



**LAGUNA UNITED  
FOOTBALL CLUB  
2024-2025 PLAYER AND PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

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## Who is Laguna United?

Laguna United FC is a local non-profit soccer club. Our goal is to teach a consistent, unified soccer and leadership style, and to ensure players learn to have passion and camaraderie for their club, their teammates, and for the game. Soccer is a beautiful game of passing, movement, and decision-making that also reinforces leadership, teamwork, and other positive attributes in developing minds. LUFC strives for excellence in a community focused environment.

### Contact Information:

Laguna United is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of California. It is recognized by the Internal Revenue Department as a 501(c)(3) charity. The Club's Tax ID is 26-2746939.

LUFC is the competitive club arm of LNYSA, Inc. which provides recreational soccer programming for all ages.

You may contact Laguna United Football Club through the following addresses:

Laguna United Football Club.  
30025 Alicia Parkway, #188  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
1-877-385-6972

Web site: [www.lagunaunited.org](http://www.lagunaunited.org)  
Email: [info@lagunaunited.org](mailto:info@lagunaunited.org)

Director of Coaching: Sam Nicholson  
Email: [Sam.Nicholson@lagunaunited.org](mailto:Sam.Nicholson@lagunaunited.org)

## Club Policies

The Club shall provide:

- A Developmentally Appropriate environment for the Player and the Team;
- Trained, qualified and appropriately licensed coaches appropriate for the skill level of the player and the level of competition of the Team;
- US Club Soccer registration for the Parents and Player, and league registration for the Team, and player insurance through US Club Soccer for the Season;
- Southern California Development Soccer League (SoCal) team and player registration;
- Referee fees for regular league games
- Training and home game fields, lights and facilities
- Training
- Head Coaching support from Club approved coaches; and
- Goalkeeper trainer for Player or Player's Team.

## Players Code

• Play for enjoyment , not just to please your parents or coach. • Play by the rules. • Never argue with or complain about the referee's calls or decisions. • Control your temper, and most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged. • Concentrate on playing soccer and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself. • Be a good sport. Thank the referees. • Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. • Remember that the goals of the game are to enjoy, improve your skills and compete. • Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents, and the referees — there cannot be any soccer games without them.

The Player commitment is for the entire Season. Take into account that when you make your commitment, our Coaches may need to inform other potential Players they did not make the Team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decisions carefully.

During the Season, your commitment to the Club and your Team should take priority over other athletic activities. Remember, in the event your Team qualifies for regional or national competition, we expect you to fulfill your commitment to your Team through the end of that competition regardless of your status with the Club for the following season.

The Club will not execute a Player Release allowing the Player to play on another SoCal, EA or E64 team unless the player meets the respective league rules and requirements for transfer eligibility. Player transfers are subject to the terms and conditions outlined by the leagues and set forth in the Player Agreement, including full payment of all fees and approval of the Coach and Director of Coaching.

Any participation with another team from another club may result in termination of the player from the Club.

Playing time during matches is determined by the Coach.

It is the responsibility of the Player to always wear the designated Club uniform at ALL matches, practices and special Club activities. Player and Parents shall be responsible for ensuring that the Player has the required uniform(s), practice uniform(s), appropriate footwear, shin guards or other protective gear as required.

Player Cards: LUFC owns each player's player card. Player cards are not to be provided to parents/players without Director of Coaching approval. This includes players guesting between teams within LUFC and LNYSA Select. If a player leaves the organization, the player card will not be provided to the parent or player. Upon transfer protocols, the player's new club will create a new player card.

## **Parent Code**

Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports. • Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours. • Encourage your child to always play by the rules. • Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Your child will then be a winner even in defeat. • Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game. • Set a good example. Children learn best by example. • Applaud good play by your team. • Do not publicly question the referee's judgment and never their honesty. • Recognize the value and importance of coaches, referees, and officials and give them their due respect. Let the coach do the coaching! • Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities. • Alcohol and tobacco are not permitted at any city park or school facility.

Concerns about the Player's performance, playing time should never be discussed on the field after the game or practice. Please abide by the "48 hour rule": make arrangements to have a phone call or meeting away from practice or game if you have concerns about the Player's performance at least 48 hours after the match. If you have a concern about the Player or the Coach that can not be addressed by the Coach, you should contact the Director of Coaching.

The Coach or the Club, may, at the Club's sole discretion, remove any Parent from any Club activity, practice or game if in the Coach's judgment or the Club's judgment that parent is not in compliance with the Parent Code. If, in the sole discretion of the Coach or the Club, a parent is repeatedly in violation of the Parents Code, the Parent may be suspended or prohibited from further participation in Team and Club activities, including attendance at matches, tournaments and practices.

## Club Service Commitment

Laguna United is a non-profit organization. It is dependent on fund raising in addition to player fees in order to keep costs down and to provide quality coaching and programming for its players.

Each family shall be obligated to provide five (5) hours of community service to the Club. "Club Service" means helping with club activities, including, but not limited to: tournaments, the Fall Kick-off or other club activities. If a family has more than one player in the Club, the family shall only be required to fulfill the volunteer obligations once, not for each player. A family can choose to 'buy-out' its Club Service Commitment by paying a fee at the time of registration.

All volunteer hours must be reported to and acknowledged by the Laguna United Volunteer Coordinator. A family can choose to 'buy out' its Club Service commitment. If a family does not fulfill its obligation to help with club activities, an additional charge may be assessed to the family's account. The volunteer hours set forth here do not include any Team events or fundraising activities agreed upon by the Team.

## Fees and Expenses

The annual fees are presented when you register a player for the season. Fees are determined by age group and level of play. Due to the manner in which the City of Laguna Niguel charges for field and light usage, a surcharge will be added for all players who are not residents of Laguna Niguel.

### What do your fees cover?

Coach salaries and employment expenses make up the biggest part of the Club's expenses. The Club endeavors to pay competitive salaries so our players have the best training.

- SOCAL Teams include: Entry in SOCAL State Cup, referee fees for three group games only, referee fees for league, registration via US Club Soccer and SOCAL, Insurance, Fields, Equipment and club expenses.
- EA Teams include: Entry in EA league, referee fees for league, registration via EA/USSSA and Insurance, Fields, Equipment and club expenses.

### What is not included

- Uniforms are a separate cost. This includes the mandatory training uniform.
- Summer camps or seasonal camps
- During the season there will be extra club programming that players can take advantage of at a small cost.
- If teams travel to State Cup, National Cup, tournaments, etc., the coach's travel costs are not included. It is customary for the teams to cover coaches' travel costs including hotels and reasonable per diem for meals.
- Costs for additional tournaments, spring league, etc.

## Payment Terms

Fees, Payment Plan and Refund Policies are covered in the Player Agreement that is electronically signed when a player is registered.

## Team Fees

Some teams may decide to participate in more tournaments, travel, etc. and the team coach and manager may decide to set a team fee. Any team fee is set by the team and any such fees are managed by the team manager. The fees are only to be used for team activities and to reimburse coaches for out of pocket travel expenses related to the team's activities. Team Fees can not be used to pay the coach additional training fees. The manager will advise families at the beginning of the season if a Team Fee will be collected and how much it will be.

## Fundraising

In order to make our budget and to foster club atmosphere we ask that the teams, players, parents participate in a few chosen fundraisers per season. Each team will sign up for two fundraising activities; every family on the team will be expected to help 16 hours. Club service coordinator will get reports from team managers; if manager reports that a family does not help with fundraiser, club can assess fee or player can be suspended. Families with more than one player only have to meet obligation once

- Kick off festival: Late August each year
- Tournament - usually the first week of September
- Other fundraising activities

## Team Managers

Each team must have a separate team manager than the coach. The team manager must go through a background check and meet US Club Soccer, SoCal and State of California child's safety laws and Livescan requirements. The manager handles the paperwork, tournament registration, player cards, team communications and serves as the liaison between the coach and the parents on the team and help with communications with the Club.

Team managers work very hard and put in many hours coordinating teams' schedules, outings and communications. Team managers receive a nominal discount in return for their service.

## Animal/Pet Policy

On Soccer Fields SCHOOL FIELDS (George White Elementary, Hidden Hills Elementary, Niguel Hills Middle School, Bergeson Middle School, Moulton Elementary) School District regulations prohibit pets on school grounds at any time except service animals. There are health notices on all school grounds asking pet owners to NOT bring their pets on school grounds. Please do not bring your pets to ANY school fields. LAGUNA NIGUEL CITY PARKS (Crown Valley Community Park, Alicia Park, La Paz Park, Bear Brand Park, Chapparosa Park, Juaneno Park, Marina Hills Park): Pets are not allowed on artificial turf fields or the aprons around turf fields. In all other instances in City Parks, pets must be on a leash, must remain AT LEAST 15

feet from the field at all times (NEVER to be on the field), controlled by someone that can restrict its movements (ie, not a child), and any waste must be cleaned up and taken with you. We prefer that you would not bring your pet to any soccer fields. If you do bring your pet to City Parks please ensure you strictly follow the policies outlined herein. Because of the number of people who visit the fields, and local health codes, please consider leaving your pet at home while attending soccer games. When attending away games: dogs and pets are never allowed.

## **Fields Training Policy**

The Club will not tolerate any on-field confrontations between parents to coaches at any time. Should any questions or disputes arise, the coach(es) relate the issue to the Director of Coaching. Rain Policy Due to stipulations of LNYSA/LUFC permit for field use with the City of Laguna Niguel and the Capistrano Unified School District, Current field conditions are posted on the LNYSA web site as well as the City's Field Condition Information Line. Field Condition Information - Call: 362-4351, ext. 3. Please do not abuse our playing field. Follow these guidelines in order that we may continue use of city and school district fields.

Parents must observe from the outside of the soccer field & never enter the field of play. This includes walking across the field and staying in parent viewing areas of all fields.

## **Game Day Expectations & Policy**

LUFC upholds strict values pertaining to our game day experiences that our players play within. Part of these expectations and policies includes values detailed above as well as following league standards that include where parents/spectators are seated and who is allowed to be seated with the team/team bench area.

Different leagues have different rules and regulations which are communicated via leagues/league websites, your coaches and the club. It is the parents' responsibility to understand different leagues' and clubs' policies. Please follow these directions and understand when coaches may prompt our spectators when following these policies. This also includes following opposition directions when playing away as every field, competition of play and club may have different standards.