



ADVANCED HANDBOOK

TOGETHER WE RISE

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an NRG company

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Handbook contains information about the policies and procedures of RISE Soccer Club, Inc. (the “Club” or “We”, “Our” or “RISE”). We expect each parent and/or guardian to read the Handbook carefully as it is a valuable resource to reference.

Our Handbook describes many of your responsibilities as Club constituents, and outlines the programs developed by the Club to benefit your player(s). The RISE Handbook cannot anticipate every circumstance or question about policy. As circumstances continue to change, the need may arise and the Club reserves the right to revise, supplement, or rescind any policies or portions of this Handbook from time to time as it deems appropriate, in its sole and absolute discretion. Any such changes will be reflected in this Handbook by its posting on the website, but any failure to update the Handbook on the website, shall not be deemed to undermine the validity and enforceability thereof.

I understand that this document does not describe all of my obligations to the Club or all of the Club’s obligations to me.

I agree to abide by and be bound by the rules, policies and standards set forth in this Handbook. The Handbook is provided to you as a guide to the Club’s policies and procedures which can be changed at any time.

I also understand that circumstances can change and the policies and procedures are subject to factors outside of the Club’s reasonable control. The Club, therefore, reserves the right to change any of the policies, practices or benefits that are described in this Handbook, at any time, without prior notice. All such revisions, deletions or additions shall be in writing. No oral statements or representations can change the provisions of this Handbook. I acknowledge that no oral statement or statements by any member of the Board of Directors, the Technical Director or any other Club Employee can alter the policies in this Handbook.

These Handbook provisions supersede any prior policies and practices and this Handbook may not be amended or added to without the express written approval of the Board of Directors of the Club.

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CLUB

SECTION I: BY THE NUMBERS



PLAYERS

- > **2,000** Competitive Players
- > **1,300** Recreational Players
- 50+** Professional and National Team Players Produced
- > **800** College Placements



PLAYERS FIRST LICENSED CLUB



COACHES

- 40+** Full-time coaches
- 15** "A" Licensed Coaches
- 12** "B" Licensed Coaches
- 20** Nationalities Represented



GEOGRAPHICS

RISE attracts players from over **150** different zip codes. Our **12** facilities span the greater Houston area.



PLAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Girls Academy League
- ECNL - Boys
- ECNL Regional League - Boys USC League
- USC Champions League
- Player Development Friendlies South Texas
- Youth Soccer League DESIRE League
- Recreational In-House League



FACILITIES

- 70** Match Quality Fields (50 are lighted)
- 3** Futsal Courts
- 5** Artificial Turf Fields
- 1** Stadium with Locker Rooms
- 4** Meeting Spaces
- 2** RISE Owned Facilities



CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1** DA National Championship
- 3** National Championships
- 25** Regionals Championships
- 60+** State Cup Appearances



SUPPORT

- > **675** Volunteers
- 6** Administrators
- 45** Full-time Employees



SOCIAL

- 10,000+** Social Media Followers



SPONSORS

- Nike
- Reliant
- Soccer.com
- Memorial Hermann

SECTION II: ABOUT US

RISE Soccer Club (RISE or RISE SC) is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit youth sports club that serves the Houston youth soccer community. Houston Express Soccer Club (HESC), founded in 1978, and Eclipse Soccer Club, founded in 1986 merged in 2017 to form RISE Soccer Club. In April 2019, Texans SC joined RISE in an effort to transform Houston youth soccer.

RISE is a full service soccer club. Our programming serves players of all levels - from recreational to college-bound-in a safe, supportive environment. We offer soccer programming to youth athletes regardless of their play-level. At RISE, we have licensed coaches guide our players through the development process to ensure that we provide a consistent player environment across all genders and age groups.

As a non-profit organization, the fees we collect are generally invested back into the club. By being financially prudent, we have been able to develop facilities that we own, in the heart of Houston, which are easily accessible to millions of residents. We also partner with municipalities who own beautiful facilities and grant RISE priority usage. Having field freedom and flexibility puts RISE in a powerful and unique position because we always have an element of control over our future.

We firmly believe that **Better Coaches = Better Players**. Coaches are the key to player development. RISE boasts one of the most highly licensed coaching staffs in the nation. Our Coaching Staff is ethnically diverse and can cater to the many cultures in our community while always maintaining the highest technical standards. RISE is committed to developing our players by having the most talented and qualified coaches lead our players and oversee our program.

RISE is dedicated to being a force in youth soccer. We are prepared in all phases to achieve the highest level of success. Boasting a highly licensed coaching staff, a commitment to player development, some of the finest youth soccer facilities in the country and a central location in one of the largest youth soccer markets in the world, RISE is primed to lead soccer in Houston through development of youth players.

SECTION III: CLUB INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS

RISE Soccer Club
2617-C W. Holcombe Blvd. #121
Houston, Texas 77025

PHONE NUMBER

(281) 612 - 4210

EMAIL

info@risesc.org

WEBSITE

www.risesc.org

SOCIAL MEDIA [FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND X]:

[@risesoccerclub](#)



SECTION IV: BRAND IDENTITY

Our identity visually represents us to the global community. It encompasses all the elements of our brand and is the total effect of everything that makes us who we are: our logo, our website, our services and our culture. Because the brand cannot be compromised, we've created strict specifications to maintain its integrity.

The key for a brand to appear professional is consistency. A consistent and professional approach to using these guidelines is crucial to building a recognizable brand for RISE Soccer Club. A brand is not something you build overnight, and like a person, it has its own personality and traits. Our branding guidelines exist to help achieve a consistent look for RISE, so that our constituency can perceive us as a strong, compassionate, and reliable organization.

THE RISE NAME

Whenever the name of our organization appears in text and separate from the logo, it should be written in all capital letters: **RISE**.

LOGO AND TAGLINE

Our logo was developed to be modern and future-proof. It is a distinctive mark that seeks to present our organization as a compassionate, forward-thinking, and professional organization with a commitment and adherence to high standards.

Any reproduction or unauthorized use of the RISE logo, design or tagline without written consent from RISE is prohibited.



TOGETHER WE RISE



SECTION V: COMMUNICATIONS METHODS

RISE utilizes several forms of communication to relay necessary information and announcements to players and families including our website, email platforms such as MailChimp and PlayMetrics, as well as, social media outlets such as: Facebook, Instagram and X.

We strive to deliver timely, concise and relevant information to provide our constituents with a curated experience by providing meaningful content that connects the club and enhances its culture. As part of our efforts to provide a more personalized experience, we may use images or video of current and past players and/or teams to better capture the day-to-day environment at RISE. We may share information with social networks when you interact with RISE.

Our communication methods include providing you with special offers, promotions and information about future offerings and opportunities. We typically send newsletters, program specific information and sponsor and/or business affiliate promotions regarding their services, products and offerings.

RISE does not make available the e-mail addresses or other personal information of its members. Although member information is accessible to some extent to the RISE Coaching and Administrative Staff, any violation or inappropriate use of member information is subject to the RISE Code of Conduct policy. Parents, Team Managers or Volunteers may not use the RISE email system for any purpose other than official RISE Soccer Club business.

SECTION VI: CLUB OVERSIGHT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

The BOD are responsible for developing the vision and strategic plan of RISE and protecting the assets of the club. The purpose of the RISE BOD is to provide oversight. The RISE BOD and club volunteers are not involved in any soccer decisions. These decisions are managed exclusively by the professional Coaching Staff beginning with the Technical Director or designee.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR (TD)

The Technical Director of the club is responsible for implementing the vision and strategic plan of the BOD. All RISE employees report either directly to the Technical Director or his/her designee. The RISE Technical Director is also responsible for leading the club and the technical committee to develop and implement the RISE style of play along with designing and implementing appropriate soccer curriculum for all RISE programs and levels of play – recreational and competitive – consistent with U.S. Soccer Federation standards and with the goal of optimizing player development.

DIRECTOR OF COACHING (DOC)

The Director of Coaching develops, implements and executes plans to improve the level of both players and coaches, while representing the club as part of the greater soccer community. The RISE DOC will connect the club's mission and player development philosophy so that they directly correlate with the player experience. The DOC role is defined by a number of objectives including: developing a player-centered development pathway, creating player development plans, guiding the club's teaching methodology, leading and mentoring staff and managing the performance environment.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR (OD)

The Director of Operations is expected to play an active role in the growth, success, and impact of RISE in the community and will represent RISE with excellence. The Director of Soccer Operations will be responsible for directing all non-coaching matters related to the soccer program to ensure that programs and activities are efficient, effective and meeting the needs of club membership.

Please visit risesc.org for a full list of the members of the RISE Coaching Staff.



SECTION VII: KEY PROGRAM CONTACTS

RISE ADVANCED

ACADEMY DIRECTOR (AD)

The ECNL and the Girls Academy Programs are each led by an Academy Director (AD). This role is responsible for team formations, player selections and movements, player development, player retention, player attraction and creating player opportunities within these Elite Programs.

ECNL DIRECTOR (ECNLD)

The RISE ECNL Director (ECNL) is responsible for oversight of the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) Program at RISE. This role is responsible for team formations, player selections and movements, player development, player retention, player attraction and creating player opportunities within the Elite Clubs National League.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (PD)

Program Directors (PD) oversee the club's Youth Academy and Competitive Programs. PD's are tasked with providing a layer of oversight and support to Campus Managers. PD's must ensure that the RISE player development philosophy is being implemented across the programs they oversee and that our coaches, teams, and players are in compliance with all league directives. PD's are responsible for ensuring that Player Development Coaches (PDC's) are abiding by club standards of performance regarding playing style and training directives. PD's help educate parents, players, and our Player Development Staff on the policies and protocols of the club when necessary. PD's coordinate player evaluations/tryouts, player selections, team formations, and player movements between the RISE Advanced programs. A key responsibility of this role is to drive player development, player retention, player attraction, and to create player opportunities within RISE Advanced for players to promote.

CAMPUS MANAGERS (CM)

RISE Campus Managers (CM) have campus oversight responsibilities within the Advanced Program at designated facilities. CM's are responsible for collaborating with PD's for team formations, player selections and movements, player development, player retention, player attraction and creating player opportunities within the RISE Advanced.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COACHES (PDC)

RISE Player Development Coaches (PDC) as a whole make up the RISE Player Development Staff (PDS). PDC's report to Campus Managers and are responsible for the overall management and experience of the teams the club assigns them to cover. Player Development Coaches are expected to conduct meaningful and inspired training sessions that are congruous with the RISE curriculum provided by the Technical Director. Every PDC should develop a team seasonal plan as well as finalize the team's roster, schedule, and overall objectives (level of play) congruent with RISE approved programming. They should also provide a personal evaluation of every player on the teams they coach at the conclusion of both the fall and spring seasons and, depending on the program, be available to meet with every player and parent to discuss this evaluation. Our Player Development Staff should also be available to parents and players to provide feedback and answer team related questions per club policy.

ADVANCED ADMINISTRATOR (AA)

The Advanced Administrator is responsible for leading all aspects of the administrative and customer service functions for RISE Advanced, to ensure they are efficient, effective and meeting the needs of the club constituency. Additionally, the AA will help support the TD to ensure the needs of the RISE Advanced membership are met.



SECTION VIII: IDENTITY AND VALUES

Through a shared passion, collaboration and commitment to talent development we connect our community, families and players by cultivating a club culture of respect, improvement, success, and empowerment through and for the advancement of soccer. **TOGETHER WE RISE.**



RESPECT

- Impartiality
- Curiosity
- Diversity of thinking
- Culture of recognition



IMPROVEMENT

- Purpose and inspiration
- Shared goals and objectives
- Collaboration, integration and leveraging resources and partnerships
- Process/evaluation mapping and analysis



SUCCESS

- Continuous investment in development
- Match the inside and the outside
- Comfort in taking risk
- Autonomy



EMPOWERMENT

- Tangible results
- Development and transfer of skills
- Ability to influence
- Decision Authority

SECTION IX: MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

RISE develops youth soccer players who embody our commitment to provide an unparalleled player environment led by the most talented and qualified coaches who embrace and inspire the talents of all players.

VISION

Our goal is to be a top 25 youth soccer club in the country. We must be able to consistently develop, retain and attract talent. Simply put, we always want our teams, regardless of their level of play, to be a threat to go all the way. The success of the club is uniquely tied to the success of its players. RISE will prepare our players and teams to compete against anyone, anytime, and anywhere.



SECTION X: CODE OF CONDUCT

Upon registering your player at RISE Soccer Club, Inc. (the "Club"), you and your player(s) agree to adhere to the RISE Code of Conduct and Club Policies. Although the Code of Conduct does not cover all the policies of the Club or address all potential issues, it addresses several matters that arise with regularity.

The RISE Code of Conduct clarifies what can be expected from the Club and it also defines the behavior expected of our constituents. The Code of Conduct has been adopted to emphasize the values and principles that govern our relationship with our constituents, customers, business partners, and other stakeholders. It also serves as a starting point for RISE's relevant policies and procedures.

The RISE Code of Conduct, and the club policies set forth within, are intended to promote an orderly and efficient operation that enhances the experience for all of our constituency. Violations, therefore, shall be regarded as cause for disciplinary action. Not all of our policies and procedures are set forth in this Handbook. We have summarized only some of the more important ones in this Handbook. As a reminder, constituents are responsible for their guests of family members when attending all RISE activities or events.

If you have any questions or concerns about this Handbook or any other policy or procedure, please contact the Operations Director and the Advanced Administrator. If your concern is a soccer matter, please contact your Campus Manager.

VIOLATIONS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Non-compliance or violations of the RISE Code of Conduct may result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including reassignment or removal from the team and/or club for any constituent. Ignorance of the Code of Conduct policy is not an acceptable excuse for violation.

If a RISE Coaching Staff Member, Team Manager or Club Official determines that a player or parent demonstrates unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct at a training session, game or club event, that is in conflict with the RISE Code of Conduct or any club policies, they may take either of the following actions:

- Immediately remove the player or parent from the training session, game or club event
- Refer the matter to a Coaching Staff member, an Elite Campus Manager, or the Elite Director for review and possible sanction

RISE will investigate and determine what, if any, sanctions will apply. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a warning, suspension, probation and/or dismissal from the Club. Our procedures will be in accordance with all state and/or local guidelines for participation and promoting the mission and values of RISE. In all cases of disciplinary sanction, our Technical Director's decision is final and not subject to appeal. In the event a player or parent is dismissed from the club, they will not be eligible to receive a refund or relief from any unpaid future dues.



SECTION XI: CLUB PHILOSOPHIES

SOCCER PHILOSOPHY

At RISE, we take a systematic approach to unlocking the value in our club. Developing soccer players is a long-term process so building relationships within our community and earning the trust of our constituents is critical to our process.

We offer well-structured, community based soccer programs that are efficiently and effectively delivered by professionally licensed coaches whose ultimate focus is on individual player development. By establishing large player pools at the youngest ages, we rely on our coaches to educate, prepare and guide our players through our program with the understanding that the success of our club is uniquely tied to the experiences, opportunities and successes we give our players and their families.

Our vertically integrated model allows RISE to assume control of the development process at an early age to best position your player for success. RISE players benefit from the excellent environment, minimal geographical challenges, flexible programming, and multiple pathways.

COACHING PHILOSOPHY

Coaches are the key to player development. RISE boasts one of the most highly licensed coaching staffs in the nation. Like professionals in any industry, your probability for success increases with education. RISE is committed to developing our players by having the most talented and qualified coaches lead our players and oversee our programming. There are simply no shortcuts to developing world class players or creating an environment that breeds this tradition. Philosophically, we believe that the best results are achieved with preparation.

RISE has a program specific coaching staff to lead all of the club training sessions, unless stated otherwise. RISE Player Development Coaches follow a proprietary training curriculum that covers technical, tactical, physical, and mental themes which are essential to a player's full development. Training is age and skill appropriate, but the ideas and methodology are consistent throughout the RISE program.

It is important to understand that a portion of the fee you pay to RISE is for coaching and not specifically to pay for the coach assigned to your players team. The coach who is assigned to

your team may not always be the team's regular coach in training sessions and/or games. Most RISE coaches work with multiple teams and those teams often play or train at multiple locations, so there are often conflicts that the club has to resolve on a weekly basis. These types of conflicts are more specific to the Youth Academy, Competitive, and Elite Programs.

While we understand that parents may have concerns about not having the same coach at every training session, or game, there are many positives for players to hear different voices and opinions. Our coaches have different personalities, communication skills, and motivational methods that will often create different synergies because of the unique way in which each coach relates to a certain player and/or team. Ultimately, we want as many RISE coaches as possible to get to know your player and the player pool so that the club can have a broader and more in depth evaluation of each age group and gender. RISE spends a great deal of time and resources in hiring, educating and developing coaches to ensure they add value to your player's development process.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

There are debates in youth soccer about winning vs. development. RISE believes in balancing both to have successful teams, and most importantly, successful players. RISE will not sacrifice player development for the sake of winning. Player development, especially at the younger ages, must be more important than the win itself.

Our philosophy focuses on a balanced approach. We encourage players to take more risks and to value the fact that life's best lessons are learned from our mistakes. In our younger age groups, we participate in a developmental league during the fall and spring. We use these games to apply training objectives taught in training sessions that week. During games, we guide and observe the players in order to determine what to focus on in upcoming coaching sessions. We allow players the freedom to be creative in game environments without fear. The balance to this is that there are events for each team in which we play to compete.

We focus on building players with a strong technical foundation and teach the fundamentals of the game. We provide age-appropriate training for every player, at every level. We educate and communicate with players and parents on the balance between competition and development, and we establish goals and milestones for the team and each individual player.



Winning can be important for our older teams to secure berths in elevated levels of competition such as leagues and showcases. Winning can also be important for team morale, recruiting, team dynamics, and confidence.

Player Development is important because we want to end up with a team of well-rounded players. Shortcuts lead to sacrifices, and RISE is not willing to sacrifice competition for development or development for competition. In order for this balance to be realized, every component within the club and within each team must work together.

TEAM FORMATION PHILOSOPHY

Our first responsibility is to ensure RISE players are being instructed by qualified, capable, and motivated coaches as the success of the club is directly correlated to the success of your player. At RISE, we work diligently to prepare your players to compete at the highest level they desire. Ultimately, the responsibility to develop, identify, and facilitate the transition of players to the next level falls on our Player Development Coaches.

In general, players in our younger age groups play on community based teams, while limited programming is offered to older players who wish to do the same. Players who age through our program and seek a more competitive experience will begin to be placed on teams that are tiered and formed from players from multiple campuses that train at a specific location.

RISE ADVANCED

The RISE Player Development Staff makes all team formation decisions in RISE Advanced, which consists of the Youth Academy, Competitive, and Elite Programs. Team formations occur shortly after player evaluations and/or tryouts. Players are eligible to be placed on teams once they have completed the registration process and have completed their initial payment. RISE creates both seasonal and yearly teams at multiple campuses. Once announced, teams generally remain fixed through the end of the season; however, the Player Development Staff reserves the right to make roster adjustments – up or down – at any time so long as such adjustments are made in good faith based on sound professional judgment and consistent with all applicable gaming league rules. The RISE Player Development Staff exclusively decides teams' level of play in leagues and/or events where necessary.

As players age through the RISE Advanced, they develop at unpredictable rates. Optimal player development occurs when players are evenly matched with players of similar capabilities. In special cases, exceptional talents will be pushed into older age groups or cross gender play to be challenged. As the player development process starts to collide with competitive play, standout players from each respective campus will start to matriculate to our Central Campus to join equally talented players.

We understand that when standout players are promoted from one team or campus to another, that the performance of their previous teams may be negatively impacted and players from those teams may feel less motivated temporarily. We expect our players to embrace this challenge and focus on preparing themselves for when their opportunity presents itself.

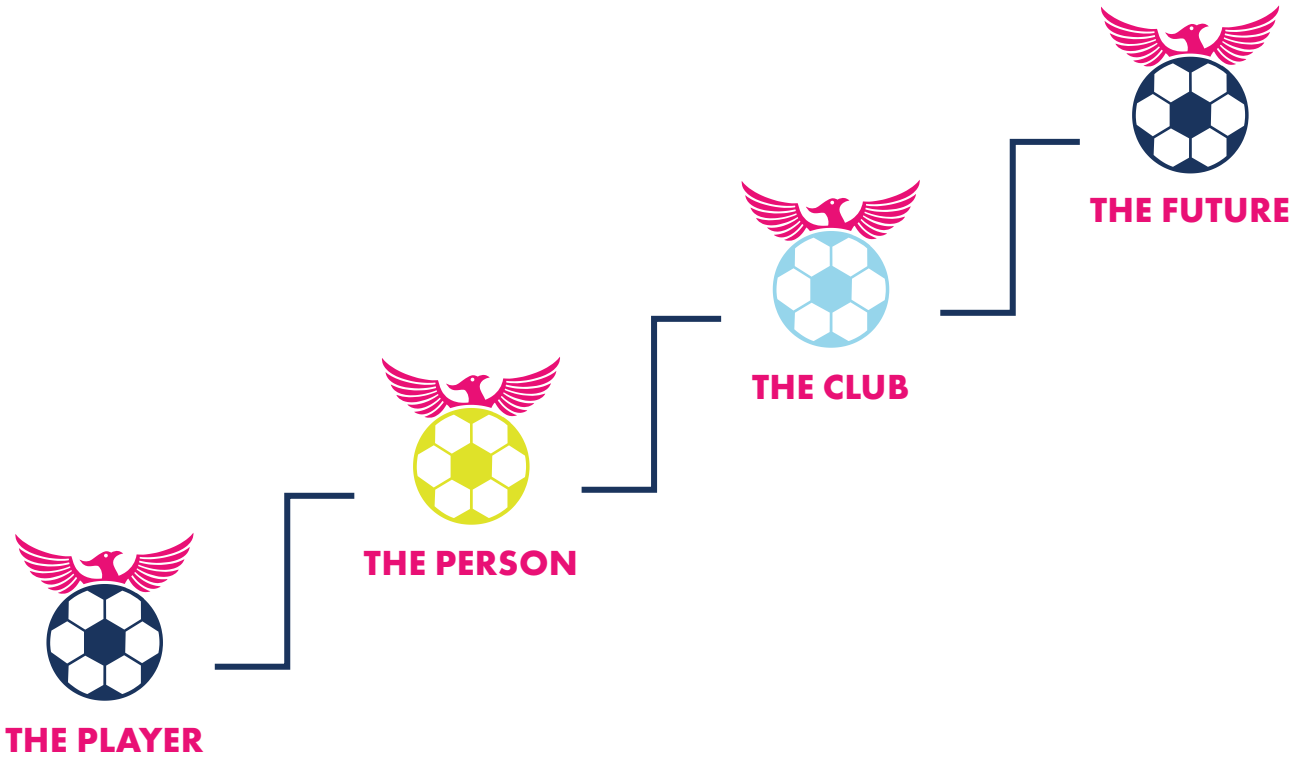


DEVELOP THE PLAYER:

At the core of any decision at RISE is the impact it will have on player development. RISE exists to support its players. Our development processes encompass the 4 key components of the game (technical, tactical, physical, psychological). RISE will provide players of all levels of play the opportunity to advance.

DEVELOP THE PERSON:

RISE plays an integral role in the lives of our youth athletes. We lead by example and uphold high ethical standards. We guide, mentor, and build strong relationships with our players who in turn make society better.



DEVELOP THE CLUB:

Together we RISE. The synergy created by the RISE & Texans working together to overcome obstacles and challenges will allow RISE to develop at a rapid pace allowing for the impact to reverberate throughout the Houston soccer community.

DEVELOP THE FUTURE:

We work closely with our players and coaching staff to ensure they are positioned to achieve their goals. Bespoke plans are created to use a guiding force as they progress through the club.





PROGRAMMING

SECTION XII: PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

We create programming that is player centric, structured, and aligned with our player development philosophies. Within RISE Advanced, our Youth Academy, Competitive and Elite Program offerings differ in their degree of competition, commitment and/or travel. However, one constant is our commitment to providing your player an excellent and rewarding experience so they can meet their development goals and play soccer at whatever level they desire.

At RISE, we take a systematic approach to unlocking the value in our club. Developing soccer players is a long-term process so building relationships within our community and earning the trust of our constituents is critical to our process.

By establishing large player pools at the youngest ages, we rely on our coaches to educate, prepare, and guide your player through our program with the understanding that the success of our club is uniquely tied to the experiences, opportunities and successes we give our players and their families.

RISE dedicates significant resources to ensure that we provide an unparalleled player environment that includes: excellent facilities, top caliber coaches, cutting-edge technology, carefully curated talent management systems, and flexible cost structures to assist your player in achieving their development goals.

Managing and transitioning talented players from within the youth environment and eventually to the high school, collegiate or professional environment requires an extensive amount of parent/

player education, player development, managing expectations and establishing strong professional networks. We dedicate extensive resources to prepare RISE players to be difference makers at whatever their next level is. We strive to develop impactful players then move them to the next best level of play that best suits their appetite and ability.

By establishing trusting relationships with our players we will be better positioned to guide them in the right direction whenever opportunity knocks.

RISE has a deep history of producing players. While we are cognizant of our role as an amateur youth soccer club, our player development history tells a story of high achievement. We are deeply passionate about developing impactful players that can reach the top levels of the game.

Unlike other clubs, at RISE, we are not player importers. While we do recruit, we prefer our talent pool to grow organically from within. Ultimately, we view ourselves as player exporters. When the time is right, and developmentally appropriate, we export our players to the next highest level of play for them, whether that is the college or professional ranks and everywhere in between.

Developing players is what we do, it is our passion. While we strive to advance our teams into the top leagues, we know our success is ultimately defined by the quality of individual players we produce and the opportunities we provide them. To date, the legacy clubs who came together to form RISE have produced over 51 National Team and/or Professional players.



SECTION XIII: STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Prior to each season, the Technical Director assigns a Player Development Staff member (PDS) who is tasked with the coaching responsibilities for the competitive teams they are assigned to in addition to making all of the decisions relating to the soccer development of the players on his/her roster during the season. Our success as a club is uniquely tied to the success of our players so we work diligently to ensure that we are providing players with an unparalleled player environment that is conducive to player development.

Members of the RISE Coaching Staff train RISE players following a proprietary training curriculum. The RISE curriculum covers technical, tactical, physical and mental themes which are essential to a player's full development. Training is age and skill appropriate, but ideas and methodology are consistent throughout the RISE program. Specific training needs that arise relative to each team's competitive performance are also addressed on an ongoing basis.

PARENTS MAY EXPECT RISE (PDS) MEMEBERS TO:

- Conduct meaningful and inspired training sessions that are congruous with the RISE curriculum
- Arrive at scheduled practices and games with sufficient time to conduct any required setup before the session's official start time
- Develop a team season plan as well as finalize team roster, schedule, and overall objectives
- Meet with team parents and players prior to the start of each season to establish expectations and communicate schedule
- Provide individual player evaluations
- Be available to parents and players to provide feedback and answer team related questions per club policy
- Maintain professional conduct at all times
- Always to be in RISE gear so they are easily identifiable
- Encourage and teach players in a manner that is positive, engaging and conducive to individual player development
- Work with the Team Manager, if or when necessary, to establish clear and timely communication of essential team information
- Deal with any and all team/parent/player issues per club policies
- To the extent practicable, protect a player from playing injured
- At all times, support and uphold all club policies



YOUTH ACADEMY, COMPETITIVE AND ELITE PROGRAM PARENTS

Parents and/or guardians play a special role in fulfilling the needs of, and contributing to the development of children – and not just their own children. Through encouragement and setting good examples, parents and guardians can help assure that all RISE athletes learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. To this end, the role of each RISE parent or guardian is very simple: behave as a parent, not as a coach, referee or television commentator. In addition to supporting your player's in fulfilling their commitment to the club and their teammates.

RISE EXPECTS THE FOLLOWING FROM PARENTS:

- Pay your player's fees on time and in full and be mindful of the club refund policy
- Wait 24 hours following the end of any game or training session before approaching a Coaching Staff member, Team Manager, Club Official or Volunteer to discuss a complaint or concern arising from a game or training session
- Keep your household information with the club up to date including current address, phone numbers and email addresses
- To the extent that your player relies on you for transportation, ensure that they arrive on time for all training sessions and games
- Keep an eye on your player at all training sessions or games
- It is imperative that your player wears the appropriate RISE uniform kit to all training sessions and games so that they are easily identifiable
- Always bring both home and away uniform kits to all games
- Remain clear of the field during training sessions and games unless you are a PDS member or a Team Manager
- Support your son/daughter's play in a positive manner and also that of their teammates
- Do not be a sideline referee
- Do not give your player or any player on the team any instructions as they may conflict with the coaches instructions
- Avoid negative communication – verbal or non-verbal – with RISE players and coaches during training sessions and games
- Avoid negative communication of any kind with referees, opposing parents, players and/or coaches during or after games
- Avoid the use of profanity and abusive language at any RISE events
- Avoid the use of alcohol or tobacco at all RISE activities
- Observe all rules applicable particularly to parents and to spectators in general as promulgated by the gaming league(s) in which your player participates
- Parents are responsible for the behavior of their guests at RISE activities and events
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- At all times, support the club and uphold its policies



YOUTH ACADEMY, COMPETITIVE AND ELITE PROGRAM PLAYERS

Managing and transitioning talented players from within the youth environment and eventually to the high school, collegiate or professional environment requires an extensive amount of parent/player education, player development, managing expectations and establishing strong professional networks. We dedicate extensive resources to prepare RISE players to be difference makers at whatever their next level is. We develop impactful players then move them to the next best level of play that best suits their appetite and ability. Together with each player, a PDS member creates an individual development plan for each player that establishes goals and an action plan by which to accomplish them. By establishing trusting relationships with our players we will be better positioned to guide them in the right direction whenever opportunity knocks.

Players in the RISE Competitive Program are committed to advancing their technical skills and will embrace the high-level of individualized coaching. As your player ages through the program, they will be challenged both physically and mentally with other like-minded players. In the end, we trust that your player will find that through their dedication and commitment, the process was highly rewarding and memorable.

RISE EXPECTS THE FOLLOWING FROM PLAYERS:

- Demonstrate 100% effort, sportsmanship and a positive attitude at all training sessions and games
- Arrive at all training sessions and games at or before the time designated by the club, your PDS member, or your Team Manager
- Notify your coach and team manager in advance of any absences
- Wear your approved RISE training kit to all training sessions
- Wear your approved RISE game kit to all games and always bring your complete home and away uniform kits
- Bring your gear, including cleats and/or flats, shin guards, an appropriately-sized and inflated soccer ball and water to all games and training sessions
- Be match ready: get adequate sleep and nutrition prior to each game
- Show respect at all times for club policy, coaches, teammates, opponents and referees
- Players are responsible for the behavior of their guests at RISE activities and events
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- At all times, support and uphold all club policies



YOUTH ACADEMY, COMPETITIVE AND ELITE PROGRAM MANAGERS

The role of parent volunteer Team Manager is critical to the success of any RISE team and to the overall experience of our players. Team Managers serve in positions of great trust and, therefore, are expected to be ambassadors of RISE to parents and players and to support RISE policies and procedures as set forth in this handbook and on our website. In general, the Team Manager is the hub of communication among parents, players, the team's PDC and RISE. Key information regarding players' participation in club activities is often disseminated to parents through Team Managers. The role of a Team Manager can vary between programs, leagues, and age groups. Team Managers in the RISE Advanced do not have any coaching responsibilities as all of the training sessions and games are staff led. The RISE Player Development Staff reserve the right to elect whether the team they coach will or will not require a Team Manager and to what extent they will be needed if at all.

RISE EXPECTS THE FOLLOWING FROM TEAM MANAGERS:

- Attend all RISE Team Manager meetings
- Attend all RISE team meetings
- No club employee (full or part-time) can be a Team Manager
- Work with the club and/or PDC's to ensure the team's parents are up to date on all matters relating to the upcoming season such as the team's training, game and event schedules
- Assist RISE in welcoming and orienting new parents/players who join the team late
- For all games, have the team's roster, player cards, first aid kit, bench and canopy
- Team Managers are not allowed on the field with teams with they are training
- If the team's PDC permits, there may be no more than one RISE volunteer Team Manager may be present on the team sideline of a RISE team's game
- If applicable, collect appropriate fees for team activities not covered by fees paid directly to the club
- Register teams for RISE approved events as directed by the Club or your PDC
- All RISE Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers are required to pass a background check
- RISE Team Managers or Assistant Team Managers do not have the authorization to change, cancel or add any training sessions or games.
- At all times, support and uphold all club policies



SECTION XIV: PROGRAMMING

RISE provides programming for players of all levels beginning at age 3. The depth and comprehensive programming of the club allows our Player Development Staff the opportunity to work with your player and assist in their individual player development over time.

RISE provides 3 tiers of Advanced programming that is separated into 3 categories by age and/or play level which include the Youth Academy, the Competitive program and the Elite Program. These programs are designed for players who are committed to advancing their technical skills and will embrace the high-level of coaching. As your player ages through the program, they will be challenged both physically and mentally with other like-minded players. In the end, we trust that your player will find that through their dedication and commitment, the process was highly rewarding and memorable.

RISE develops youth soccer players that embody our commitment to provide an unparalleled player environment led by the most talented and qualified coaches who embrace and inspire the talents of all players. Developing players is what we do, it is our passion. RISE dedicates significant resources to ensure that we provide an unparalleled environment for your player that includes: excellent facilities, top-caliber coaches, cutting-edge technology, carefully curated talent management systems and flexible cost structures to assist your player in achieving their development goals.

As players age through RISE Advanced, they will develop at unpredictable rates. Optimal player development occurs when players are evenly matched, in special cases, exceptional talents will be pushed into older age groups to be challenged. As the player development process starts to collide with competitive play, standout players from each respective campus will start to matriculate to the Central Campus to join equally talented players.

YOUTH ACADEMY (AGES U7-U10)

The RISE Youth Academy introduces players with their first experiences in competitive soccer. The RISE Youth Academy allows players, who excelled at the recreational level, to rapidly advance their technical skills along with like-minded players under the watchful eyes of the RISE Player Development Staff. The Youth Academy matches determined players with elite coaches who are passionate about player development. Together this synergy will unleash an inspiring, yet challenging environment where players will learn and progress at a rapid rate.

RISE Youth Academy players must demonstrate a steady commitment to training to ensure proper development through consistent touches on the soccer ball and regular instruction from elite coaches. It is important to understand how our preparation fits into the greater player development pathway and philosophy at RISE. The purpose of training is to improve game performance; therefore, training activities must resemble the game and prepare our players for their games.

As your player ages through the Youth Academy, they will have developed a strong fundamental skill level, an understanding of our style of play, and become immersed in the culture at RISE. The commitment of your player will help the RISE Player Development Staff ensure that players are developing appropriately within their peer groups and to establish an accurate trajectory toward their initial placement within the various levels of play in the Competitive or Elite Program. Youth Academy players can expect to play 50% of the time throughout the course of the season.



SELECT PROGRAM (AGES 11-19)

Select teams require a yearly commitment, however the program is designed for players who are seeking a less rigorous and competitive soccer environment. Select teams train together in pool sessions and must be willing to commit to making the most of their training sessions and games in order to keep the teams viable and in a positive environment. Players on Select teams follow a curriculum aimed at helping players strengthen their fundamental skills and prepare them for the Middle School or High School soccer level of play. In the Select Program, we try to form community based teams in order to minimize weekly training commuting times. If necessary, in order to make teams viable, players from our Central and SW campuses may be combined to form teams and mixed age groups will also be considered. This program offers a lower time and financial commitment than the Premier Program. Select players can expect to play 50% of the time throughout the course of the season.

PREMIER PROGRAM (AGES 11-19)

The Premier Program will appeal to players who are at the top of their game when they exit the Youth Academy phase and want

to continue their rapid upward trajectory. Your player is provided with a higher level of coaching, preparation, and competition than what is offered in the Select Program. Premier players follow an intricately designed curriculum aimed at helping players build their soccer IQ's, technical proficiency, mental and physical conditioning, as they prepare to advance to the elite levels of play. Our Player Development Coaches are adept at keeping players motivated and maintaining healthy interactions with their teammates while maintaining the balance between productivity and enjoyment. In partnership, we will strive to position your player to meet their definition of success.

The Premier Program requires a yearly commitment and offers a higher time and financial commitment than the Select Program. Our Premier teams compete in local, statewide, and regional league offerings that cover the spectrum of pathways in preparing your player for the Elite Program which encompasses the top leagues in the United States.

ELITE PROGRAM (AGES 13-19)

RISE Elite is the highest competitive level of programming we offer. The Elite Program is incredibly rewarding but tremendously demanding. RISE Elites must demonstrate the highest level of commitment to training at all times in order to maintain physical and mental readiness for competitions as roster positions and playing time are 100% earned on merit and never guaranteed.

Within our Elite Program, RISE will work relentlessly to be recognized as a top youth soccer club in the country by developing impact players and outstanding citizens who will flourish in an environment that seeks to provide the highest technical standards in youth development along with an unparalleled environment, and support structure. RISE Elite teams are formed of the strongest players from across the entire player pool. RISE Elite teams follow a highly challenging and intricately designed curriculum aimed at preparing players for top college programs, professional trials or opportunities with national teams.

The Elite program at RISE consists of 3 leagues that sit at the top of the soccer development pyramid for every top club in the United States. The Girls Academy (GA), and for boys, the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) & the Elite Clubs National League Regional League (ECNL-RL) provide top level national competition platforms for elite youth athletes in the country. The purpose of these leagues is to provide an environment that is player-centric, offers a high level of meaningful games, requires clubs to adhere to high standards, and maximize player opportunity and visibility.

Our Player Development Coaches will diligently prepare your player for their next highest level of play, whether that is the collegiate ranks, the professional ranks or simply because soccer fulfills a passion within them.

RISE dedicates significant resources to ensure that we provide your player with an environment that includes: elite national competition platforms, excellent facilities, top-caliber coaches, cutting-edge technology, carefully curated talent management systems and flexible cost structures to assist your player in achieving their development goals. Elite teams require a yearly commitment.



GIRLS ACADEMY (GA)

The Girls Academy (GA) is a member-led league that currently includes over 60 elite level clubs, including 45 former U.S. Soccer Girls' DA clubs across the country. The GA consists of like minded clubs who insist on a standard driven approach that enhances development for our players, coaches, and club.

The GA provides elite female athletes with a true national pathway and competition platform that allows them to have various talent identification opportunities both for league play and at showcase events that maximize visibility by college coaches and youth national team scouts. RISE competes in the Frontier Conference and forms teams in the following age groups: U12 Pre-Academy, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16 U-17, and U-18/19. The U-13 & U18/U19 teams will be funded and the majority of players who make this team will not have to pay club fees.

The GA is made up of six conferences including: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-America, Southeast, Frontier, and Southwest. The GA plans to have cross-conference matches, college showcases and a national championship series during its inaugural season.

The biggest change in the Girls Academy is the flexibility allowing players to participate in high school soccer depending on individual club guidelines. New substitution rules will encourage clubs to better utilize their talent pools, especially when showcasing players for college scouts.

With a focus on maximizing each player's potential, the new development platform will not only provide high-level, year-round competition for players, but will provide important programming, education and innovation in the key areas of player development:

- Player Identification
- Coaching
- Environment
- Personal Growth
- Community Outreach

Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) & Regional League (ECNL-RL)

The Boys Elite Clubs National League (Boys ECNL) was founded to improve the daily environment for boys youth soccer players through a collaborative club-based development program featuring competition, player identification, and coaching and club development platforms. The Boys ECNL will include both regular season conference games and cross-conference events, and qualifying teams from the Boys ECNL will advance to the postseason Elite National Premier League (ENPL) Playoffs.

The Boys ECNL is based on the values of grass-roots collaboration and innovation, and supports the independence and freedom of coaches and clubs to fully manage the development path for their players, including the system and style of play, the competitive calendar, and all aspects of the development path. The Boys ECNL will raise standards in training, competition, club organization, and coaching in a holistic development program.



SECTION XV: TRAINING

TRAINING SESSIONS

Players on RISE teams are expected to demonstrate a consistent dedication to improving their play through regular attendance at training sessions. Only players, RISE PDC's and authorized Team Managers are permitted on the field during training sessions. Parents, siblings, friends and other interested spectators are encouraged to be present but must strictly limit their involvement to observing. Unless a parent is specifically solicited by a RISE Coaching Staff Member to assist them. Players must wear their approved RISE uniform kit to all training sessions.

POOL TRAINING - YOUTH ACADEMY & PREMIER PROGRAMS

RISE uses the pool training concept to ensure players are consistently in a high quality, coaching staff led, training environment. Pool training shifts the focus away from team development and prioritizes individual player development. During pool sessions, RISE players will be grouped together with players who have similar skill levels with the understanding that players develop in different stages. Increased competition, an improved training environment, and accelerated player development are all by-products of the pool training.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF THE POOL TRAINING METHOD

- Deliberate and consistent implementation of age appropriate training activities
- The objective is to develop individual players, not teams
- The specific needs of players can be addressed individually
- By grouping players by birth year and ability, the developmental gaps between players is narrowed and meaningful competition is improved
- Flexibility and fluidity ensure that players are consistently being placed in the right training environment
- Improved club culture and spirit
- Opportunities to build relationships and friendships across an age group
- Allows young players to expand their social boundaries
- Consistent evaluation and feedback provided by numerous members of the coaching staff

TRAINING METHODOLOGY - ELITE PROGRAM

It is important to understand how our preparation fits into the greater player development pathway and philosophy at RISE. The purpose of training is to improve game performance; therefore, training activities must resemble the game and prepare players for their games.

Player Development Coaches use two types of training methodologies to enhance player development, the Play-Practice-Play and the Progressive Methodologies. Training sessions will be used to help your player prepare for games through the introduction of situational soccer.

PLAY-PRACTICE-PLAY METHODOLOGY:

Play-Practice-Play is a philosophy designed around delivering a player centric approach to coaching that puts the needs and motivations of your player at the forefront. PDC's use this methodology to allow players to experience and learn the game, in game-like situations, as much as possible. This approach differs from traditional practices that may have children standing in lines, running laps and participating in activities that don't resemble the game of soccer.

PROGRESSIVE METHODOLOGY

The Progressive Coaching Methodology is a methodology focused on the use of game related activities that gradually increase in complexity. This gradual increase in complexity allows the player to first learn our principles of play for a given phase and zone of the field through an activity that strips the game down to it's basic parts. Each following activity adds a layer of complexity via increased field size, number of players or a specific restriction so that a player is able to develop a complete understanding of the principle and apply the principle in the actual game.

WARM-UP STAGE

The warm-up is always the beginning of your training session. The purpose of a warm-up is to get players physically and mentally prepared for the rest of the session. A warm-up without the use of the ball is a physical warm-up, but a warm-up with the ball is a technical warm-up. As a coach, you decide how you want to combine or separate between the two. Once your players are mentally and physically prepared, we then move to the orientation stage.



ORIENTATION STAGE

The purpose of the Orientation Stage is to introduce the situation that you would like to improve upon. Players will now become familiar with what the problems in the situation are and start to think about how they can solve that problem. All aspects such as the area of the field, the space used, and the number of players used will also be key to this section. Some examples of numbers used for the Orientation Stage include 4v2, 5v3, 4v4, 5v5, 6v6, etc.

LEARNING STAGE

The Learning Stage is done to teach the solution to the situation. Players in this stage and the later stage will experience successful and unsuccessful decision-making, allowing them to learn from their experiences.

This sort of experiential/cause-and-effect learning is the reason why your session should be player centered and not coaching/command-centered. Some examples of numbers used for the Learning Stage are 8v6, 8v7, 9v7, 9v8, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

Here is the application of the solution with no restrictions or constraints. Just play the game! Examples of numbers used include 7v7, 8v8, 9v9, 10v10, 11v11. Getting a 11v11 is difficult, perhaps even impossible for most of us, but the purpose of this stage is to see if your players can use what they have learned and implement it into the game.

TRIAL PLAYERS

A trial player is a player who did not attend the formal Competitive Program tryouts or player evaluation sessions prior to the beginning of the Fall or Spring seasons and is currently not registered with RISE or rostered to a RISE team. Trial players typically register to RISE or contact us about wanting to join a team after competitive team formations have been completed. Assuming there are no gaming leagues and/or player transfer restrictions, the RISE Operations Director and/or Competitive Administrator will request some general information from the trial player and then schedule a set of dates where the trial player will be invited to participate in a specific number of training sessions with an existing RISE team. This policy applies only to players who are new to RISE and who missed the player tryouts or evaluation sessions.

TRAINING PLAYERS

Occasionally RISE is not able to place a player on teams because of rosters limits or there aren't enough players to form a viable team. RISE will promptly notify you about this situation and where developmentally appropriate, can designate your player as a "Training Player". Training Players are assigned to and train with certain competitive teams and are invited to guest play in events, however, they are not officially rostered and may not play in weekly games. If such an opportunity presents itself, the RISE Operations Director and/or Competitive Administrator will provide the terms and conditions of such arrangement to the parent/guardian of the player.



SECTION XVI: ELITE PLAYER IDENTIFICATION & GAMES

PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

RISE Elite level teams are formed through a variety of evaluation methods. We scout players at games, tryouts, and invitational training sessions. Player evaluations for Elite level teams can occur at any time of the year as long as the player is not currently rostered to another team within the same league at another club. All individual elite player evaluation sessions are free of charge. This policy applies only to the following programs:

- Girls Academy (GA)
- Elite Clubs National League (ECNL- Boys)
- Elite Clubs National League Regional League (ECNL- RL Boys)

GAMES

Most of the games RISE teams participate in are governed by gaming leagues. Therefore, RISE does not have much control over game schedules and playing locations. RISE teams may also play in multiple leagues each of which may have a different set of rules. You can refer directly to the gaming leagues website that sanctions the league your player's team is playing in for specifics or you can ask your PDC.

Occasionally, circumstances require that training sessions and/or games be played on non-traditional days or times, including Sundays, weekdays, and doubleheaders. Game and practice schedules may be changed throughout the season due to, but not limited to bye weeks, field conditions, weather related events, and other circumstances that may be out of our control.

All RISE games are run by RISE Player Development Coaches. Non-coaches, including but not limited to: Team Managers and parents, are strictly prohibited from instructing players during games. Generally, during games, and particularly at the youngest ages and non-elite competition levels, (1) registered Volunteer parent Team's Manager is allowed on the team sideline with the RISE PDC's. In part, this is for safety, but it is also to keep the sideline calm and professional. In older groups and at the top levels of play, RISE teams compete in league games and showcases which prohibit anyone other than RISE Coaching Staff members on the sidelines, in such cases, the volunteer parent Team's Manager will be required to sit on the same sideline as parents. Your RISE PDC will communicate the sideline access for Team Managers.

In the event that a RISE PDC is late or not present at a game, the registered Team Manager should be the only adult on the team sideline and he or she should run the game only as instructed by the PDC assigned to the team, or, in the absence of instructions from the PDC, by a RISE Staff member.

A RISE PDC conducts the team's pre-game warm-up. The PDC should notify the Team Manager if he or she will be late to warm-up and if there is no other PDC available. When this happens, the Team Manager should conduct the warm-up, consistent with the PDC's instructions, until a PDC arrives. In older age groups the players should know their team warm-up procedure and will not necessarily require a Team Manager led warm-up.

RISE PDC's often move players between teams, leagues and age groups in order to enhance the player development process. All player movements are initiated and managed by the Player Development Staff.



GAME COVERAGE CONFLICTS

We do our best to ensure that RISE PDC's accompany the teams they are assigned to cover as often as possible for games. The club assigns a primary PDC to each team in the club to lead all team training sessions and games, however, as detailed in our Coaching Philosophy, RISE teams will not always have their primary PDC at all of their activities. Don't worry! PDC's are assigned to multiple teams and often have to travel out of town for games and/or events. There are also weekly situations where local gaming leagues schedule RISE teams to play at the same time and in different locations, which make it extremely challenging for our Coaching Staff to cover over 100 games on a weekend. The PDC on the team's sideline for a game may not be the team's regular PDC. In such cases, the RISE PDC present for the game is still the head coach but may rely on the team's primary PDC and/or the Team Manager for important information regarding the players and the team. Keep in mind that coaches have different personalities and communication skills and will often relate to players differently. The club has an excellent coaching staff that is fully capable of handling these types of situations. Remember, we want as many RISE coaches as possible to get to know our player pool and evaluate our player. While we understand that parents may have concerns about not having their assigned coach at every game, there are many positives to players hearing different voices, motivational tactics, game observations and opinions to enhance their player development process. This aids in the player development process.

PLAYER ASSESSMENTS & SELF EVALUATIONS

RISE players are evaluated by the Coaching Staff throughout the soccer season in both training sessions and games in order to assist your player in identifying their strengths and weaknesses. PDC's will provide written feedback seasonally to parents and/or players in RISE Advanced. The purpose of this feedback is to initially provide goals and objectives to gauge your player's development trajectory and frequently follow up to discuss the progress. We also use self evaluation methods for players to evaluate their own performance both in training and in games. These evaluations help the player and their PDC discuss certain criteria and exchange ideas about how to improve their upward trajectory.

Most importantly, we believe that constructive interaction between the Coaching Staff and the player and/or parent is crucial and requires patience and trust. The player development process occurs over the long-term and RISE is cognizant of the fact that your player's success is our success as well. We are deeply committed to helping your player maximize their potential and goals.

Please be mindful that when players and/or parents meet with their PDC's to discuss their player assessment, individual development plan, or address any type of grievance, These meetings cannot interfere with practices, games or events. Initial communication can be made through email, but conferences need to be made by appointment beforehand. The following protocol will need to be followed:

STAGE	AGE	ATTENDEES
Development	U8-10	Parent(s) only
Team	U11-14	Parent(s) and Player
Recruitment	U15-18	Player only





POLICIES & PROCEDURES

SECTION XVII: CLUB POLICIES

We believe there is a place for every child who wants to play soccer at RISE. We adhere to FIFA's Fair Play Code in addition to our own. Our players are taught to play fair and respect the laws of the game, as well as their opponents, teammates, referees and families. We play to win, but accept defeat with dignity and always promote a positive experience. We expect our board members, coaches, administrators, volunteers, parents and players to be ambassadors for RISE and the game. Competitor clubs, players, parents and referees will judge us by how we behave on the sidelines and on the field. We expect appropriate behavior from our board members, coaches, administrators, volunteers, parents and players, all of whom should maintain a positive and encouraging demeanor. Parents and players from competitor clubs and referees are not the enemy.

Together with the RISE Code of Conduct, our club policies, club philosophies and expectations were created to promote an orderly and efficient operation that enhances the experience for all of our constituency. By adhering to these policies and working together we can create an environment where we can make material differences in the lives of youth athletes.

The Player Development Coaches at RISE continually monitor the progress of players and in an effort to enhance individual player development, coaches may move players between teams, genders, age groups or leagues. Player Development Coaches may also move teams between genders, age groups or leagues.

RISE does not guarantee that a player will remain on any one team during a season or year, further, RISE does not guarantee that any coach assigned to a particular team in a given season or year will be in attendance at every game and/or training session.

SECTION XVIII: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

RISE recognizes that situations may occur between every conceivable relationship in the club. The most satisfactory solution to addressing these concerns is usually reached through a prompt and respectful discussion. RISE recommends that our constituents take a 24-hour "cool down" period before addressing conflicts that occur. Complaints and concerns regarding your experience should be directed according to the following guidelines.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE COACHING STAFF, TEAM MANAGER OR YOUR PLAYER'S TEAM

Initially you should try to resolve any concerns directly with the other party involved. If you are unable to reach a suitable resolution, please document your concern in detail and direct it in writing to the attention of your Program Director.

CONCERNS REGARDING RISE

Concerns regarding RISE's player development philosophies, programming, administrative policies or any other club level concern should be documented in detail and directed to the attention of the Program Director, Advanced Administrator, Operational Director, and the Technical Director.

Upon receiving a written concern and after determining that the procedure to initiate the concern was followed, the Club Directors will research your issue. While RISE provides its constituency the opportunity to communicate their concerns, please understand

that the Club will operate within the confines of its policies and procedures which constituents agree to upon registering to the club.

Not every issue will be escalated to the level that you may feel is necessary, or resolved to your satisfaction, and only certain issues are serious enough in nature for them to be considered Board of Director level items. The severity of the issue and the means and resources by which they intend to resolve the issue will be determined by the Club Directors. Within a reasonable amount of time, your concern will be addressed by a designated Club Director(s), who will provide you with the final club decision regarding your concern. This decision is not debatable or appealable.



SECTION XIX: SOCIAL MEDIA

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

RISE understands the influence that social media has on our society. The club also recognizes that a picture or comment can immediately have a positive or negative impact and widespread effect.

This Social Media policy applies to all RISE constituents and is intended to provide guidance on appropriate conduct when you engage in social media that relates in any way to the RISE’s business, employees, customers, vendors or competitors, and/or which identifies your affiliation with the Club (other than as an incidental mention in personal social media activity unrelated to the Club).

For purposes of this policy, “social media” is defined to include all types of communication on the internet, including without limitation, postings on social networking sites (such as, but not limited to: Instagram®, X®, SnapChat®, Tik Tok®, Facebook®, and Tumblr®), blogs and other on-line journals and diaries, bulletin boards and chat rooms, and any Club-sponsored sites; microblogs (such as Twitter®); and viewing or posting video or audio on media sharing sites, such as YouTube®. Social media also includes permitting, or failing to remove, postings by others where a RISE constituent can control the content of postings, such as on a personal page or blog.

RISE constituents who engage in social media activity should be mindful that their social media activity, even if done off premises and while not engaging in club activities, could affect the Club’s legitimate business interests. In addition, some readers may mistakenly view you as a spokesperson for the Club.

GENERAL POLICY

This policy applies to constituents’ social media activity whether or not the constituent posts anonymously or using a pseudonym. RISE values its established brand reputation and good will relationships. These are important corporate assets. When you engage in social media activity that identifies you as a Club constituent, or in any way relates to the Club, you should bear that in mind and follow the guidelines listed below. In the event that a particular area or issue is not covered specifically by this policy, the Club relies on the professionalism and judgment of its constituents to ensure that social media activity is used appropriately:

- Constituents should minimize their participation in social media during club activities or events
- Constituents should not represent in any social media content that they are authorized to speak on behalf of the Club, or that the Club has reviewed and approved their content
- Constituents should not post content about the Club, management, co-workers or customers that is vulgar, obscene, threatening, intimidating, harassing, or a violation of the Club’s policies against discrimination or harassment on account of age, race, religion, sex, ethnicity, creed, nationality, age, disability, or other protected class, status, or characteristic
- Constituents should not unlawfully disparage the Club’s Board of Directors or the Club’s products or services, or the products or services of the Club’s vendors or competitors
- Constituents should not use any club provided communication tools to comment or give their personal opinions regarding the club, coaching staff, volunteers, team, players or any other stakeholders that are not conducive to a positive experience
- Constituents should not use any club provided communication tools to solicit any goods or services not provided or related to the club
- Constituents should not use the Club’s logo, trademark or proprietary graphics in a way which suggests that they are representing the Club or while engaging in conduct that violates Club policy
- Constituents should not post photographs or video of the non-public areas of the Club’s premises, or of the Club’s processes, operations, or products without the Club’s prior written approval
- Constituents should not communicate, publish, use or disseminate any of the Club’s confidential business information
- Constituents should consider using available internal resources, rather than social media activity, to resolve any types of complaints or issues with the club
- Any constituent may reject, without fear of retaliation, any request from any other club constituent that, if accepted, would permit access to a restricted social media page, such as a friend or connection request
- Constituents or Volunteers who have Club a club issued e-mail account may not use it to register for any social media account or site, or as an identifier needed to participate in any social media activity, when engaging in social media activity for non-business purposes



ENFORCEMENT

The Club will, in its discretion, review social media activities relating to or affecting the Club to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. Please note that this policy applies even if constituent participation is anonymous or conducted under a pseudonym, and the Club will, in appropriate circumstances, take steps to determine the identity of any such person or persons. Constituents who need clarification of any aspect of this policy should contact the Operations Director. Failure to comply with this policy, may lead to discipline up to and including removal from the club, legal action and/or criminal prosecution. The Club also may report suspected unlawful conduct to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**SECTION XX:
FEES, PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS**

FEES

Your player’s commitment plays a crucial role in the growth, continuity and the unparalleled player environment we seek to provide to your player at RISE. Your acceptance or registration to a RISE team confirms your player’s commitment to the team, the Club, and the fees associated with your player’s participation for a full year or season, depending on the program.

Fees vary significantly between and within our RISE Recreational and RISE Advanced program offerings, depending on your player’s age group and/or level of play. In the Recreational Program, teams are formed seasonally and the Advanced Program forms both seasonal and yearly teams. It is recommended that parents/guardians understand the respective program they are registering their player to and, if necessary, inquire regarding potential club and/or team costs prior to registering.

The commitment fee, constituting the initial payment required upon accepting a team invite, is regarded as a fundamental component of our operational structure. It serves to secure team participation and signifies a commitment to the event’s planning and organization. It is imperative to note that this fee is non-refundable under any circumstances. We uphold this policy to ensure the integrity of our event planning process and to honor the commitments made by the players.

PAYMENTS

As a convenience to families, the club offers payment plans for an additional fee and both merit and need based financial aid in the Competitive Program.

Keep in mind that RISE is not a bank, and the club takes significant risk offering payment plans to parents. Therefore, the Club enforces a strict **“No Pay, No Play Policy”**. Players with any unpaid fees or balances from any previous season or the current season will be immediately declared ineligible to participate in any training sessions, games, activities, or events until they are once again current on their fees.

In the event that player fees owed to RISE go uncollected for longer than 15 business days, and a plan between the Club and the parent and/or guardian is not agreed upon to collect these outstanding fees, the Club will secure the services of a collection agency to collect these fees. The debt collection process may have a negative effect on your credit score and will most likely result in collection calls and letters from third party organizations.

RISE will notify parents when their player is not current on their fees so they can resolve this debt immediately. At the moment a player is determined to be ineligible:

- The club will send a notification to the player’s parent/guardian to seek immediate payment.
- The club will inform the PDC to not allow the said player(s) to participate in any training sessions, games, activities, or events until they are cleared Administratively to participate again.

These issues are unfortunate, and the club goes to great lengths to detail the cost of participation so parents can make informed decisions before registering. We ask that parents pay their fees on time so that their player doesn’t miss any time on the field and their team isn’t negatively affected. Keep in mind that when a player is ineligible, that is a situation between the Club and the Parent/Guardian. Any RISE Coaching Staff member that allows a player who is ineligible to participate in club activities of any sort could be terminated. Please do not put them in a situation that could be detrimental to their career, as they are simply doing their job.



REFUND POLICY

If your player cannot keep their commitment to the club, the impact may be widespread and result in financial strains to the club and/or negatively impact other players registered to the same program, age group or team as your player. RISE works year-round to provide soccer programming for players of all ages, abilities and socio-economic means. In preparation for each upcoming soccer season, RISE secures Player Development Coaches and Administrators to lead our programs, pays for field maintenance and repairs, places uniform orders, gives deposits to leagues on behalf of expected teams, scheduled activities and events, etc. based on the number of players we registered. By the time the season begins, a significant portion of the registration and club fees we receive has already been allocated toward current or future expenses. Therefore, refund requests have an immediate effect on Club planning and jeopardize the high level experience and quality of programming we strive to provide.

If at any point after accepting an invitation to join a competitive team, a player voluntarily withdraws or is removed for any reason, the player shall not be entitled to a refund of any fees paid and shall remain obligated to make all future payments still pending for the current seasonal year. Players with unpaid balances of any fees from previous seasons are not eligible to register for future seasons until all prior fees due are paid in full. Furthermore, RISE will not grant any player releases until all pending payments are settled. By accepting an invitation to join a competitive team, the player’s parents or legal guardians, as applicable (herein, the “payee”), is deemed to automatically, expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally agree to all financial obligations relating to such participation to the fullest extent under law. Such payee expressly, irrevocably, and unconditionally acknowledges and agrees that payee’s completion of all such financial obligations are a material inducement to RISE extending such invitation and such invitation would not have been extended but for payee’s full acceptance of such financial obligations. RISE employs a **“No Pay, No Play Policy”**. Players who are not current on their fees will not be allowed to participate in any training sessions, games, or events until they are once again fully current on their fees.

In general, fees are non-refundable, and future financial obligations to RISE shall continue to be due and owing, subject to the following:

SEASON-ENDING INJURY

Any RISE player who incurs a season-ending injury while participating in RISE activity that precludes further participation in RISE activities for the balance of the seasonal year is eligible for a partial refund of fees paid which cover the remainder of the applicable seasonal year, dating from the time the player’s parent or legal guardian provides written notification to the RISE Competitive Administrator and the Director of Operations - supported by documentation from a licensed physician - that a player is no longer able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year due to the injury. Such refundable amount does not include uniform costs, payment processing fees or any portion of fees paid which cover the player’s participation in leagues, tournaments or other events.

RELOCATION

Any player who moves to a location more than 50 miles distant from the RISE field location used by the player’s team is eligible for a refund or waiver of the portion of fees owed (less a \$25 processing fee). Calculations will be based dating from the later date of either when the player ceases participation in RISE activities or the date the player’s parent or legal guardian provides written notice to the RISE Advanced Administrator and Director of Operations that the player is no longer able to participate in RISE activities due to a relocation. Proof of relocation will be required as a condition to any refund.

UNABLE TO PLACE:

RISE will try to place every player on a team. Occasionally, RISE will offer players a position on a combined team or in a different age group to ensure that the player has an opportunity to play. In the event that RISE cannot place the player on a team in the club a full refund will be issued minus a \$100 processing fee.

As an alternative, RISE can designate a player in this situation as a “Training Player”. Training Players are assigned to and train with certain competitive teams and are invited to guest play in events, but are not officially on any roster and may not play in weekly games. If such an opportunity presents itself, the RISE Operations Director and Competitive Administrator will provide the terms and conditions of such arrangement to the parent/legal guardian of a player.



CAMPS & AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Program fees and all associated costs and expenses for any RISE camps and/or auxiliary are non-refundable.

FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENTS

In the event any payee, fails to make any payments when due and owing or otherwise files a dispute with their credit card company for the purpose of retracting an otherwise due and owing payment (the "Breaching Party"), RISE shall be entitled to declare the full amount to be paid immediately due and owing, which shall include both the overdue amount plus all sums which would have been paid on a periodic basis pursuant to any program terms. All such sums shall bear interest at the highest per annum rate allowed by law (measured on a per diem basis) from the date of breach until paid. In such an event, RISE shall be entitled to exercise any and all rights and remedies available at law or in equity against the Breaching Party. In addition to all sums set forth herein, the Breaching Party shall also be responsible for all damages, costs and other liabilities and obligations resulting from or due to the consequences of the participant's withdrawal during any season or during any other scheduled event (i.e. costs and expenses of other participants whose experience is affected or cannot play because the team no longer has a suitable number of players, costs and expenses of coaches and affiliates, costs and expenses incurred by RISE, etc.). In the event this matter is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, or if collected through the Bankruptcy or Probate Court or by any other legal proceedings, the Breaching Party agrees to pay all expenses incurred by RISE, including, without limitation, all reasonable attorney's fees. No delay or failure on the part of RISE in exercising any right, remedy, privilege or option hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof or a waiver of any default, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any such right, remedy, privilege or option preclude any further exercise thereof, or the exercise of any other right, remedy, privilege or option, all of which are cumulative.



SECTION XXI: UNIFORM KITS

As our branding guidelines exist to help achieve a consistent look for RISE, so that our constituency can perceive us as a strong, compassionate, and reliable organization. In order to preserve the integrity of our brand, all teams, whether recreational or competitive, shall follow the uniform policy for practices, games, activities, and events ensuring that all teams are readily identified as representing RISE Soccer Club. RISE requires that you purchase the entire club approved uniform kit specific to the program your player is joining during the current uniform cycle. RISE requires players to be in club approved gear at all training sessions and games. Failure to comply may result in a suspension and/or release.

NIKE & SOCCER.COM

Nike is the exclusive uniform provider for RISE; [soccer.com](https://www.soccer.com) is the exclusive distributor for RISE uniforms. Players are encouraged to use Nike products, such as: cleats, shin guards, balls, headbands, goalkeeper jerseys and gloves to match their Nike uniform kits. All RISE players are expected to wear the RISE approved training kits without any variation to all training sessions and the RISE approved game kits to games. Any RISE branded items that are not Nike should not be worn to any club sanctioned events.

RISE members enjoy a 10% discount during each soccer year, after the initial uniform purchase, on all [soccer.com](https://www.soccer.com) products and receive a free Goal Club Membership. All RISE branded items at soccer.com automatically include the Club discount. Parents will order their player's uniform directly from [soccer.com](https://www.soccer.com) and they will ship your kit to you.

UNIFORM CYCLE AND ORDERING

RISE switches to a new uniform every two years for both the Recreational and Competitive Programs, which run concurrently with the product life cycle offered by our sponsor Nike. The Fall 2023 season marked the start of our current 2-year uniform cycle. All players are required to purchase a new uniform prior to the Fall 2023 season which may be used through the Spring 2025 season, which is the end of the two-year uniform cycle. Players who join RISE in the middle of the current uniform cycle will be required to purchase the full uniform kit and can use that uniform kit until the current cycle ends.

CURRENT UNIFORM CYCLE

Year 1: (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 season)

Year 2: (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 seasons)

NEXT UNIFORM CYCLE

Year 1: (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 seasons)

Year 2: (Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 seasons)

UNIFORM USE

In RISE Advanced, the dark colored kit is generally considered our home uniform and the light colored kit is considered our away uniform. Gaming leagues and tournaments may have different rules to determine when dark or light colored uniforms will be designated home or away. RISE will communicate to its constituency what tops they should wear to training. It is mandatory that kids wear their approved RISE uniforms to all training sessions as well as games so they are easily identifiable. We do this primarily for the safety of the children. Any player not in the club required RISE uniform kit will be held out or asked to leave any training sessions or games. While you may not care how your player looks, we care deeply about how our club and brand is being represented.

In most, if not all gaming leagues and tournaments, including our in-house leagues, jersey color conflicts can occur. For this reason it is imperative all players should bring both full uniform kit sets to every game in order to avoid having to sit out because of a color conflict. Failure to resolve a color conflict could result in a forfeiture being awarded against the Home team. During cold weather practices players should wear their RISE warm-up top (if issued) with the required training kit underneath. For games, warm-ups are worn during the warm-up session and are not allowed to be worn during the game unless a player is subbed out. Players may wear long sleeved undergarments beneath the game jersey but only so long as the color of the undergarment is a Nike product whose color matches the primary sleeve color of the jersey beneath which the undergarment is worn. The same policy applies to shorts.

JERSERY NUMBERING

The Club assigns all jersey numbers to all players in RISE Advanced, no exceptions. If a player changes teams and a uniform number conflict exists, the club does not cover the expense of any new uniform items the player may need. The player changing teams is responsible for purchasing new jerseys from Soccer.com if a number conflict exists with the team they are joining. In the rare occurrence that the number conflict ensues, the player who has played with the club for the most consecutive seasons will keep their number and the player with the shorter club legacy will be required to buy new jerseys.

UNIFORM MODIFICATIONS - NOT PERMITTED

RISE’s practice uniforms, game uniforms, backpacks and warm-ups may **NOT** be modified in any way (for example, applying names, changing numbers, or adding patches, etc. Certain gaming leagues for Elite teams may require them to put patches on their jerseys as a condition of participation, these situations are an exception to this policy.

Any player or team that violates the uniform policy may be removed from the club or will be required to replace the modified uniform piece(s) at his/her sole expense and will be declared ineligible to participate in further RISE activities until the compromised items are replaced.

While we don’t want our families to take on additional expenses, we also have a professional standard and culture at RISE that we want to uphold.



SECTION XXII: FACILITIES

The facilities where we hold training sessions and games are essentially our home, and we do our best to keep our fields and equipment in pristine condition. There are facilities that RISE owns, manages, has priority use of and/or rents. Each of these parks and/or facilities has a unique set of rules and regulations associated with it.

RISE facilities where noted with signage, are private property and for the private use of RISE and its partner organizations. On facilities that RISE maintains or has a priority use agreement in place, our policies may vary. Use of RISE fields without prior written consent from the Technical Director is strictly prohibited. Requests for field use – including but not limited to use for scrimmages and private training sessions – must be made in advance to the Technical Director or his/her designee. Players are only allowed to be on fields during their designated training and game times and there must always be a RISE Coaching Staff member present.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT RISE FACILITIES:

- Activities where a RISE Coaching Staff member is not present
- Pets of any sort
- Smoking, alcoholic beverages or illegal substances
- Destroying or defacing soccer facilities or equipment such as goals, nets, corner flags, bleachers, grass, walkways, etc

PLEASE OBSERVE THESE GUIDELINES WHEN PARKING AT RISE FACILITIES:

- Allow pedestrians the right of way
- Maintain less than 10 MPH speed
- Please park your car in an orderly manner so as to maximize use of parking space and to maintain driving lanes
- Parking at our facilities is at your own risk
- RISE will not be liable for any damages or theft of vehicles on our properties
- Enter and exit facilities only through appropriately designated gates
- No parking on any grass areas
- Children should avoid walking through the parking lots as much as possible

SECTION XXIII: INCLEMENT WEATHER

RISE prioritizes the safety of its constituents. When we are faced with challenging weather every effort is made to hold training sessions and games as scheduled. In order to avoid premature field closures and unnecessary cancellation, we always try to make the weather prove itself before finalizing any field closure decisions. At each facility we operate we deal with varying degrees of control over the field closure procedure. It ranges from no control on fields that we rent, to full control on fields that we own. It is common for 1 facility to be closed and another to be open on the same day. In the event of inclement weather the following procedures will be followed:

- A decision whether to close the fields is made by 3pm daily. However, because, weather at 3pm may not be the same as at 5pm or 8pm, sometimes a later notification becomes necessary
- If a training session or game is stopped due to lightning, all players and parents must go to their cars immediately and wait for further notification from RISE or the RISE Coaching Staff before returning to the fields
- As soon as any decisions on field closures or re-openings are made, parents will receive a notification from RISE using a service of its choosing
- League game cancellations are determined by the policies of the respective gaming leagues and by the policies of the clubs on whose fields the games are played. For further information on league game cancellations, please visit the appropriate league website if applicable





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an NRG company

PARENTS

SECTION XXIV: VOLUNTEERING REQUIREMENT

To offset the cost of hiring part-time help, other organizations increase their fees or charge opt-out fees to ensure they have enough personnel in place to run organized programs and events. At RISE, we try to avoid fee increases by expanding our volunteer base. Volunteering for RISE is a simple and fun way to impact the children in your community and improve your soccer knowledge. You don't have to be a soccer expert to volunteer. Many of our volunteers just love soccer and want to help keep the club lively and exciting. Volunteer roles range from being a Team Manager, to helping with a tournament, to selling fan gear, or serving on the Board of Directors. Every RISE team is responsible for having a parent volunteer available to assist the club at RISE's request. Club-level functions in which volunteers will be needed include, but are not limited to: helping with fan gear sales, player evaluation set up, tournaments or other club events. A RISE administrator will contact your Team Manager after your initial team meeting to organize your support.

SECTION XXV: FAN GEAR

RISE volunteers will organize fan gear sales several times throughout the year at numerous locations. There is no better way to show support for RISE at games, tournaments, or school events than by wearing your RISE gear. The club is permitted 2 tax-free sales annually.

SECTION XXVI: DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS & FUNDRAISERS

RISE is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and as such is a qualified organization for tax deductible contributions. Our success in developing young soccer players and serving the Houston community depends on the generosity of our sponsors, which include corporations, foundations and individuals. In accordance with federal law, generally you can deduct your contributions of money or property that you make to, or for the use of, a qualified organization. Contributions for which a tax deduction will be sought should be made to RISE, and not to a specific team or individual. Under current Federal recordkeeping rules, a donor claiming a deduction of over \$250 is required to obtain and keep a written acknowledgment for the Club, which is available upon request. Please consult with your accountant to confirm your specific circumstances and eligibility.

DONATIONS

Large donations have helped us provide youth soccer players with some of the finest facilities in the country. Having green space for athletes to get outside in the heart of Houston is priceless. Because of generous past donations, your player and family reap the benefits today. You and your children will spend a considerable amount of time at our facilities over the years. Please consider making tax-deductible donations to the Club and paying it forward. Your donations can help us add all-purpose fields, install lighting, expand campuses, build additional futsal courts, restrooms and storage facilities. These types of improvement have a lasting impact on the player environment and future of RISE.



SPONSORSHIPS

Each partnership with RISE is unique, and we will work closely with you to craft a high-impact initiative that meets your goals. Your tax-exempt donations help youth athletes realize their dreams. With your financial support, our community's children can rise to new heights, both on and off the field. Due to our unique demographics, RISE counts Reliant Energy, Nike and Soccer.com as its major partners.

RISE is able to provide players an unrivaled experience with minimal geographic challenges to a large majority of Houstonians, while still maintaining the community element. Due to our central location, platform, and infrastructure RISE currently draw players from over 150 zip codes in the Houston area. Our facilities, coaching staff, and administrative resources uniquely position RISE to provide opportunities for our players, 1.1 million people of which, live within 6 miles of our Central facilities. RISE offers soccer programming for boys and girls ages 4-19 of all levels of play in the heart of Houston.

GRAND SPONSORS - \$50,000+ (MULTI-YEAR)

We like to be flexible and creative with partnerships at this commitment level to make sure your sponsorship is strategic and reaches every level of our constituency and the communities in which we operate. Multi year commitment required. Let's talk about it!

EVENT TITLE SPONSOR - \$10,000 (2 YEARS)

RISE hosts multiple highly visible tournaments and events annually. Each RISE event attracts around 200 teams any given weekend. Our events take place at each of our three major campus areas – South-central Houston and Sugar Land/ Missouri City – all among the highest-quality demographics in the U.S. and all in lively, thriving areas of the Greater Houston area. The youth athletes participating in these events are between the average age range of 7 to 15. With this sponsorship tier, your brand can have the exclusive naming rights to the Volt Classic, Texas Warm Up Cup or Woodsoc. In addition to:

- Sponsor logo on the RISE website which links to your business
- Sponsor logo on the event marketing for the event you name
- Sponsor logo and/or name on the event marketing for all RISE events
- Sponsors will be able to set up a tent or exhibition in a prime location at every RISE event
- Sponsor logo on 4 event specific communications
- Direct promotion on 4 club-wide communications per year
- Sponsor names will be incorporated on any trophies or awards (if applicable)
- Sponsor name or logo representation at an award ceremony
- The RISE Coaching Staff will host 1 adult or youth soccer camp for your company at our facilities (36 adults/children maximum and other conditions may apply)



NAME A FIELD - \$5,000+ (PER YEAR)

Name a field! We host multiple highly visible tournaments and events annually, along with weekly league games, all of which bring thousands of players, parents, coaches and volunteers from all over the state to our facilities on a weekly basis. Sponsorship levels and brand promotion opportunities include naming opportunities for signage on our marquee fields. Field naming rights at \$5,000 per year. Our field signs are beautiful, high-quality, 9-foot structures with great visibility. In addition to:

- Sponsor logo on the RISE website which links to your business
- Direct promotion on 2 club-wide communications per year
- Sponsors will be able to set up a tent or exhibition in a prime location at every RISE event
- Sponsor logo and/or name on the event marketing for all RISE events

GAMEDAY SPONSOR - \$2,500 (PER YEAR)

Are you in the hospitality business? Do you want a lot of new customers? RISE teams compete in leagues that consist of teams from around the country. These leagues require teams to travel significantly because they play home and away games and frequently require overnight stays. For roughly 24 games a year we host teams who travel with groups of 100 persons. It is customary for host clubs to provide visiting clubs with a Gameday document that helps them become familiar with the area they will be visiting. This document would typically have a weather outlook, directions to our facility and points of interest around Houston. That's where you come in. We will recommend your business to all of our out of town visitors who are natural consumers. They have to stay, eat and be entertained while they are in town. In addition to:

- Sponsor logo on the RISE website which links to your business
- Direct promotion on 2 club-wide communications per year
- Sponsors will be able to set up a tent or exhibition in a prime location at 2 RISE events
- Sponsor logo and/or name on the event marketing for all RISE events
- Featured placement in our "Gameday" Document

Eligible Programs:

- Girls Academy League (GA)
- Boys Elite Clubs National League (ECNL)

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT SPONSOR - \$1,000 (PER YEAR)

RISE positions your brand to reach thousands of families in the heart of the Houston market with additional exposure in other desirable communities. The RISE constituency is engaged year-round so your brand impressions are countless. Besides getting your brand on our most viewed digital assets, your donation will help improve the player environment for the kids. Player Development Sponsors will have their brand name on their choice of Recreational Program age bracket/gender or a Youth Academy age bracket/gender. In addition to:

- Sponsor logo on the RISE website which links to your business
- General promotion on 1 club-wide communication per year
- Sponsor logo and/or name on the event marketing for 1 RISE event

PASS IT FORWARD - \$400 UP TO \$1,000

For a lot of families playing at a top tier soccer club, with beautiful facilities, a positive environment and excellent coaches is a major sacrifice. With a minimum donation of \$400, you can help a player with their uniform fees or player fees. Just think about the facilities your player is playing on today. People before us made sacrifices to make it better for our kids. Being part of RISE can make an important impact on the life of a young athlete. Players learn discipline, structure, how to compete among many other things, but most importantly they make great friends in the Club. Please consider making a donation and help lower the economic barrier to play at RISE.

FUNDRAISERS

It is considered fundraising when a RISE team seeks financial support from inside or outside of the Club for their team's benefit. Any sort of fundraising that requires use of the RISE name or its logo is strictly prohibited without written approval from the Club Administrator.



SECTION XXVII: FINANCIAL AID

RISE and Reliant Energy teamed up to create the Reliant Energy Power Program ("Power Program"), a financial aid program designed to reduce the economic barriers of playing youth soccer. Through the Power Program RISE and Reliant Energy assist qualified players to cover all or a portion of RISE's required fees. Awards of financial assistance under the Power Program are referred to as "Reliant Energy Power Awards" or "Power Awards."

RISE has merit based awards as well as need based awards for players in RISE Advanced. The requests we receive for Financial Aid exceed the amount we have of available funds to allocate. The primary source of Financial Aid funding is from corporate sponsorships, private donations and event revenues. Club fees paid by our constituents are not intended for Financial Aid. Power Awards are granted prior to the Fall Season and last 1 year (Fall and Spring seasons).

POWER AWARDS (FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES)

Before player evaluations, financial aid applicants will be given an indicative range of aid they may qualify for and the corresponding fee balance they will be responsible for. Players of families who accept the range of aid and the corresponding fee balance will be invited to participate in player evaluations and may be eligible for team placements.

Power Awards are granted to cover only club fees for need and merit based athletes subject to available funds. Other considerations include your players age group and team and/or club needs. Financial Aid does not cover any travel, event, tournament or uniform fees unless the club program you are registered to specifically states otherwise. We will not consider any applications for players who are not current on their fees or do not show the necessary commitment to their respective teams.

Need based and/or merit based awards are for a predetermined time period of either a season or year. Power Award applicants should be aware of the pricing structure at RISE and not register if they are not prepared to pay the full fee amount. Applicants should not assume that they will receive merit or need based aid. Power Award recipients should not assume they will receive future awards. Power Awards can be cancelled or voided at any time.

POWER AWARD GRANT RANGES

Reflected in a percentage (%) of Club fee reductions: 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100%

POWER AWARD RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

- Power Award recipients must complete the registration and application each year and provide needs based documentation as requested
- Power Award recipients must be prepared to meet the additional team financial commitments not covered by their Power Award
- Families of Power Award recipients commit to a minimum of 6 hours per season of volunteer service to the Club, if this obligation is not met, RISE reserves the right to void the Power Award.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Any family is eligible to apply for financial aid if an economic barrier would prevent the player from playing soccer otherwise. No player will be disqualified from consideration because of sex, race, color, creed or religious beliefs. Power Awards will be granted on a yearly basis and must be applied for each year by the Power Program deadline along with the submission of the required documents to ensure consideration. Power Award details are available via the player registration platform where player applications are submitted.

1. Players must complete and submit:

- Power Award application
- A copy of the first two pages of the family's most recent federal tax return, along with:

2. Documentation validating current enrollment for one of the following public assistance programs:

- Texas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Medicaid and CHIP (Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

To determine eligibility, generally, we consider these annual household income limits on a pre-tax basis:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE *	MAXIMUM INCOME LEVEL (PER YEAR)
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
5	\$45,255
6	\$51,885
7	\$58,515
8	\$65,145

* For households with more than eight people, add \$6,630 per additional person. Always check with the appropriate managing agency to ensure the most accurate guidelines.

benefits.gov/benefit/1579



SECTION XXVIII: LOST AND FOUND

RISE does not maintain a lost and found and is not responsible for players' property left unattended at RISE fields. Because players have similar equipment and kits, items such as soccer balls, backpacks, warm-ups, etc., should be clearly identified in a manner that is also consistent with the uniform policy.

SECTION XXIX: PLAYER SAFETY

RISE makes every reasonable effort to provide a safe environment for all of its players. However, parents should not leave players unattended at any facility. Please make sure that your player's Coach or Team Manager is present before dropping off your child at any training training session or game.

Get to know other RISE Player Development staff members, parents and players in the club and, in particular, those on your player's team and on the teams which practice on adjacent fields. Players should practice the "Buddy System" when using restrooms at games and training sessions. Parents and parent appointed chaperone's are responsible for their respective players when traveling. Be aware of your surroundings.

U.S. Soccer has developed the Safe Soccer Framework as a foundation from which all participants in the soccer community, be they athletes, coaches, referees, administrators or volunteers, play an active role in creating an environment free from emotional, physical or sexual abuse. The Safe Soccer Framework is a comprehensive program of policies and process, screening, education and training, reporting, monitoring and enforcement designed to help participants detect and report abuse, respond to it, and prevent future occurrences.

SECTION XXX: PLAYER SECONDARY INSURANCE COVERAGE

Limited secondary insurance coverage is automatically provided to registered RISE players through STYSA and US Club Soccer. Such coverage applies only to certain sanctioned events including regularly scheduled training sessions and games and requires the player to have completed and submitted the appropriate Medical Release Form. This coverage supplements the player's private health insurance policy. For players without private health insurance, this policy may serve as limited primary insurance. Details on the foregoing secondary insurance coverage may be found on the following websites:

STYSA: stxsoccer.org

US Club Soccer: usclubsoccer.org

SECTION XXXI: PLAYER HEALTH

Waiver and release of liability, express assumption of risk and hold harmless agreement.

In consideration of being permitted to attend and participate or allowing my minor child or attend and participate in RISE Soccer Club practices, games and other events related to being a member of a RISE Soccer Club team (collectively, the "Activities"), I hereby agree as follows:

The "Released Parties" means RISE Soccer Club, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation and its officers, directors, employees, contractors, coaches, agents, representatives, successors and assigns.

1. I expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally acknowledge that participation in the Activities involves potential risks relating, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part to possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus (the "Virus") that could result in illness, emotional injury or death to myself, my spouse, my children or third parties attending or present at any Activities. I understand and acknowledge that the inherent risks of undertaking any Activities due to the Virus and resulting
2. Epidemic simply cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activities. Accordingly, I hereby expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally acknowledge and agree on behalf of myself and the releasing parties that I am voluntarily participating in the activities and further expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally acknowledge and agree that all of the activities are undertaken at my own risk, and that I assume all of the risks existing in undertaking the activities as relating to the virus or otherwise. To this end, I assume all risk of illness, emotional injury or death to myself, my spouse, my children or third parties in attendance with me at any activities that might result relating to the virus or otherwise. I elect to participate in the activities notwithstanding the inherent risks associated with the activities.
3. On my behalf and on behalf of the releasing parties, I hereby voluntarily, fully, expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally waive, release, and forever discharge the released parties from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, or liabilities, known or unknown, for any injuries, including, without limitation, illness or death, or any kind of damages incurred by me, my spouse, my children or any third party in attendance with me, my spouse of my children which in any way arise out



of or are connected with participation in the activities, or any acts or omissions of the released parties, including, without limitation, the negligence or fault of the released parties whether relating to the virus or otherwise. On my behalf and on behalf of the releasing parties, I hereby voluntarily, fully, expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally waive, release, and forever discharge, the released parties from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, or liabilities, known or unknown, for any injuries, including, without limitation, illness or death, or any kind of damages, which in any way arise out of or are connected with my minor child[ren]'s participation in any activities, or any acts or omissions of the released parties, including the negligence or fault of the released parties whether relating to the virus or otherwise.

4. I further expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally acknowledge and agree that I will fully, expressly, irrevocably and unconditionally defend, indemnify and hold harmless the released parties from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, causes of action, suits and liabilities of every kind, including all expenses of litigation, including, without limitation, attorney fees and costs, arising out of any kind of injury to me, my spouse, my children or any third party attending or present at the activities, including, without limitation, illness or death or any other damages which in any way arise out of or are connected with our participation in any of the activities including all injuries, illness or death caused by the acts or omissions of the released parties whether relating to the virus or otherwise. Such indemnity shall apply whether the claims, damages, losses, causes of action, suits, or liability arise in whole or in part from the negligence or fault of the released parties. It is the express intention of the parties hereto, both myself and the released parties, that the indemnity provided for in this paragraph is an indemnity by me to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the released parties for their own negligence, whether that negligence is the sole or concurring cause of the injury, illness, or death.

5. I agree that if the attendee or participant is a minor child, this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement is made on behalf of that minor child and that all of the releases, waivers and promises herein are binding on that minor child. I represent that I have full authority as a Parent or Legal Guardian to bind the minor child to this agreement.

6. I certify that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury or illness (or death) that I, my spouse or my child[ren] may suffer due to their participating in any of the Activities or alternatively, I agree to bear the costs of such injury or illness (or death) myself, whether relating to the Virus or otherwise. I further certify that I agree to assume the risk of any medical or physical condition that I, my spouse or my child[ren] may have, whether relating to the Virus or otherwise.
7. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. I agree that this agreement constitutes the entire agreement constitutes the sole and only agreement of the parties hereto relating to the subject matter hereof and correctly sets forth the rights, duties, indemnities and obligations of the parties as of its date and I agree that any prior agreements, promises, negotiations, or representations not expressly set forth in this agreement are of no force or effect.
8. I agree that this agreement applies to myself, my spouse, my children, my parents, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and estate (collectively the "Releasing Parties").

I acknowledge that I have carefully read this waiver and release of liability, express assumption of risk, indemnity and hold harmless agreement and fully understand that it is a release of all liability and an agreement to indemnify. In addition, I do hereby waive any right that I may have, by or on behalf of myself, my spouse or any child (minor or otherwise), to bring any legal action or assert any claim for injury or loss of any kind against the released parties for their negligence or arising out of or relating to participation by me, my spouse or child in any of the activities or any other matter related thereto, or on account of any injuries, illness, or death or any other damages, whether relating to the virus or otherwise.

