

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM POLICIES

COMPETITIVE PLAYER COMMITMENT

BBFC encourages the highest appropriate level of play for every player, be it practices, games, the state or regional tournaments, or the Blitz-related activities. All players are committed to playing with their team until the end of the league season (including State and/or Regional tournaments). Teams and coaches may request commitment to additional tournaments. Prior commitments take precedence, but must be reported as soon as possible and may result in a player not being selected for a team. Subsequent commitments will be considered on a case-by-case basis; not all subsequent commitments are “emergencies”. A player who breaks his/her commitment to a team may sacrifice a starting position, playing time, enrollment in the Club, and/or the opportunity to enroll in subsequent years, as recommended by the coach and Director of Coaching in recognition of the level of play and of the offense.

REGISTRATION

Full tuition payment for the season is due at registration.

Late registrants will pay full fees (including late fees) at time of registration.

The only exception to full payment is in the case of scholarship recipients.

- Applications must be filed by the late registration deadline.
- Scholarships may involve complete Club support (less a \$50 registration fee and costs such as uniforms and travel), partial Club support, or a payment installment plan.
- The installment plan *commonly* involves three equal payments due on Nov 1, Dec 1, and Jan 1.

WITHDRAWAL

- Voluntary withdrawal before tryouts will result in an automatic refund of all but \$50 (club cost for insurance and administration).
- Voluntary withdrawal after tryouts will not result in a refund.
- If we cannot place your player on a team we will refund all but \$25 (state registration and insurance fee).
- Involuntary withdrawal (catastrophic injury, family relocation...) may result in a refund of up to half of the tuition paid, but must be requested in writing, through the Club Administrator, after January 1 and before May 1.
- Lack of understanding of Club policies and procedures is not grounds for involuntary withdrawal.

FORMATION OF TEAMS and PLAYER SELECTION

Definitions:

Adjectives below are often used by soccer clubs to indicate a hierarchy of skill levels. “Actual position depends on club usage”: *San Andreas Youth Soccer Glossary* -

<http://www.sayso.org/glossary.htm>. The following definitions are those of BBFC.

- **Recreational:** Parent coaches and referees, anyone can play, randomly selected teams, equal playing time, practice not mandatory, local competition only. No end-of-season tournament. (Example: AYSO)
- **Developmental:** Certified coaches (often parents), paid referees (often older players), almost anyone can play, small-sided (at lower ages), practices expected but not mandatory,

may have unequal playing time, local to state competition, end-of-season jamboree or round-robin tournament. (Example: GVYSA, BBFC Junior, MT A-level, e.g.: BBFC White)

- **Competitive:** Licensed coaches and referees (seldom team parents), tryouts, practice usually required, unequal playing time, state to regional competition, end-of-season elimination tournament and some out-of-season tournaments. (Example: MT AA-level, e.g.: some BBFC Black)
- **Elite:** Elite teams find their true competition at a regional to national level, but often play in local leagues. Practices are required. No effective end of season, with tournaments anytime, anywhere. (Example: 2002 BBFC U18B, Black Dog)
- **Select:** Select teams imply players are selected from a larger-than-local pool based on ability. The ODP Program is a “Montana Select” team. Similarly, the Black Dog and 2002 BBFC U18B teams include quality players drawn from several towns, thus are Select teams. Note that players on Select teams can also play on Competitive or Elite teams (for example: All-Star or ODP play) or may play only on that Select team (Black Dog and 2002 BBFC U18B)

Team Formation Policies:

BBFC strives to organize the most successful teams possible and provide players with competition matched to their abilities. The Director of Coaching is responsible for team formation, level of competition, and assignment of coaches. Team coaches and members will select tournaments to provide a challenging, educational experience.

1. Teams will be formed based on registration as of the first weekend in October. Players attempting to register after that time may be accommodated as best we can within the existing team structure.
2. Tryouts will be scheduled between the first weekend in October and November 30.
3. When there are enough players in any age group to form more than one team, each team may be Developmental, Competitive or Elite.
4. Where there are more than enough players in any age group to form one team but not enough for two, or not enough for one team, we will attempt to accommodate players by combination of age groups internally or immigration of players from other towns. Migration of players from other locations in the state is permissible in forming teams (by State policy).
5. A player wishing to play up must try out with his/her FIFA (normal) age group. They may ask to be considered for a higher age group or be asked to consider playing up by the team coaches and Director of Coaching. Decisions of the Director of Coaching may not be appealed.
6. The Director of Coaching will assign team coaches as appropriate.
7. Final decisions as to level of team competition and coach assignment will be completed by the Director of Coaching and submitted to the Board by December 31. Actual team rosters may change throughout the year at the discretion of the coaching staff.
8. Team coaches will meet with team members by the end of February to decide on tournament schedules for the year. Elite teams will typically schedule more and stronger out-of-state

Placing players:

BBFC is committed to the growth and development of the competitive soccer player. Players will benefit most when provided an appropriate level of competition consistent with their abilities. Players are placed on teams as determined by tryouts. Evaluations are based on: Effort and Attitude, Technique and Tactics, Physical Condition, and Maturity.

A player is not assured a position on a team. There are willing players whose physical condition, skills and/or maturity level are inappropriate to enrollment in BBFC. When motivation, commitment, skill, speed, fitness, and practice availability are effectively equal, local players will be placed before out-of-area players.

COACHING POLICIES

- A coach will usually direct a team for only one year. Exceptions to this policy may be invoked as necessary by the Director of Coaching.
- Coaches are expected to mirror the desired commitment of their players to the game, Club and team. This includes attendance whenever possible at workshops and clinics as well as at practices, games and tournaments.
- Coaches are paid and reimbursed by the Club for all scheduled league activities. Any coach requesting additional payment will be considered in breach of policy and will be subject to Club discipline to include suspension, release and/or decision not to rehire. Any team/parent offering additional payment will be considered in breach of policy and will be subject to Club discipline to include player suspension, disenrollment and/or prevention of future enrollment.

RESPONSIBILITY TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE CLUB

BBFC is primarily run by the volunteered time of its players and their parents. In order to spread the responsibility for running the Club to as many people as possible, the Club requires that persons indicate at registration whether they wish to volunteer time or pay a fee in lieu of volunteering time. On a per family basis at registration, a \$100 deposit will be collected to ensure at least 10 hours of work on behalf of the club. The Club will maintain a list of volunteer activities and will provide a method for making certain that volunteer work is accounted for.

DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

- Club disciplinary policies will be enforced during the times that players are associated with Club activities, including the league season and tournaments and events (practice, travel, lodging, and games) associated with elective tournaments.
- Team coaches may enforce policies that are stricter than Club policies, but not less strict.
- Team policies must be in writing and approved in writing by the Club Coach.

COMPLAINTS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS

The Club retains the right to discipline any registered player, parent, or other relative of the player as appropriate for at- or off-field behavior in addition to MYSA sanctions. Sanctions may include requiring formal apologies, suspensions, player removal from the Club and/or prevention of future enrollment in the Club.

Sending Off” Policy: If an adult family member (adult) of a player receives a “send off” by a referee at a match, the adult is obliged by BBFC to remove himself/herself from the match from which he/she was sent off and from the next scheduled match.

A registered player, parent, or other relative of the player” is considered to have been accused of an offense and is therefore potentially subject to discipline when either (a.) a game official reports an offense, or (b.) a written, signed complaint is received by the Club which, after investigation, warrants further action. The complaint should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the BBFC President. The President has the responsibility to formulate the process of handling each complaint and to communicate that process to all parties within two weeks. This may include

serving a penalty to the offending party, assigning a committee to investigate and to recommend action to the full Board. If an investigation is warranted, an opportunity for the pertinent parties to be heard must be provided. Timely resolution of the complaint is paramount.

In addition to MYSA sanctions, the Club retains the right to discipline any player as appropriate for on- or off-field behavior. Sanctions may include formal apologies, reduction in playing time, suspensions, removal from the Club and/or prevention of future enrollment in the Club .

GRIEVANCE POLICY

1. Any registered player who is subject to a penalty or any other adverse action as result of any of the policies of BBFC by any coach, director or other representative of BBFC may appeal the adverse action taken to the Board of Directors. Whether or not the adverse action is in writing or oral, the aggrieved party has two (2) weeks from the occurrence or notice of the penalty to present a written appeal to the Board of Directors. Failure to present the written appeal within the two (2) weeks period will be a waiver of any right to grieve. The written notice of appeal shall state the adverse actions, the grievant's position on the issue, and who took the adverse action. The written notice of a grievance shall be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.
2. A grievance properly filed will be reviewed by the Board of Directors or a subcommittee of the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Directors may, but is not required to, hear additional evidence regarding the matter being aggrieved. The Board shall issue its determination on the grievance within a reasonable time.
3. There is no appeal of a decision made by the Board of Directors.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Prohibited substances are defined to include alcohol, tobacco products, prescription drugs (without prescription) and illegal substances.

Use is defined as:

- documented use or possession and/or
- being present where such substances are present or used illegally.

Duration is defined as during the period of organized training and competition.

Documentation includes referral by any reliable authority.

Consequences:

First offense of being present

- a formal apology must be delivered to the team
- the player will be suspended from competition for the next four games

First offense of use or possession or second offense of being present

- The player will be suspended for the remainder of the league season and all tournaments.
- Reinstatement for subsequent tournaments and the following season will require a formal apology to the team and agreement by coach, Director of Coaching and a Board representative.

UNIFORM POLICY

Uniforms will only be changed at the end of a uniform cycle (that is, when a Club uniform is no longer in production) – typically after three years of use.

New uniforms and/or colors will be selected by the Director of Coaching in consultation with Board representative(s). Only Board-approved uniforms will be worn by Club teams.

Any team may chose to continue to wear the old uniform for one additional year if they so desire. A team may petition to wear the old uniform for a second additional year. However, that permission will typically be granted only to teams that are intending to disband following that second additional year (older or A-level).

The Club logo will be worn by all players on their uniform jersey.

The Club encourages team sponsorship and logos (see sponsorship policy) under the following conditions:

- Cannot be another soccer company.
- Cannot be larger or more prominent than the PUMA logo (3.5”x3.5”); we suggest the left shoulder).
- Must be approved by the Board as not in bad taste.

BOARD COMPOSITION

One of the nine Board members will be elected by and represent members of the Club’s Micro program.