

**These are things that experienced NorCal families have learned about how the Club works, and we thought it would be great to pass along as much of this as possible up front when you first join the Club.**

## **Team Registration**

*The Annual Team fee – what time frame does it cover?*

The annual team fee covers the calendar year – in this case from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Players who join in the fall of 2015, are essentially covered for the Fall of 2015 and all of calendar year 2016.

*When are teams ‘promoted’ to the next age group?*

Typically teams begin practicing with their ‘new’ teams (and new coaches) in September if they are returning players. For some age groups, the teams stay together for one last Fall Tournament. By January, the complete transition has been made.

## **Practices**

*How often do we practice? Where? When?*

We practice on average twice per month year round. That does not mean there are two practices every month. In August and December we generally slow down. In preparation for major tournaments, we speed up the pace (and there may be 3 practices in a month). Practices are ALWAYS listed on the front page of our web site as well as your teams' page well in advance. Practices are generally 2 hours, and are most often at Palo Alto High School. Occasionally in the fall we need to use another

location in Palo Alto due to field conflicts. We try not to change the practice schedule once it is set, but sometimes there are issues that are beyond our control (field availability, coach availability). Always wear your NorCal jersey to every practice. We do not have set practice times all year round - i.e. sometimes we move the standard practice time for a team around to accommodate a variety of things - we have 10 teams practicing, and we are a guest of Palo Alto HS, so fields times are subject to serious discussion.

High school only - high school players are not allowed to play or practice with their club teams during the term of the high school spring season. This is roughly February 1st to May 15th. The penalty for violating this is the forfeiture of every game that a public or private high school player plays in during the CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) season.

*What is your policy on practice attendance?*

We expect every player to attend every practice. That said we understand there are times where you have a conflict with an academic event or an out of town trip. We understand if you miss a practice. We do, though, take attendance at every practice. We know that teams with higher practice attendance do better in tournaments. If you routinely miss practices and/or tournaments, we may ask you to step back and take an Alternate role on the team, so that more committed players will get tournament spots. Remember, most of the growth and learning takes place during practice. We expect to be notified of any practice absence in advance.

## **Tournaments**

### *How Many Do We Do?*

We generally do 3 summer tournaments, and 1 fall and 1 winter tournament per year for each age group. We generally try our best to stick with the original tournament plan, but occasionally things happen - i.e. tournaments are cancelled or age brackets are changed - and we have no choice but to modify our plan. It is rare, but it happens to at least one age group every year.

### *How Do I Register for Them?*

[www.teamnorcal.com/tournaments](http://www.teamnorcal.com/tournaments) is the page that lists the details of the tournaments we plan to attend. There is a link there to register and pay for each individual tournament. Do NOT ever register directly with the actual tournament (except for a medical waiver which is often required to participate) - we register on a team basis. You do NOT need to pay anything additionally to the tournaments we attend.

### *How and When Do I Pay for Them?*

On the [www.teamnorcal.com/tournaments](http://www.teamnorcal.com/tournaments) page, there are links to the NGIN registration system we use. Once you have registered the first time, the system will remember you and you will not need to repeat and refill out lots of identical information. You can go back and register multiple times for additional tournaments - your record is all kept in a single data record, so we know what you have registered for. There is actually a feature that allows you to see which previous tournaments you have registered for to date. We will tell you when registrations for tournaments are due. The

Summer Tournament registrations are due March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

*Must I Attend Every Tournament?*

When you join a club, you expect your teammates to be committed and attend tournaments. And they expect you to be there. We are realistic, as we know there are occasions where a tournament will not work - vacation, special family event, etc. We keep a team roster that is larger than a typical tournament roster, since we know there will be absences, and injured and illness happen and are entirely unpredictable. But, understand that your commitment to the club is a serious one - and we are all depending on everyone to keep their end of the bargain to make the team as successful as possible.

*What is your Refund Policy on Tournaments?*

If your plans change, and you need to cancel, we will refund your money, less a processing fee, if we can find a replacement player for your son from the current roster. Cancellations less than 30 days prior to the event generally will not be refunded. Refunds will be made within 30 days of request and approval, and we will try first to refund to your original credit card, though if not possible, we will send you the refund via PayPal. As a last resort we will send you a paper check if necessary (by far the slowest).

*Are meals included in the Tournament Fee?*

For players, there are many meals included in the tournament fees. We serve lunches on the field at every tournament. We also host team dinners most every night of a tournament where feasible. Parents and siblings who wish to attend the team dinners are very welcome (there is a charge for extra people, and you can sign up online for team

dinners prior to every tournament). At each Tournament where we are allowed, we host a fairly extensive Hospitality Tent with great snacks, meals, and beverages. You and your extended family are welcome to join us at the tent – this is included in the Tournament Fee.

*Is housing included in the tournament fee?*

No, but there is an option for most tournaments in the tournament registration process to get housing for your child for an additional fee in our shared housing. We will match you up with a teammate(s) wanting to stay unaccompanied in the team hotel, and will make sure you get to bed and up in the morning on time and to the fields. It is best to sign up for this as far as possible in advance; to be sure we have space.

*How do I get a hotel room for a tournament? Do I have to stay at the team hotel?*

We often book a block of hotel rooms for a tournament, and make them available to families at a very attractive rate. These are available on a first come, first serve basis. There is NO guarantee that we will be able to provide you with a room, though we do our best to try and get everyone in who needs housing. Once they sell out, they are gone. You do NOT have to stay at the team hotel in any event - you are free to choose your housing. These hotels and the associated information (Group codes for example) are listed on the Tournaments page. You make reservations directly with the hotel and pay for your own room as a family.

*Are their team flights for tournaments?*

We will publish the flights that the coaches are taking to a

tournament. We encourage you to book a flight on that same flight. But you do not have to do so - it is entirely up to you. We will chaperone unaccompanied players on the flight if necessary. On occasion, we overbook flights and make some seats available to players and families. But there is no guarantee we will have seats available for any particular tournament. Team Flight information is published on the Tournaments page on our web site.

## **Email Lists**

*How do I get on the club email list?*

When you register for the team - you are added to the club mailing list - the NGIN list. The more practical and useful list is the Google Group list - aka the Team Lists. That is what coaches and I use to communicate with individual teams.

*What if I want to add new email address or get rid of an existing email address? (I changed jobs, or have a new personal email address)*

We typically take all the names on the club mailing list and put them on the relevant Team List as well. Tell me (Bill Glazier) at [bill@teammnocal.com](mailto:bill@teammnocal.com) who you want added to that Team list.

## **Uniforms and Jerseys**

*What is the team uniform?*

A reversible jersey, shooter shirt, shorts and socks. You must wear the complete uniform at every tournament.

*How do I order it?*

When you registered, you provided your sizes and also your

number preferences. We will order everything for you, and hopefully will have everything as soon as possible. We will order the new 2016 jerseys and have them distributed well prior to the Sandstorm tournament in January.

*Do I have to pay extra for it?*

No, the uniform is included in the team fee (one piece each). If you want extra shorts or shirts or socks, they are available for purchase from the club. If you lose any of the uniform, you can purchase replacement on the web site.

## **Spirit Wear**

*How can I buy a team helmet or equipment bag?*

[www.teamnorcal.com/spiritwear](http://www.teamnorcal.com/spiritwear) is the pointer to our spirit wear offerings. There you can order anything that strikes your interest. You are NOT required to order anything specifically. We sell new helmets and equipment bags pretty much at cost. Helmets and equipment bags are typically ready within two weeks of order date.

*Where do I find the Online Nike Team Store?*

[www.teamnrocal.com/spiritwear](http://www.teamnrocal.com/spiritwear) is the link. The Online Store is only open during certain time windows – typically once a quarter.

*Do I Get Any Free SpiritWear?*

Yes, we will announce the details of the free SpiritWear program in the next week. Typically, you can choose from among 3 items for your free item for 2016.

## **Web Site**

[www.teamnorcal.com](http://www.teamnorcal.com)

## **Discussions with Coach re Playing Time, Development Needs, etc.**

If you have an issue or a question for your coach, it is best to suggest that your child speak with your coach after practice. If that does not address the issue, you should feel to contact the coach. Under NO circumstance should you approach or try to communicate with a coach during a game. The best time is after a practice or via email or phone, and will result in a more thoughtful discussion.