

# GEORGIA FUTBOL CLUB



## POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

**GEORGIA FC  
PO Box 1413  
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# GEORGIA FUTBOL CLUB



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# GEORGIA FUTBOL CLUB

## GEORGIA FC POLICIES & PROCEDURES HAND BOOK

### Introduction

The Georgia Futbol Club mission is to be recognized as one of the top soccer clubs in the country by developing professionally run recreational and select soccer teams and help our players to succeed at the local, regional and national level.

This handbook outlines in detail our expectations of you as a member of the Georgia Futbol Club. It will help identify some potential problem areas and at the same time answer questions about the Club's decision making process. Before you agree to become a member of the Georgia FC, please take the time to read the following pages very carefully.

### Club Name and Affiliation

The club name is Georgia Futbol Club. All teams will be referred to as such whenever representing or registering with the club. This will include all advertisement, promotion, league schedules, tournaments, and programs. Players participating in Georgia FC will be members of the Georgia Youth Soccer Association. The following designations will apply Georgia FC teams:

- Select teams will be referred to as Georgia FC Elite (1st Team), Georgia FC Premier (2nd Team), Georgia FC Classic (3rd Team), Georgia FC Challenge (4<sup>th</sup> Team) and Georgia FC Red (5<sup>th</sup> Team)
- It will be this club's policy to field four competitive teams wherever possible. The "Elite" and "Premier" team will play at the highest competitive level available to their age group and ability. The, "Classic", "Challenge" and "Red" teams will typically play at a somewhat less competitive level and will function as developmental teams for players wishing to advance their individual level of play and acquiring those skills necessary to compete at a higher level.
- Recreational teams may preface a nickname with Georgia FC (i.e. Georgia FC Raiders)

The Georgia FC has a trademarked logo which is the logo for the exclusive use of Georgia FC Teams. They may be used on spritware, signs, banners, T-shirts, uniforms, bags, warm ups, hats, etc. However, only this logo may be used. No variation of this logo may be utilized for any purpose. Only the Board of Directors may vary the trademarked logo of Georgia FC. A copy of the official logo is kept in the Georgia FC offices.

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## **Club and The Team**

Members of the Georgia Futbol Club agree to put the Club ahead of the team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the Club and a particular team, the Club will come first. Club decisions will be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The decisions of the Board of Directors will be final and without appeal.

## **Team and The Individual**

Members of the Georgia Futbol Club agree to put their team ahead of the individual player. If conflicts arise between the team and a player or parent, the Team Coach under the guidance of the Director of Coaches will be responsible to make decisions for the good of the team. These decisions will be made after gathering all relevant information and consultation with those involved. The Coaches' decisions will be objective and will be based on their best evaluation of the facts. Once a decision has been made, it is final and players and parents must agree to abide with the decision.

## **Tryouts and Player Placement**

### **Recreational:**

There will be NO tryouts for recreational teams. These teams will be formed under the direction of the Director of Recreation and/or his designee(s). All children that sign up by the appropriate registration dates will be placed on teams within the Georgia FC recreational program.

### **Select:**

## **Player Evaluation and Selection**

Coaches observing the player under the rigors of annual tryouts, training, scrimmages, and games will evaluate Player performance. Only the coaching staff will confer in matters of player evaluation and selection. There are many terms used to categorize and describe soccer abilities. Present and potential team members will be evaluated in four areas. Those four areas of evaluation are:

- Technical competence (skills)
- Tactical awareness (reading the game)
- Mental dimensions (character, discipline, and leadership)
- Physical dimensions (endurance, strength, and speed)

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If you have any questions about the meaning of these terms, please ask the coaches. The coaches will base their decisions solely on the four areas of evaluation and they are responsible to make decisions for the good of the Club and the team. Politics, friendships, personal relationships, and financial contribution to the team or Club will not enter into these decisions.

Your understanding here is important, for just as players and parents have freedom to select a club without unfair pressure and with a full understanding of what is expected, the coaching staff needs the same freedom to work objectively. We will not always agree on issues as sensitive as player evaluation and selection. We hope you will respect our attempt to be objective in these matters.

## Tryouts

Club tryouts will be held annually and are open to all players who meet the requirements for the teams in question. Each player will be given a fair opportunity to make the Club. The Club will announce the open tryouts to inform the public of the specific tryout dates and times. If the Coach of any particular team deems additional tryouts necessary, they may be held during the season. Qualified players may be added to team rosters at any time.

The open tryout period may last from one to five tryout sessions. In order to avoid wasting anyone's time, the coaching staff reserves the right to make cuts after the first tryout or to ask certain prospects to remain after the published tryout dates. Evaluations and selections will be based solely on how prospects perform in the four evaluation areas according to the coaching staff. No other criteria will be used to evaluate players and the decisions of the coaching staff are final. During this evaluation period, please give us the same consideration and inform us whether or not you plan to join the Club if or when invited. The coaching staff will determine whether you play on a Georgia FC Team at or above your age bracket. The players selected for one of Georgia Futbol teams will be notified as determined by the appropriate age group coach.

## The Player

You are not under any pressure to join the Club. Instead, we hope that you and your parents will consider all of your options and choose what will be best for you, taking into consideration your goals and aspirations as a person and as a soccer player. Once you commit to join the Georgia Futbol Club, you agree to abide by the policies of the Club and your team.

**The commitment is for one soccer year only. The soccer year begins at the end of June and continues through the following spring through state, regional, and**

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**national competition, depending on the age group and/or success of the team. At the end of the soccer year, your commitment to the Club is over and you are free to leave the Club if you feel it is in your best interest. At the beginning of the next soccer year you are free to tryout again under the same guidelines previously mentioned. Remember, in the event your team qualifies for state, regional, or national competition, we expect you to fulfill your commitment to your team through the end of that competition regardless of your club or team status for the following year.**

**We expect our players and parents to honor their commitments and therefore you should make your decisions thoughtfully and carefully. Once your commitment is made, the Club expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer year. Take into account that when you make your commitment, the coaching staff may need to inform other potential players they did not make the team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decision carefully.**

**If you have committed to the Club, the Club will also commit to you. No player will be cut from a team during a soccer year unless it is for disciplinary reasons or failure to fulfill your obligations to the Club or team. The Team Coach will make decisions regarding temporary suspension from the Club after carefully consulting with the appropriate Director of Coaching. Hopefully all disciplinary actions will be resolved at the Coach/Player level. Further recourse is available through the Director of Coaching. If the situation is still not resolved, there is an appeals process in place.**

## **Expectations**

### **Spectator's Code**

Remember that children play organized sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are not miniature pro athletes.

Show your best behavior. Do not use profanity or harass players, coaches, or officials.

Applaud good play by your team and the visiting team

Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games for your team.

Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition

Condemn the use of violence in all forms

Officiating is a difficult job and sometimes mistakes are made. This type of adversity is part of the game. Encourage players to always play according to the rules.

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As adults we have to set the right example for the players. The lessons of teamwork and fair play are lost on our children when we as adults act inappropriately at games and practices.

## Standards of Conduct

The following Standards of Conduct are set forth by Georgia FC to govern the behaviors of players, coaches, and spectators before, during, and after soccer matches. The following will be expected:

- A consistently positive attitude shall be conveyed towards players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- No comments shall be addressed to opposing players, coaches, spectators, or to referees except when comments convey genuine friendship and respect or direct response to questions by the game official.
- No ill-tempered behavior shall be displayed.
- No smoking or alcohol consumption shall be allowed during soccer matches and soccer practices. No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the fences at the park or in the presence of players.
- The coach shall assume responsibility for all actions of players, spectators, and parents.
- The club shall expect genuine cooperation between coaches within their own age group and all the others. Every effort will be made by coaches and staff to place players at the appropriate level.
- All members of the club are subject to the Operating Policies and the By-laws of the club.
- No player or coach will be excluded from participation or discriminated against in the club due to race, creed, religion, or national origin. All members will respect one another and the integrity of the game.

## Player's Code of Conduct

All participants in the Georgia Futbol Club are expected to be polite, positive, well-mannered, cooperative, good sports, and respectful and considerate of others as they represent the club on the field and during club-oriented functions. The following rules will apply to all players:

- The use of tobacco, drugs (including steroids), or alcoholic beverages in any form will not be tolerated regardless of quantity and is cause for immediate dismissal from Georgia FC.
- Persistent irresponsibility and disrespectful behavior is cause for dismissal from the Georgia FC.

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- Destruction of property or violation of State and Federal laws is cause for dismissal from the Georgia FC.
- Players are expected to conduct themselves in a commendable manner at all times in Georgia FC related activities. Use of profane language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Failure to comply with team or specific activity rules (dress code, attendance, etc.) is cause for dismissal from the Georgia FC.
- There will be "zero tolerance" for assault upon, hazing, disorderly conduct toward, harassment of, intimidation of, or discrimination against another player or damage of property of another player.

NOTE: If dismissal from the Georgia FC occurs while traveling, the player may be sent home immediately at the parent's cost by whatever means is most convenient for the team coach and/or manager. No reimbursement of team fees will be made to the dismissed player or the player's family.

### Players

As a member of the Georgia FC, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability will be expected at all times. The Club asks that you care about yourself and the sport of soccer. This requires that you maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy team attitude. Any use of drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes is not acceptable to the Club and may result in temporary suspension or even removal from the Club. In addition, our Club will insist you maintain a positive team attitude and a personal sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

At all Club or team functions, you will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectable manner and to represent your team and the Club in a positive way - BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER GAMES AND PRACTICES.

During the soccer year, you and your team will be participating in practices, league competitions, tournaments, state, and possible national cup games. Your coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, player's position, amount of playing time, tournament participation, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the team at any moment even if that role has them not playing at all, coming off the bench, or playing a different position.

From the designated arrival time at all practices and games we will expect you to concentrate on soccer. You must arrive on time with the required equipment (shoes, proper uniform, warm ups, soccer ball, shin guards, water, etc.) and be ready to practice or play. Since practicing and playing at your very best requires your undivided attention there will be no visiting between you and your parents, family, friends, pets, or others (who might cause you to lose your focus on soccer) from immediately before the practice or game until you have been dismissed by your Coach. This includes half-time and at the conclusion of games when you will be expected to get water and then immediately join your team and Coach for game discussion and team adjustments. When necessary there

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are times your Coaches may ask you to do cool down exercises. When team responsibilities are over you are free to join family and friends.

Nutrition and rest are also part of your personal responsibility as a member of the Georgia FC. We expect you to eat nutritious, healthy food in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with your performance. If you have any question about which foods are best for performing athletes, please ask your coach. Competitive soccer is a very physically demanding sport, and even with our demanding training regime, injuries can occur. In some instances these injuries can be serious and require surgery and/or extensive rehabilitation. While these injuries are rare, they do occur, and parents and players need to be aware of the dangers presented by competitive soccer. In the event of an injury where the player is unable to participate in games or practices for an extended period of time, the player is still expected to attend games and practices to help in maintaining team unity and cohesion. The injured player is still a member of the Georgia Futbol Club and, as such, needs to remain close to the team.

### **Parents**

Parental support and involvement in the Club are essential. If your child is selected and chooses to commit themselves to the Georgia Futbol Club your commitment is also necessary. If your child is to make a quality commitment to the Club and team you must see to it that he/she attends all team functions (practices, meetings, games, etc.). There will be times when conflicts cannot be avoided and other more important events occur. We need your communication, planning, and understanding so that we can minimize the conflicts. It is our Club's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for your planning. When you or your child has an unavoidable conflict, we expect timely communication to see if the Club or team can make any necessary adjustments. The team coach will make final decisions on scheduling and adjustments with input from the Director of Coaches after careful consideration of your needs and those of the Club or team.

Sideline Coaching by the parents will not be tolerated. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your child or yelling (complaining) to officials during games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play. "Go" or "Shoot" are interpreted as instructions and as such are not desirable. It is important that players not be distracted at practices (parents and friends please stay off the designated practice area, including the goal mouths), during games, and that players are only given one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after practices and games. For this reason, the Club insists the coaching staff be the only voice at all games and practices. No one other than a member of the coaching staff may sit on or near the team bench before and during games unless specifically invited by the coach. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for the team and coach to carry out their game responsibilities.

The Club's first concern is for the long-term development of your child's soccer skills under pressure, and there will be times players are instructed to do things parents do not

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understand. Player and team development will sometimes be given a greater priority than winning. Parents and players must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy team environment.

Parents, always at the appropriate moment and time, feel free to communicate and ask questions about your child. Please take the initiative to teach your children to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible. Your coaches will always be available for discussion.

The Georgia Futbol Club believes in and teaches players the benefit of having Mental Power to guide their intense focus on the game of soccer. We will instruct your child to ignore adverse conditions such as bad referees, name calling, foul language, rough play, cheating, poor weather, negative behavior by parents or opponents, etc. We expect our parents to have this same Mental Focus.

### **Coaches**

The coaches for the Georgia Futbol Club are instructed to conduct themselves first as teachers and second as soccer coaches. Nothing positive will come of the Club's efforts if we produce world-class players who do not know how to conduct themselves as successful human beings. In this regard you can expect the Georgia FC Coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and display appropriate behavior. Our coaches recognize that we are dealing in an important way with young people and we cannot overlook the impact they have on players' lives.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the field when the team is together and part of a Club event. We will insist our players are polite, well behaved, and respectful. You can expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from your coach.

The commitment the Club and coaching staff makes to you under no circumstances guarantees that you will be offered a college scholarship or that you will be considered for a state or national team. The Club and the Coaches do guarantee to provide you the tools and skills to enable you to become as good as your ability, desire, commitment, and effort will take you.

The coaching staff is responsible to create an environment where you can play quality competitive soccer. The soccer we play will be taken very seriously. We recognize that there are things more important in life than soccer. However, if the coaches see you are not willing to put your soccer above other recreational activities during the Club season, it may affect your playing time and/or status with the Club. As a member of the Georgia FC we expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and your team as your first recreational activity and priority during the Club season.

Do not expect your coaches to praise everything you do well. After a time, there are things your coach will come to expect from every player. There are times when your

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coach will say very little, and times he/she will provide instructions. There are times they will be very critical of players, and other times they will be very generous with praise. You and your parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and are able to deal with both.

### **Code Of Ethics**

Soccer is the players' game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment, and safety of their players.

Coaches bear the responsibility for teaching their players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game, and the highest levels of sportsmanship.

Coaches shall treat officials with respect, dignity, and shall teach their players to do the same.

Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to likewise.

In both victory and defeat, the behavior of a coach shall model grace, dignity, and composure.

Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the Georgia Futbol Club, Georgia Youth Soccer Association, and the United States Soccer Federation.

Coaches have a responsibility to promote the interests of soccer at all times.

Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer.

Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, prevention, and treatment of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse, both in their own lives and in the lives of their players.

Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of soccer.

Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of all players, and shall adhere to all guidelines and regulations on recruiting established by Georgia Youth Soccer Association.

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## Rules of Play

The rules of play to be followed by the club will be FIFA rules with modifications by GYSA and GFC.

## Fields and Equipment

The club demands proper use of practice and game fields. Practice in goal areas must be limited and is prohibited if turf is water-saturated. Irresponsible or inappropriate practice on fields causing damage will result in disciplinary action against the team. The Director of Operations will cancel field use and notify teams via a recorded message on the designated Field Status Hotline number (404-419-7914) and on [www.georgiafc.com/](http://www.georgiafc.com/) home page.

Notwithstanding this statement, for games scheduled to be played, the judgment of the referee assigned for the game shall stand with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA. In cases of questionable weather, the referees will have the final decision as to whether the game will be played. Unauthorized use of fields will result in action against the coach as specified in these Operating Rules.

## Practice

The Director of Operations will assign practice times and fields. Requests can be made but are not guaranteed.

Teams may not use a park or field that the Georgia FC has a contract on unless they hold a valid field assignment as granted by the Director of Operations.

Do not practice before or after the dates your practice assignment is in effect.

On Bad Weather Days or Wet Field Days it is the Coach's responsibility not to damage the fields. The field status hotline should be called whenever rain has fallen within the last 48 hours of your scheduled practice time. The field status hotline will be updated by 3:00 PM on Bad Weather Days.

Pick up trash, stay out of goal areas, and respect the property:

Protect the quality of the goalmouth by staying outside.

Tell players and parents that dogs are not welcome on soccer fields.

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Scrimmages may be played throughout the year with Director of Operations approval.

## **Games**

Games shall be arranged during the regular season:

- For Select Teams and U14 and above Recreation Teams by GYSA
- For Recreation Teams by Georgia FC

Game scores must be reported for Select Teams to GYSA according to their procedures.

Game scores must be reported for Recreational Teams to their commissioner within 48 hours of the scheduled game time.

Playing fields for regularly scheduled games will be properly lined, have nets and flags set up, and have regulation goals securely anchored.

Lightning, sudden rainstorms, severe wind, etc. obviously threaten the safety of our players. The decision to stop or cancel a game or practice must be made by the referee at the time of the game or coach during practice. Please remember that the safety of our players is our primary concern.

## **Saturday Game Cancellations:**

Whenever possible, the decision to keep fields open or to close them for Saturday games will be made Friday evening. Once the decision has been made, it will not change. However, due to Georgia weather, it is not always possible to make such decisions on Friday evening; therefore, the field status hotline will be updated by 7:30 AM Saturday morning by the Director of Operations.

## **Reschedules**

Every effort should be made to play the game at the originally scheduled date and time.

Requests for a reschedule will only be considered for weather related cancellations.

Call the opposing coach and determine several choices and times both teams could play.

The request for reschedule must be made known GFC's game scheduler no later than seven (7) days from the original game date.

Games will be rescheduled with 48 hours of receipt of the reschedule.

The game reschedule should be given to the Director of Operations.

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Upon receipt of the reschedule email, the Game Scheduler will reschedule the game. We will do our best to accommodate the team's requests but it cannot be guaranteed.

- You will need to check your email for the reschedule date and time.
- It is the home team's responsibility to notify the opponent of the new game date and time.

## Required Equipment

All participants must wear adequate shin guards. Players wearing orthopedic casts, air splints, or metal splints may not be eligible to participate in any game if in the sole opinion of the referee an orthopedic device poses a dangerous playing condition.

## Player and Team Fees

Fees will be set no less than yearly by the Board of Directors. The intent of the Board is to charge a fee that is reasonable and commensurate with the training and participation provided. There will be a registration fee and a uniform fee for the recreational teams. There will be a registration fee, camp fee, tournament fee, and uniform fee for the select teams. Training fees will be determined by the appropriate coaches and it is their responsibility to collect said fees.

## Scholarships

Georgia Futbol Club makes available a limited number of scholarships. These scholarships may be for the amount of registration fees only and does not include the state mandated registration fee or training fees. Scholarships will be awarded based upon need. Scholarship requests need to be made in writing to the club Registrar who will then present the request to the scholarship committee. All decisions made by the scholarship committee will be final. It is the policy of the Georgia Futbol Club that players in need of assistance are given the opportunity to enjoy quality coaching and to play at a competitive level; however, as previously stated scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

## Uniforms

The standard Georgia FC Uniform will be as approved by the Board of Directors or their designee Georgia FC logo will be used on all jerseys and will be the same on every shirt,

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sweats, etc. Sponsors may be secured by club teams to offset expenses; however, the sponsor's name may not be added or displayed on any part of the Georgia FC uniform. The sponsor's logo may appear on sweats and bags; however, the Georgia FC Board of Directors or their designee must approve the size and placement of this logo.

## Player Movement during the Season

Player movement within the Georgia FC Select program must follow the steps outlined below and will only occur due to outstanding circumstances and in the best interest of the club, team, and player in that order.

- The coach who is looking at a player must notify and discuss the need for a player with the appropriate Director of Coaching.
- The Director of Coaching will notify the player's current Head Coach that a particular player has been identified as a candidate for player movement.
- The Director of Coaching will evaluate the player, taking input from both Head Coaches involved.
- Upon decision by the Director of Coaching the receiving coach shall notify the player of the potential move.

## Playing Up

Players may "play up" beyond their team age classification as defined by GYSA Rules and Regulations. Player classification for the soccer year shall be determined by the player's age as of August 1st.

It will be this club's policy to encourage players to play in their appropriate age groups: U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, and U18. It will be the intent of this policy to allow for total player development at a natural chronological pace. Although skill development might make "playing up" seem a reasonable alternative, it is our belief that all aspects of development (physical, social, psychological, and athletic) should be provided for and kept in balance.

However, we also recognize the need for the opportunity to "play up" for certain players. In the event that a parent or coach feels that a child is ready to "play up" they must consult with the appropriate Director. The Director will consider the issue carefully and ultimately decide what is in the best interest of the player in question.

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## Roster Size

Georgia FC recommendations on roster size are as follows:

U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
10	12	12	15	15	16	16	18	18

## Playing Time

Select Teams are formed and train to compete at the highest levels possible. The Georgia Futbol Club is dedicated to the development of the player. That development is highly dependent on the player's exposure to competitive "game level" situations so therefore playing time for each team member is critical to the player's technical and tactical development. Keeping this goal in mind, the Head Coach determines playing time but all Georgia FC coaches must understand and support the GYSA rules and regulations as published in Law #3, paragraph 5440:

Each player must play a minimum of half of a match, if he/she meets practice and participation requirements to the coach's satisfaction.

## Playing Positions

The Head Coach determines the player's positions on the field.

## Travel

Select Coaches Travel Expense Policy:

All Select Teams will reimburse travel expenses for one (1) coach for tournaments, special events, or regular season games based on the following guidelines:

The tournament, event, or regular season game takes place over 90 miles away from Bethesda Park.

The following expenses will be covered:

- If the team drives, the coach's gas will be provided by the team.
- If the team flies:
  - Air Fare
  - Parking at Hartsfield International Airport
  - Rental Car (Compact)
  - Gasoline for Rental Car
- If the team takes a bus, bus fare

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AND

- Hotel (Same hotel as team), single occupancy

AND

- Meals - \$35.00/day per diem (Payable in advance)

## League Travel

During the course of the soccer year teams will participate in away league games. It is your responsibility to arrange transportation to these games. In most instances you will be able to arrange your travel in conjunction with other team members.

## Tournament Travel (see also Team Travel Guide)

- Travel Dress
  - Players are representing the Georgia Futbol Club as they travel and their actions and attire must be appropriate.
  - The Head Coach can mandate a travel "uniform" for his/her team
- Travel Expenses
  - Team travel expenses must be kept to a minimum without sacrificing safety or taking excessive time away from school, etc.
  - All team expenses (coach's expenses, tournament fee, etc.) must be shared equally by all members of the team. (Excludes guest players)
- Guest Players are invited solely at the Head Coach's discretion. Your family members will be invited to stay at the designated hotel and to join your team at meal. The team coach may approve exceptions to the room and meal policy. Final decisions regarding team travel, including timing of arrival and departure to and from locations (hotels, restaurants, game fields, etc.) will be left entirely up to the coach. Although under no obligation, there will be times when the coaches may make individual exceptions and be flexible in implementation of team travel rules. These decisions by the coaches will not be arbitrary and will be made with the best interests of the Club and team in mind.

Rest periods between games may be spent with family members or friends if time and your coach permit. However, the period between games is not to be seen as family time or vacation time. There will be times when your coach will require that the team stay together while you wait for your next game. At other times, your coach may allow you to go with family or friends. This decision will be left entirely up to your coach and he/she is free to reverse any decision at any time if it is in the best interest of the team. Individual exceptions will be made if the situation warrants, but that decision will be left entirely up to your coach, whose decision will be final.

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## Conflict Resolution

There are procedures and mechanisms set up by the Georgia FC to ensure that conflicts, problems, concerns, and violations are properly and fairly addressed. The following shall be the line of authority for resolution of all conflicts, violations, disciplinary actions and appeals, etc. Not until this authority has been completed and an adverse decision has been rendered on the matter should an individual proceed to the next higher level of authority.

- Team Coach
- Technical Directors
- Directors of Coaching
- Disciplinary Committee (For violations of the Articles of Incorporation, Operating Policy, GYSA or FIFA Laws)
- Appeals Committee (For team assignments, outcome of games, misapplication of rules, decisions of the Disciplinary Committee)
- Board of Directors
- GYSA

## Disciplinary and Appeals Committees

Once a matter in question is referred to the Disciplinary or Appeals Committee, the following procedures apply:

Should any hearing body choose not to hear a protest or appeal, that body may, if they wish, refer the matter to the next higher authority. Upon receipt of any adverse decision, appeal may be made to the next higher authority. All correspondence must be directed to the Committee at the club office with in two (2) calendar days (Sundays and holidays excluded) of receipt of an adverse decision. The committee shall consider all pertinent information arising out of an appeal of a club decision. The committee may require personal input prior to making a decision; however, they are not required to do so. All decisions will be rendered in executive session and will be conveyed by the committee to the appellant in writing within seven (7) days. A personal phone call will also be made to the appellant within 24 hours of the decision. Any decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Appeals Committee. Decisions rendered by the appeals committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors with in 48 hours of receiving written conformation of the decision. The President shall then schedule an open hearing at which time all interested parties shall have adequate time to present their case before the Board of Directors. Those parties presenting a case shall include a spokesman from the Disciplinary Committee and a spokesman from the Appeals Committee. Others wishing to present a case must indicate their wishes to do so at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the hearing. The President shall convey all decisions to the appealing party in writing within seven (7) days and phone notification within 24 hours of the decision. The President shall also notify any Directors involved in the decision. The Appeals Committee must keep a complete and comprehensive record of their proceedings, utilizing the Club Secretary or designated substitute.

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All proceeding will be summarized briefly with a record of their decision. No person, official, team, referee, or player may invoke the aid of the courts of any state or the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within this body.

## **Disciplinary Committee**

The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of three (3) persons not presently serving as members of the Board of Directors. There will be a player representative, a referee representative, and a member at large representative. Only these three members shall have a vote. In the event of a tie, an abstention vote will be considered a "no" vote. The Vice President will chair the Disciplinary Committee and will vote only as a tiebreaker. The Disciplinary Committee shall serve for the term of one year. The committee is the primary mechanism for consideration of any violations of the Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, Operating Policy, and the FIFA "Laws of the Game".

## **Appeals Committee**

The Appeals Committee shall consist of three (3) persons not presently serving as members of the Board of Directors. There will be a player representative, a referee representative, and a member at large representative. Only these three members shall have a vote. In the event of a tie, an abstention vote will be considered a "no" vote. Appeals must be made in writing and directed to the President. The Appeals Committee with ten (10) days will make a final decision. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committees shall be called in session only by the President or designated substitute (i.e. Vice President). A designated member of the Board of Directors shall chair the Appeals Committee. The Committee shall deal with all protests or appeals arising from any action by the Disciplinary Committee.

## **Sportsmanship**

Georgia FC is for the enjoyment, educational, and physical development of the players in the game of soccer. Cheering during the games by coaches, parents, and other spectators should be of a positive nature, supporting all players, coaches, and referees. The club expects its members to set high standards of sportsmanship.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. Players of coaches ejected from any game may be called to a hearing set by the Disciplinary Committee and may have sanctions set by the Georgia FC Disciplinary Committee in addition to those of GYSA.

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## Volunteerism

The Georgia FC is a volunteer based organization. As such, we rely heavily on our membership to help keep the club running smoothly. As a result of this, every team at Georgia FC is expected to donate time for the overall betterment of the club. A team official may contact the Georgia FC Office and talk with the Volunteer Coordinator to arrange a time and task for your team to fulfill its obligation.