing time and/or team placement.
- If a player is not able to attend a training session or game it is the responsibility of the player to contact the coach as far in advance as possible so that appropriate plans can be made in the player's absence.
- It is the responsibility of the players to help the coach with the collection of all equipment after training.
- Players should be punctual to all matches. This means arriving at the field no later than the designated time.
- Players should focus on the development of technical/tactical skills during training sessions. Players are expected to work hard and display a positive attitude towards wanting to improve during every training session.
- Players should focus on the execution of technical/tactical skills during matches.
- Respect for opponents, match officials and administrative personnel are expected at all times.

General Parent Guidelines and Expectations:

- Parents should understand the mission and philosophy of the club.
- Parents are reminded that they represent Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club and should behave in an appropriate manner. Inappropriate words or actions on the sideline, the internet or any other venue can be damaging to the club and will not be tolerated.
- Primary role is to support the player, coach and club. Support the player without pressure, praise good work and refrain from criticizing or critiquing.
- Respect the DLVSC coaching Staff and allow them to do their job without interference or conflict.
- Because some players depending on age are dependent upon parents for transportation it is important that parents are committed to making arrangements that their child is at all club functions on time.
- Parent's role during training sessions is to observe and keep a separation between themselves and the players/coach.
- Parents and other family members should not enter the training surface before, during or after training. Players will be released to parents at the conclusion of team activities.
- Match days - parents and other family members should not enter the match playing surface before, during or after matches, including half time. Please keep a separation from players/coach until players are released to parents at the conclusion of team activities.
- Please make sure that players, not parents, bear the responsibility of bringing fluids to training/matches and ensure that they have all necessary training/match equipment and gear.
- Where appropriate, players should serve as the primary source of communication for the family to the coach and club (medical and financial situations would be exceptions to this policy).
- It is imperative that parents refrain from shouting instructions to the players during matches. General encouragement is welcomed.
- Parents are expected to behave as a role model while on the sideline. At no time should they be engaged in verbal dialogue with the referee, opposing players, coaches or fans.
- Any situations from during training or games that require parent coach communication (questions about playing time etc.) we ask that parents observe the "24 hour rule". This simply means that a period of time passes so that both parties can listen more carefully and responsively with much of the emotion removed from the situation.
- Encourage and help the player meet targets, including these expectations and the rules and guidelines set forth by DLVSC.

Parent Orientation:

Parents are expected to attend the Parent Orientation each year.

The Parent Orientation is a key event in setting the environment for the club each year. The club philosophy is clearly stated at this time and the player development structure is reviewed. Individual team meetings will then be conducted by each team head coach following this orientation.

Seasonal Calendar:

A season calendar is in place to create an effective environment for player development.

The season is broken down into 6 segments:

1. Pre-season: August
2. Fall season: September – Mid December
3. Winter break: Mid December – Early January
4. Winter season: January - March
5. Spring season: April and May
6. Summer break: June and July

DLVSC places great value on the training environment in which players learn the game. Training to game ratio is critical in making the player development calendar work. Down time for rest and recovery will be scheduled as an important part of the season calendar in an effort to ensure that the everyday training/game environment for players in the club is competitive and at the correct level of intensity.

Player-Parent Evaluation Meetings:

All players registered with DLVSC will have a meeting with parents and the head coach twice a year. They are an opportunity for coaches to give feedback on the progress of the player. This is important because:

- It provides an opportunity for coaches to give feedback to parents and players.
- It focuses each player into giving greater attention to the details of their development and performance.

There will be specific reference to various technical, physical, mental and tactical aspects as relevant to age. There will also be more general comments about attitude and behavior.

Generally these meetings will be held following the fall and during the spring segments of the season for the Boys U8-U14 and Girls U8-GU18 players and at the midway point and post-season for the high school boys' players.

Outside Play Policy:

The playing priority for our players is the club training program and game schedule. We monitor the number of quality training sessions and games in which each team participates in an effort to maximize player development and minimize the negative effects of an inefficient schedule. Our team schedules are designed to provide the best development environment and training to game ratio. Remember, rest and recovery periods are part of a player's training program. If more games or extra events were beneficial to players, then the team would most likely be scheduled to play in them.

Here are some general guidelines specific to the DLVSC program:

As a general rule, players, regardless of age group, will not be allowed to guest play with other clubs with the exception of MLS events, high school soccer, ODP programs and US National team camps.

On rare occasion, a specific case may arise when it may be appropriate for a player to play outside their team schedule. Permission must be approved by the club Technical Directors before doing so.

Team Travel:

Players/parents must be aware that at any time during travelling with a team they are representing themselves, their team, the Colorado Rapids Alliance and most importantly DLVSC. It is imperative that players and parents are respectful to everyone around them. High expectations of player behavior are expected at all times, both on and off the field, and action will be taken against any player or coach whose actions bring the club into disrepute.

The primary purpose of team travel will be to put players into an appropriate challenging environment for competition and soccer development. The team itinerary will always be strictly adhered to and players are expected to participate in every team activity on a trip.

Make sure that the team focus during travelling is on soccer; make sure that you follow the team itinerary so as to allow players to perform to their maximum during competition.

Before going on any trips, full details concerning arrangements, travel, and accommodation will be sent out to parents.

Although special circumstances sometimes arise, coaches will attempt to provide as much information as possible, in advance regarding upcoming trips.

League/In-State Competition - players are responsible for their own transportation to games.

Out of State Competition –The coach/manager will establish a team hotel and individual families (or their assigned chaperone) will be responsible for the transportation and supervision of players on the trip. Players will be expected to stay in the team hotel and take part in all team activities during travel.

DL VSC Coach Travel Reimbursement Recommendation:

Out of state tournament -

Teams will only pay travel expenses for one Coach **or** Co-coach per trip.

Recommendation -

It should not cost a coach to work an out of state event. Arrangements will be handled on an individual basis between the coach and the team.

The team should split the cost of one head coach or assistant coach's transport, accommodation and a \$30 per day food per diem unless agreed otherwise between the coach and the team.

If a coach is travelling with a team for which his own child plays, 50% of transport and accommodation expenses will be paid for by the team, no food per diem will be paid. If the coach is responsible for more than one team on any given trip, the teams will divide the coach's expenses equally.

Unless being paid for upfront by the team/ team manager and no reimbursement is necessary, expenses for out of state tournaments should be given to the coach prior to departure. Food per diem will include the day of travel to the event.

Unless agreed otherwise by the team, all event entry and coach travel expenses will be split equally between every member of the team, regardless of whether a player chooses to attend an event or not.

Hotel:

If the hotel cost cannot be waived, the teams will reimburse the coach for actual room and tax expenses only.

Transport:

Air - Coach fare will be reimbursed.

Rental car - Actual cost of rental car plus the costs of gas will be reimbursed.

Car - If a coach is driving to an event, then estimated gas costs will be paid to the coach prior to departure (normally roughly the cost of two tanks of gas for a weekend trip). The teams will reimburse the coach any parking fees incurred while traveling.

The coach should provide any receipts to the team manager on return for any reimbursable travel expenses and settle any difference. Team managers will be required to keep receipts as a record for their team/teams for any coach's travel expenses paid for using a team account.

Coaches will not receive any additional coaching fees for their services at games or tournaments.

Finances:

Finances for each player are the responsibility of the individual family. All registration, coaching, tournament fees etc will be communicated by the club/coach/manager and will be paid to Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club. Checks and cash as well as Visa or MasterCard are all acceptable forms of payment.

All payments to coaches, tournament host organizations, leagues etc will come from DLVSC.

All transaction records will be kept on file by DLVSC for each player. Any requests for this individual player account information should go through the Downtown office.

Any player receiving financial assistance from the club must meet all criteria outlined in the scholarship award to be considered a member in good standing.

Checks should be made out and mailed to:

Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club

922 S. Valley View Blvd

Las Vegas

NV 89107

Please put player name and team on the memo line of the check.

Fundraising:

Individual player and team fundraising is encouraged. This is the responsibility of the individual family or team. DLVSC will help provide families with as many fundraising opportunities through the club as possible.

Mayor's Cup Tournaments:

As per your registration agreement with Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club, all parents are required to volunteer time towards shift allocations at the October and February Las Vegas Mayor's Cup tournaments.