



**N E X T 11**  
**— A C A D E M Y —**

# **Next 11 Academy Handbook**

To: Players, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Staff, and Team Managers,

At Next 11 Academy, we take great pride in our reputation on and off of the field.

We know each of you understands and embraces our mission to help our athletes reach their full potential in sport and life. Your commitment to our philosophy and core values is revealed in countless ways as you serve our athletes and it is because of your work that we have become a leader in our field.

We are providing you with a handbook that summarizes your roles and responsibilities with Next 11 Academy; that conveys the high standards expected; and that gives you the practical information you need as a community member.

It is not possible to provide you with a handbook that answers all your questions or that fully addresses all the policies, issues, and procedures that may be of concern or impact to you. Instead, this handbook is intended as a general guide to your role with our club and includes most of the key aspects of our expectations and responsibilities.

As always, our leadership welcomes your questions and your responses to this handbook. We wish you much success with Next 11 Academy!

Sincerely,

Tamba Samba  
Executive Director

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## **1. Club Overview**

### **1.1 Mission**

Our mission is to help our student-athletes reach their full potential in sports and life. With a methodology that addresses tactical, technical, physical, and mental aspects of the game. We strive to develop student-athletes who are skilled, confident, and prepared to meet challenges on and off the field.

### **1.2 Core Values**

#### **Commitment**

We believe that every player needs to learn how to make and honor a commitment. We will teach our players that a commitment is a promise that they will be there for their teammates and that their teammates will be there for them. We will challenge our players to expect the best from each other, hold each other accountable, and not look the other way when we see a teammate not giving his best.

#### **Humility**

We believe that no individual is more important than the team. We will teach our players the value of being selfless and putting the team first. Our goal is to help our players understand that they are not it but a part of it. **Effort and Attitude**

We believe that every player should always strive to do their best with the skills that they have. We will teach our players that no matter the situation the two things they can always control are their attitudes and their effort. We will instill in our players a growth mindset that is focused on long-term development and not on short-term results.

#### **Ambition and Passion**

We will display the internal drive, resilience, effort, discipline, and grit necessary to achieve our goals. We will push each other and compete at the highest level possible in everything we do. We will always practice and play with enthusiasm, energy, and intention.

#### **Respect**

We will teach our players the importance of being accepting, considerate, attentive,

encouraging and appreciative when interacting with others.

### Teamwork

We will develop and maintain trusting and loyal relationships with each other. We will always support each other in a positive and constructive manner and work together to achieve our team goals.

## **1.3 Our Philosophy**

We believe that soccer should be fun, and challenging, and provide our student-athletes with opportunities to learn valuable lessons on and off the field. We place an emphasis on the long-term development of our student-athletes and not on the short-term goals of winning a game, tournament, or league.

## **1.4 4-Pillar Approach**

Our 4-Pillar Approach to student-athlete development is at the core of our organization's programming. We believe that soccer is the ultimate tool to build self-esteem, develop character, and enhance teamwork. We work to inspire our student-athletes to strive for excellence on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. Below is an overview of our 4-Pillar Approach and how we implement it within our organization's programming.

### Athletic Excellence

- Knowledgeable, experienced and licensed coaching staff.
- A curriculum based on the tactical, technical, physical and mental aspects of the game.
- Off-season strength and conditioning programming (Academy)
- College soccer recruiting guidance and exposure (Academy).

### Academic Excellence

- Student-first policy.
- Academic Skills Nights
- Semester/quarter/term grade monitoring for U12 and up.

### Character Development

- Team building activities and outings.
- Character Conversations Seminars.

### Community Service

- We will conduct several club-wide community service events throughout the season.

## Next 11 Academy Administrative Staff

### **1.5 Administrative Staff**

Board of Directors	Next 11 Academy
Executive Director Of Coaching/Chairmain: Tamba Samba	
Secretary Registrar: Sia Samba	
Communication Director: Jennifer Stewart	
Director of Operations: Chris Saffel	
Director: McKinley Jones	
Director: Chris Estridge	
Director Lauren Holiday	

Marketing Coordinator Stephanie Ayala

### **1.6 Affiliations**

Next 11 Academy is a club affiliated with US Club Soccer, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and developing soccer clubs in the United States. As part of US Club Soccer, Next 11 Academy provides player cards for its members.

US Club Soccer believes that clubs are crucial for player development and strives to assist clubs in growing nationwide. They emphasize that clubs and their leaders should have a major role in shaping the structure and organization of soccer. US Club Soccer also offers leadership and collaboration opportunities for clubs and technical leaders to enhance the game and player development.

US Club Soccer's Board of Directors consists of experienced coaches from member clubs who make important policy decisions. Through US Club Soccer, clubs can unite their recreational, youth competitive, and adult programs under one umbrella, fostering a strong club culture. The programming offered by US Club Soccer is designed in consultation with clubs across the country, with a focus on efficiency and innovation.

## **2. Guidelines and Expectations**

### **2.1 Coach Guidelines, Expectations**

Coaches play a very key role in a player's soccer experience. They are responsible for creating a fun and challenging soccer environment for all of their players. All of our coaches have been through a

background check. Their main objective is to make sure they are providing their players with opportunities to learn valuable lessons on and off the soccer field. To ensure that our coaches are providing our players with a beneficial and enjoyable soccer experience we have created the following guidelines and expectations: Respect for time

Coaches will be on-time and prepared for all training sessions and games. They will have a lesson/plan for every training session/game and arrive early to the fields to prepare their training session/ pre-game warm-up. Respect for safety and health

Coaches will make sure all decisions in regard to training and games are made with the player's safety and health as the primary concern.

The process is more important than results

Coaches will place emphasis on the long-term goals of player growth and development over the short-term goals of winning games, tournaments, or leagues.

A good coach is a good teacher

Coach's primary purpose is to help players learn, reach their full potential, and have fun. They will explain the purpose of every session, demonstrate skills and activities, positively encourage players for their effort and attitude, and correct players' mistakes and improper behaviors.

Team First

The coach will create a team-first culture. Coaches will always make decisions based on what they view is in the best interest of the team. They will ensure all the players understand that soccer is a team sport and all players must work together in order to achieve their goals.

Clear communication of policies, expectations, and guidelines

Coaches will begin each season with a player and parent meeting where they will outline the policies, expectations, and guidelines for the upcoming season. Coaches will also have touch points throughout the course of the season where they update players and parents on the progress of the team.

Personal Development. Coaches are life-long learners

They will continually seek educational opportunities to grow, learn, and become better coaches.

Respect for the game

Coaches will exhibit good sportsmanship and refrain from foul language and verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, opponents or spectators.

## **2.2 Parent Guidelines, and Expectations**

Parents are an extremely important part of the success of the team. They are a critical ally to the players, coaching staff and administration. To ensure a healthy and productive parent/player/coach

relationship we have outlined the following guidelines and expectations.

### Respect for time

Our coaches will be prepared and on time for all practices and games. To help us deliver an enjoyable and productive experience please make every effort to be on time. If you will not be at practice or will be late, please let the coach know so they may adjust accordingly.

### Respect the Player/Coach Relationship

We strongly suggest any and all complaints remain between the player and the coach. This helps our players learn to advocate for themselves, which is a trait that will help them later in life. We understand that differences in ages can result in differences in communication skills and will adjust accordingly.

### Be Positive

Cheer and support the efforts of all participants. Stay positive, both in your comments and body language.

### Support ALL players

Parents should want everyone on the team to succeed, not just his or her child. You don't have one child on the team; you have a team full of children.

### Put the TEAM first

There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit. Everyone cannot play all the time but everyone is critical to the success of the team. Put the team first and encourage your child to do the same.

### Let the Coaches Coach

It can confuse players to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions. Also your instructions may counter the coach's strategy and tactics, undermining team performance. Leave the game on the field. Directly following a game emotions are high. Do not use this time to confront your child about a play, criticize them for having a poor game or chastise their teammates, their coach, and their opponents.

### Respect the Game:

Exhibit good sportsmanship and refrain from foul language and verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, opponents or spectators. This means we do not expect ANY confrontations/altercations/verbal attacks over parking spaces, bad ref calls, opposing player behavior, opposing parent behavior or any other type of perceived negative behavior. If there is an issue, we expect our community members to report it to the Coach/Next 11 Academy leadership and not engage in the situation.

## **2.3 Team Manager Guidelines, Expectations**

The team manager plays a critical role in supporting the coach and team. Their primary responsibility is to assist the coach and club registrar with the administrative tasks for the team. Additionally, the team managers serve as an important link between the coach and the parents, supporting clear communication and creating a healthy and enjoyable environment for all participants. A toolkit has been created to outline specific communication examples and other position requirements.

To ensure that the team manager is successful in their role we have created the following



guidelines, expectations, and overview of responsibilities:

### *Be the coach's right hand*

The coach's energy should be focused on developing skills and creating a fun and constructive environment for player development. The team manager can help the coach by taking care of the majority of administrative tasks that can distract the coach from his or her job.

### *Don't do it all yourself*

Don't try to do everything yourself. There are some team jobs that are easy to have other parents take ownership for. Make a list of all the jobs you want others to handle and add them to the list of other required team volunteer positions.

### *Be Organized and Be prepared*

Create a team binder with copies of the team roster, player cards, medical waivers, and emergency contact information. Make sure to have a binder with you at all training sessions and games.

### *Let technology make your job easier*

Familiarize yourself with the Gotsport platform. It is a requirement to maintain the site and communicate through it. It is a great communication tool. Encourage other parents to utilize the platform as well. Make sure parents upload all their paperwork and update their availability for all practices and games through the app. Please remember to copy coaches on any and all communications to parents/players. *Have fun!*

Finally, being a great team manager is about keeping the team running smoothly so the kids can have fun! And that's really what it's all about. We encourage you to set up social events/activities outside of the normal practice time.

## **3. Club Policies**

### **3.1 Practice and Game Attendance Policy**

All players are required to mark their availability for all practices and games 48 hours in advance via the TeamSnap availability function. This allows coaches to know the number of players that will be in attendance and to properly prepare for practices and games. Failure to do so will result in the player not starting or not playing at all in the next game.

Next 11 Academy players are required to attend all their respective training sessions and games unless they have an appropriate excuse. An unexcused absence from practice or a game will result in the player not starting the next game or not playing at all in the next game. Excessive absenteeism from training and/or games could eventually lead to the player being suspended or removed from the team.

Excused practice and game absences for missed sessions/games require 24-hour notification to the coach via the TeamSnap availability function and will include:

- Family emergencies, player medical illnesses or injury, or accidents.
- School functions.
- College entrance examinations.
- Religious events.

Members who are on their school teams should make their best efforts to attend club practices when possible. Lastly, players are required to attend training three days prior to the start of a club tournament.

Sessions/games/practices may be required to be played on non-traditional days, including weekdays, and doubleheaders. Game and practice schedules may be changed or be canceled throughout the season due to, but not limited to, teams folding, bye weeks, quality of fields, lack of fields, fighting issues, weather problems, and other instances that may be out of our control.

### **3.2 Playing Time**

We believe that playing time during games is a critical factor in the development of individual players. At the same time, we do not believe that players should receive equal amounts of playing time without regard to certain factors, including the following:

- Commitment to attend (and arrive on time for) practices and games
- Effort, attitude, and behavior during practices and games
- Fitness level
- Ability to work/play well with teammates

Based on the above, we have adopted the following policy regarding playing time for its competitive programs:

The amount of playing time that players receive is subject to the discretion of the player's coach. We entrust our coaches to make decisions on playing time-based on what is in the best interest of the team as a whole. Coaches may reduce playing time at their discretion for individual players due to any of the following:

- Poor attendance and/or punctuality at practices and/or games
- Poor effort, attitude, and/or behavior during practices and/or games
- Poor fitness level, including injuries
- Inability to work/play well with teammates
- Lack of technical and/or tactical abilities

Players and parents with questions or concerns about playing time should refer to the procedures that are outlined in the Conflict Resolution Policy.

### **3.3 Player Right to Refuse Policy**

We reserve the right to refuse participation for any reason, except for reasons of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs or other legally protected status.

Reasons for refusal may include constant negative or abusive parent/guardian or player behavior or repeated non-payment of registration fees without resolution.

### **3.4 Weather Policy**

The risk of heat-related illness from vigorous sports activity increases with the temperature. The body generates heat that cannot be dissipated readily when the ambient temperature exceeds 85 degrees F, depending upon the humidity. Hot weather is considered at any point where the Heat Index reaches or exceeds 90. Coaches should follow the following procedures based on conditions:

- Heat Index up to 89°: Normal Play. Regular hydration patterns
- Heat index of 90°- 95°: Mandatory water breaks every 25 minutes.
- Heat index of 96°-102°: Mandatory water breaks every 15 minutes.
- Heat index over 103° (at start of training): All outside activity canceled

Players are more susceptible to injuries during cold weather, particularly from pulled or torn muscles. Players should be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing to aid body heat retention yet afford adequate movement without creating a safety hazard. As a general rule, training programs will be canceled if the projected temperature (including wind chill) at the start of training is projected to be below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. If a practice or game needs to be canceled for weather or other related reasons, this will be communicated via the TeamSnap application as soon as possible.

### **3.5 Media Release Policy**

We reserve the right to use photographs, video, voice, and likeness of players, parents, coaches, and referees participating in our programming without compensation. The media obtained by us may be used on our website, social media, publications, and etc. By participating in Next 11 Academy, members agree to the following statement: I grant Next 11 Academy, and their respective successors and assign the perpetual worldwide and royalty-free rights to use my child's voice, photograph, and likeness in any media related to my performance in or observation of the club including, without limitation, a videotape recording of such programming without compensation to me, or my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, children, dependents, spouse and relatives.

### **3.6 Player Pick-up Policy**

Our staff coaches are required and our volunteer coaches are requested to stay at the field until the last player is picked up. This policy applies to all players, through age 18, and is designed to ensure your child's safety. Additionally, all coaches are requested to have a "two deep" player policy, meaning, coaches should never find themselves in a position being alone with a child. As a result, it is important that parents and guardians drop off and pick up their players from practice, games and activities on time.

### **3.7 Non-Discrimination Policy**

We do not discriminate against its members, players, coaches, parents, or referees on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs (or other legally protected status).

### **3.8 Conflict Resolution Policy**

We encourage our members to take a 24-hour “cool down” period before addressing a conflict that may have occurred. Complaints and concerns regarding your soccer experience should be directed according to the following guidelines:

Concerns regarding playing time will not be discussed with parents. If players are concerned with their playing time they are encouraged to speak directly with their head coach at an appropriate and agreed-upon time and place. Conversations will be aimed at helping players understand what they need to improve upon in order to earn more playing time. We believe that this is a great opportunity for players to learn to advocate for themselves and form a relationship with their coach. Coaches are sensitive to differences in communication skills at different ages and will adjust accordingly.

Complaints regarding our coaches, assistant coaches, and/or managers should be addressed with the team’s head coach. If the resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the Executive Director.

Concerns regarding your child’s team should be addressed directly with your child’s head coach at an appropriate and agreed-upon time and place. If the resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the Executive Director.

If, after following the appropriate measures as listed above, and resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the Executive Director for further review.

### **3.9 Three Strike Disciplinary Policy**

Distributive actions of individuals and infractions of Next 11 Academy policies will be handled in accordance with the Next 11 Academy Three Strike Disciplinary Policy. The Policy is outlined below:

- First offense: Verbal warning from the coach with written documentation of the incident.
- Second offense: In-person player/parent meeting with the team coach and our administrative team.
- Third offense: Review by the administrative team to determine the length of suspension or potential expulsion from the club.

Actions the club deems as egregious will result in immediate review by the administrative team and will result in suspension or potential expulsion from the club.

### **3.10 Player Commitment Policy**

When a family accepts an invitation to join a Next 11 Academy, they are making a commitment to our program from August 1 through May 31 of the following year. The commitment is for this entire one-year period and not for a specific soccer season (Fall, Spring) or training period (Winter).

This commitment is important for several reasons. Each year, we incur expenses and make resource commitments based on the total number of players who commit for the full soccer season. Financial and resource commitments are made based on the number of families who accept the yearlong program commitment and many expenses are incurred in advance. It has been our experience that it takes a significant amount of time for players to truly understand the game and art of soccer. Players will fall behind in their learning and bonding with the team if they are not

present consistently.

### **3.11 Solicitations, Promotions, and Distribution of Materials Policy**

Any solicitations, promotions, distributions of written or other materials or any other advertisement not previously approved by the administrative team is strictly prohibited at practices, games, or other activities sponsored by the club. The Executive Director must approve all materials.

### **3.12 Payment Plans**

For those families that find it difficult to make one full travel team fee payment in one payment by the commitment date, we offer a monthly payment plan. All players who accept a spot on a Next 11 Academy or roster will be required to pay a non-refundable \$150 bond fee. If you are having issues processing your credit card payment, please email [admin@next11academy.com](mailto:admin@next11academy.com) and we will direct you to our website host's customer service contact.

### **3.13 Unpaid/Late Fees:**

An account with fees that are past due (over 30 days), and who has not made an attempt to work out a Payment Plan or submitted a Scholarship request by the scholarship application due date, will be placed in bad standing with the club until such time as the financial obligation has been resolved.

A player in bad standing with the club may not be rostered on a team and may not participate in practices and/or games. In the cases of families with multiple players, an "in bad standing" status of one player will apply to all players in a family, if applicable. Additionally, a late fee may be charged for late payments.

Matters of finance and payment issues should not be discussed with coaches or other families. Please email [admin@next11academy.com](mailto:admin@next11academy.com) with any questions or issues.

### **3.14 Player Fee Refund Policy**

The success of our teams is dependent on the players who make up each team - and their commitment to the program. After teams have been formed and player commitments have been signed, we will then proceed on behalf of each team to assign coaches, assign practice fields and times, complete all player registrations, purchase training/medical equipment, as well as complete all state, league, and tournament registrations.

Accordingly, we expect that all players and parents will follow through with their commitment to the program by completing all required paperwork and paying all fees in a timely manner.

Consequently, our refund policy regarding our teams is stringent and non-negotiable. After players have committed to the team requests for refunds will be treated as follows:

- Any player withdrawal request made after a player has committed to the club for the seasonal year will result in no refund of the player fee or bond fee.
- Player dismissal due to a violation of any of Next 11 Academy Expectations and Guidelines or Club Policies as outlined in the Club Handbook will result in no refund of the player fee

or bond fee.

- There will be no refunds granted for cancellations due to weather, acts of God, or forfeits. ● Player withdrawal due to a certified medical reason will result in a partial credit towards future Next 11 Academy player registration fees or camps. A written statement from a non-parent medical professional must be provided.
- We will not refund player fees for any other reasons.

All requests for a refund of player fees must be submitted in writing and must be signed by one or more of the player's parents or legal guardians listed in their child's (children's) registration record. A copy of the signed refund request must be submitted to the Executive Director. All refund requests must include supporting documentation as defined in the Refund Policy.

### **3.15 Camp, Clinic & Program Withdrawal/Refund Policy**

Requests for refunds will be treated as follows:

- If you are needing to cancel a registration, for any reason, up until 15 calendar days prior to the start date of the event you will be given a full credit to any future Next 11 Academy programming.
- If canceled 14 days or less prior to the start of the event, you will be given a 50% credit to any future Next 11 Academy programming.
- No credits/refunds will be issued after the start of a camp.
- Medical issues/death in the family will be fully refunded with the exception of a \$50 admin fee at any time with a doctor's note emailed to us.

### **3.16 Camp, Clinic & Program Cancellation Policy**

Outdoor camps and clinics are held outside with limited access to an indoor facility. Thus, we rely on safe and tolerable weather. If a camp or clinic day is canceled due to inclement weather, no refund will be given. If a camp or clinic day is canceled for 3 or more days due to inclement weather all registered players will be issued credit to attend another Next 11 Academy camp or clinic.

Indoor camps and clinics are held indoors and therefore not often subject to cancellation. However, in the event of severe road and/or weather conditions or an unforeseen closure/availability conflict of the facility, then we will cancel a session. Should there be a cancellation, due to limited availability at the indoor facility and pre-scheduling requirements, Next 11 Academy will not make up indoor camp/clinic cancellations regardless of the number of canceled days.

### **3.17 Camp, Before and Aftercare Policy**

Next 11 Academy may offer before and aftercare services at an additional charge during specified times for specified camps. There will be a 15-minute grace period for pick-up. After the 15-minute grace period, there will be a \$1 per minute charge due at the time of pick-up.

### **3.18 Scholarships**

Next 11 Academy (Next 11 Academy) is a non-profit 501(c)3 community-based soccer organization. Our administrative team is committed to making our experience broadly available to qualified, committed soccer players who wish to participate. Our administrative team fundraises and collects donations for our Scholarship Fund, which enables the Scholarship Committee to review applications and grant awards. Because the Scholarship Committee receives many requests and has limited funding available, scholarships are granted to the most qualified applicants based on

financial need and the player's commitment to our club.

In order to be considered for financial assistance, players must have accepted their invitation to join the team, paid their bond fee, and enrolled in a payment plan. If a player decides to leave the club during the season he/she will be required to pay back the scholarship they were awarded. Additionally, we hold an annual 5k walk/run fundraiser and ask families to contribute \$250 towards the fundraiser.

### **3.19 Club Pass Policy**

The administrative team will work to determine what is in the best interest of the player's development. If the administrative team determines that a player and team would benefit substantially from a player being multi-rostered, the family and coaches will be contacted to discuss the player's options. If agreed upon, consent for a player to be rostered on multiple teams will be given for the season. If a player is rostered on multiple teams and their seasonal fee has been paid, there may be an additional fee imposed.

Additionally, the administrative team may invite a player to train up an age group if they determine that a player would benefit substantially from practicing up.

### **3.20 Guest Playing/Training Policy**

#### ***Guest playing for outside teams***

Next 11 Academy's policy is to not allow guest playing of its members with outside teams unless it will provide a showcase opportunity that he/she otherwise would not have with their current team. Additionally, the guest playing opportunity cannot conflict with an existing team commitment with Next 11 Academy. Next 11 Academy players that wish to guest play with another club must first complete a Guest Player Request Form and submit it to the Club's Executive Director. The club will review the request and notify the player of the decision. If approved, the player's US Club or MSYSA card must be returned within 3 days of the completion of the event.

\*Next 11 Academy reserves the right to deny any guest player request.

\*Any player found in violation of this process will be suspended or removed from the team. ***Guest training with outside teams***

The Executive Director wants to make sure players are getting enough rest and are fulfilling the training-to-game ratio that has been set forth at the beginning of each year. To manage the player's development and time on the field the club will not allow players to train with other teams during competitive seasons. ***Guest playing with Next 11 Academy teams***

When a Next 11 Academy team needs additional players for a tournament or league play, the coach and Executive Director will identify available players from other teams within the Club. Additionally, Next 11 Academy will seek external guest players who they believe would benefit the club. All guest players that are participating with a Next 11 Academy team must adhere to all Next 11 Academy rules and policies. All guest players must pay their respective share of costs and fees for tournaments and travel expenses. \*Next 11 Academy reserves the right to deny any guest player request.

#### ***Guest training with Next 11 Academy teams***

Only registered full-time Next 11 Academy players are permitted to train with Next 11 Academy teams. Players who express interest in joining the program will be invited to participate in training for evaluation purposes only.

### **3.21 Player Release Policy**

Next 11 Academy will not consider a request for a release from the program during the soccer year until that player has paid his/her entire financial obligations to the Club and team for the soccer year. If approved, all fees for the entire seasonal year must be paid in full before the release can be authorized. This will include a reasonable estimate for coach travel expenses, any other fees that might be due after the player has transferred from the team as well as a \$50 club-processing fee. Players receiving financial assistance will not be released during the seasonal year unless they pay the full expenses associated with the year, including any portion of granted assistance.

### **3.22 Uniform Policy**

Next 11 Academy's official apparel and equipment sponsor is Under Armour. This relationship is critical to the success of both on and off-site programming. As such, all uniforms, training gear, cold weather gear, bags, and training will be UA branded. Players will be assigned a number by the club.

Players registered/committed to Next 11 Academy must purchase a uniform and training gear package by June 30th. Numbers will be assigned to players by the club. All uniforms must be purchased from our retail partner, Soccer.com via our online store, there is a specific link to purchase uniforms and your team manager will have that information, as will your TeamSnap page.

### **3.23 Social Media Policy**

For the purposes of this policy, social media means any outlet for online publication and commentary, including, but not limited to blogs, wikis, podcasts, social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube and any team websites or applications.

Club volunteers, employees, parents, and players are free to publish or comment via social media in accordance with this policy.

Failure to abide by this policy may lead to dismissal from all Next 11 Academy programs and activities. Next 11 Academy volunteers, employees, referees, contractors, and players are not permitted to:

- Post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, inappropriate behavior, or items that could be interpreted as demeaning or inflammatory.
- Post any racial, sexist, homophobic, anti-religious or any other comments of that nature to members or non-members.
- Post any comments that could be deemed derogatory about the league, players, team



officials, teams, club officials, clubs or referees.

- Comment on injuries, officiating, or team matters that could reasonably be expected to be confidential.
- Post any threats of violence or harassment.

### **3.24 Facility Use**

- Pets are not permitted on campus, please leave your dogs at home
- Park only in designated parking spaces, do not park along curbs and/or block entrances. Do not park in the designated “bus only” spaces. We are aware the parking lot gets crazy, please use patience and be kind to other drivers!
- Please pick up all trash. We want to leave the facility cleaner than when we arrived. Players – all trash should be removed from the bench/field area when practice/games end. Parents – please help us and pick up any trash you see during practices/games.
- There may be times when inside restroom facilities are available to us and we must keep those areas clean as well.

### **3.25 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying**

Next 11 Academy is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers, and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Bullying and bullying-related behaviors (e.g. cyber-bullying, intimidation, harassment, hazing, etc...) are unacceptable behaviors. Such behaviors are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. All players and parents should deal with all persons in a manner that conveys respect for individuals regardless of race, color, marital status, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age, or disability. Players found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline which may include suspension or removal from the team as well as suspension or expulsion from the Next 11 Academy. Any demeaning form of on-field or off-field hazing or harassment which is related to school issues and is used to initiate or humiliate another student or staff member constitutes grounds for disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

## **4. Academic Programming**

Next 11 Academy is committed to pursuing excellence on the field as well as in the classroom. We believe that athletics is a part of a complete educational experience. Therefore, we make sure to support our athletes in the classroom as well as on the field.

### **4.1 Student-first policy**

Next 11 Academy implements a student-first policy. Academic performance will always be placed ahead of athletics. We support any parent’s desire to suspend athletic participation based on academic performance and will work to come up with a return-to-play strategy.

### **5.2 Grade Reports**

All Next 11 Academy participants in U12 (6th grade - 12 years old) and up will be required to submit a copy of their report each quarter (or end of each marking period) to their Head Coach. We expect all players to achieve academic excellence and maintain an A/B average. While “C” grades are acceptable for participation purposes, we reserve the right to restrict any player's participation until

academic excellence is achieved and/or an appropriate action plan is in place for the student.

## 5. Camps and Clinics

In addition to our core programming, the Next 11 Academy participants have the option to register for winter training and summer camps.

### **5.1 Winter Skills Camp**

Our Winter Skills Training Program is an indoor instructional 8-week training program that provides players with an opportunity to receive high-quality skills training during the winter months of January and February. It is geared for players not currently on a team. The program is specifically designed to improve each player's individual technical abilities and tactical understanding. The program will instill confidence and comfort within the game for all players leading up to the start of the spring season.

### **5.2 Summer Youth Camp**

Our professional coaches will provide players with an opportunity to learn new skills in a fun camp environment. Each day will focus on new skills, small-sided games, and camp-wide games. Current/new players are required to attend at least one week of summer camp and non-current players are welcome.

## 6. Tryouts

### **Open Tryouts**

Next 11 Academy will conduct open tryouts each Spring. Open tryouts are defined as: 1. All players must participate in the tryout process and receive an evaluation to be eligible for a travel team, pre-academy team, or academy team roster spot.

2. Returning players are not guaranteed a roster spot on the rising age group team. They too must participate in the tryout process to be eligible for selection to a team's roster.
3. The intent of the open tryout process is to roster the best players available in each age group to form the best teams possible.

Travel teams are selected for a seasonal year (August 1 - July 31 of the following year). Supplemental tryouts may be held as needed and approved by the Next 11 Academy Executive Director to fill vacant roster spots. Tryout Procedure

1. All players will be evaluated based on the player's soccer abilities demonstrated during tryouts.
2. Team selection will be announced following the completion of all team tryouts for that specific age group.
3. Selected players will have 72 hours to accept their roster spot.
4. Roster spot commitments are for an entire seasonal year (August 1-July 31 of the following year)
5. Any request for a tryout waiver based on medical necessity must be approved by the Next 11 Academy Executive Director.

### **Tryout Registration**

1. All players participating in tryouts must register for the tryouts.
2. All players must register online via the club's website.
3. Each participant must also complete an online waiver before the start of the

### **session. Tryout Number Assignment**

1. Each participant will be assigned a specific number to be worn during tryouts.
2. This number may be in the form of a player penny (which must be returned after each

tryout). Tryout Dress / Equipment

1. Players should wear soccer-appropriate clothing.
2. Appropriate shoes are required.
3. All players must wear shin guards.
4. Each player must provide their own personal water.

Tryout Evaluation Process

1. All players are evaluated by a panel of coaches.
  2. The Next 11 Academy Executive Director or designee may also select guest evaluators based on their coaching credentials to serve on a player evaluation panel.
  3. The Selection committee is made up of the Next 11 Academy Executive Director and Staff coaches. Selection Disputes
1. Any dispute as to team selection must go through the Next 11 Academy Technical Director.
  2. The Next 11 Academy Executive Director will respond in a timely fashion to any and all questions, concerns or disputes related to team selection.

## **7. Sports Medicine/Resources**

Our players safety is our number one priority at Next 11 Academy. We have compiled some valuable resources to help you keep your son in the game. Please refer to the links below for important information on: 9.1 Concussions:

- [Facts Sheet for Parents](#)
- [Concussion 101](#)
- [Return to play Progression](#)

9.2 Nutrition:

- [Nutrition For Sports Performance](#)
- [Healthy Ways to Manage Weight](#)
- [Nutrition for Immobilization and Surgery](#)

9.3 Additional Resources:

- [Sickle Cell Information Sheet](#)
- [Preventing Heat-Related Illnesses](#)
- [Sudden Death In Athletes](#)
- [Recognizing Asthma](#)
- [Athlete Burnout And Mental Health](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)