

A letter to the Membership

Thank you for registering with our Association and joining us for the 2017 season. As a member of a Club/Team we want to address a couple of items before you step on the field. So, here we go! Having registered as player to a team or several teams comes with an obligation which you committed to once you decided to register. We are fairly confident that the team you signed up for is happy that you joined with them. What this means to you is that for this coming season they depend on you to be an active and participating member of that team. The plain translation is that they expect that you make the team (which means – all of the other players) a priority and when a game is scheduled for a certain date & time, you will absolutely make yourself available. Remember, registering with a team is your confirmation to the other members of the team that you have also committed yourself.

Why is this important? First reason, everyone on the team paid the same money as you did and the only way to get value out of this expense is to play, and play as often as possible. Second reason, nobody (this includes you) wants to play against an opponent who has a full team and a handful of substitutes standing on the sideline if your team has less than eleven players. The fun part quickly diminishes when you get beat up in one of these kind of games, thus a player's interest is now in question and that player could be you. However, if you are the player who decided to do something different that day, even though you probably could have, you have put your team in an awkward position and you should question your dedication and commitment to your teammates.

Here is the reason why you should care for each and every game. We have teams that have had more than 20 players registered and yet are incapable of fielding a team consisting of 11 players. Many games have started with just the minimum 7-8 players and with a few more showing up at the field at their convenience. This is not acceptable, not to you as one of those 7-8 players or if you are one of those late comers! More often than not, by the time your team has enough players, the team has given up enough goals which will make winning that game almost impossible. If you own a smartphone and are accepting text messages from the Association, you are reminded two days ahead of the pending game. Game time means that you are at field at least 15 minutes ahead of when game is supposed to start. Our field reservations are in most cases set for a two-hour frame which includes two halves of play, halftime, additional time in each half, etc., and the transition of your team making room for the next team for their game to start on time.

To finish this up and really bring home the need of your commitment to the team is when players decide anywhere from a few days ahead of the game to as close as game-day to inform the team manager that you are not able to make it to the scheduled game. Yes, there are occasions where circumstances dictate that you do not have a choice, however we want you to be aware that a team that forfeits a game, whether is the day of the game or days in advance of gameday, a forfeit is a forfeit and it carries a hefty penalty which includes a fine that ranges between \$250.00 - \$375.00 and loss of points in the standings. Please, please do not ever put your team in that position. We do not want to collect fines as we much rather prefer to see the games being played as scheduled. In conclusion, you need to consider the effort and time your team manager puts in to make it possible for you to able in games that you registered for. Their job is thankless and your cooperation with team related instances will appreciated more than you think.

Remember, joining a team is a season long commitment!

Thank you and wishing you an enjoyable season.

Utah Soccer Association