



## 2020 ARSENAL FC SELECT HANDBOOK

Dear Parents and Players,

Congratulations and on behalf of the Club, the Training Staff, and Board I would like to welcome you to the Arsenal FC family. Arsenal FC has been serving the greater San Antonio areas for over forty years. From our humble recreational roots to now our Select and Academy programs, Arsenal FC has been a mainstay in the greater soccer community of San Antonio. Our staff of USSF/NSCAA Licensed Trainers, are dedicated and committed to providing a safe and fun, yet disciplined and structured learning environment for your Soccer Player. We, as a club and organization, take pride in offering high-level training without the high level cost, choosing to focus instead on the outcome not income.

We at Arsenal FC also take great pride in the community and family that we have become over the years. Our Board consists of all volunteers, who are also dedicated and committed to the continuation of our core community values. We are also very involved in the San Antonio community, including AAYSA, STYSA and WDDOA events, and as our numbers continue to grow, we are proud that you considered us in your choice for a “futbol family”.

Throughout this handbook, we hope to answer any and all questions you may have, and hope to properly prepare you and your family for the upcoming season(s). However, should you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact your Head Coach, Team Manager, or the DOC.

Thank you and GO ARSENAL FC!

Respectfully,  
Arsenal FC

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## I. PLAYER CONDUCT

Arsenal FC strives to instill positive core values in all our Players, values and traditions that can be carried over to all aspect of their lives. Arsenal FC encourages Players to be disciplined, determined, positive, inquisitive, and open to instruction.

- a. Players are expected to attend all training sessions and games in proper Arsenal FC training attire or Arsenal FC Kit. Should you be absent for either, Player/Parents must communicate with their respective Coach or Team Manager immediately to inform them of your absence.
  - i. Note: certain Coaches will require a percentage attendance. These are respective to each Team. Player will sign a “Player Contract” provided by their Coach which will outline specific stipulations expected from that Coach for that Team.
  - ii. Proper Training Attire includes: cleats (or flats, depending on field), shin guards, black shorts, and Arsenal FC training shirt.
  - iii. No watches, jewelry, or non-sport attire to be worn during sessions or games.
  - iv. Proper Game Attire includes: cleats, shin guards, proper Arsenal FC Kit purchased at the beginning of year.
- b. Players may not use profanity or harass and bully others or teammates in practices, games, or at Club functions. Players are expected to have the upmost respect towards Coaches, Team Managers, opposing teams, and Referees, at all times.
- c. Players are expected to follow their respective “Player Contracts” provided by their respective Coaches, which will outline specific expectations for the Team. For example, one Coach may require you to arrive 45 min before a game, while another Coach requires 1 hour prior. Each Player is expected to know their “Team Rules” and follow them punctually.
- d. Players are expected to give 100% effort, at all times. This is especially applicable in training sessions.
- e. Should a Player be found to consistently and persistently engage in any of the above acts, they are subject to the following tiered system:
  - i. Coach conference with Parent/Guardian
  - ii. Director of Coaching conference with Parent/Guardian
  - iii. Game suspensions
  - iv. Multiple game suspensions
  - v. Expulsion from the Club.

## II. PARENT CONDUCT

Parents are expected to be our Partners in helping guide your Player to be the best they can be. Arsenal FC wants to work with our Parents to ensure that we are doing the best possible job teaching your Player the “beautiful game”. With that said, we must stress how important it is to support your Player. We encourage our Parents to be their Player’s number one fan and be supportive and encouraging to all our Players.

- a. Parents are expected to help their Player adhere to all the stipulations presented in their “Player Contract”, including being punctual. We understand that many of our Players do not drive, therefore, we urge our Parents to try to make sure your Player arrives on time and in proper uniform to their respective training/game times and days.
- b. Parents are expected to remain at the fields during practice times for any player that is driven to practice. We understand there may be times that you have to drop off and leave for short period of time. In these situations, please inform the Team Manager you are leaving for a short time. Due to safety concerns i.e. weather or player injury.
- c. Parents are expected NOT to engage in “sideline coaching”. If it becomes a persistent and disruptive issue, a Team Manager, Coach and the D.O.C will speak with you. This includes not only games but also training sessions or events in which the Head Coach is present.
- d. Parents are expected to uphold the high standard of etiquette that Arsenal FC has come to expect from its Parents, Friends, and Families at all games and training sessions. Please do not engage the opposing fans, teams, or any Referees. This Includes:
  - i. No alcoholic/tobacco consumption on or around fields where Players are present.
  - ii. No vulgar, profane, or rude behavior during games or training sessions.
  - iii. No offensive clothing or attire which would be disruptive to games or training sessions.
- e. Parents are expected to give the Coaches and Team Managers the upmost respect. Should an issue arise, the Parent and/or Player must inform the Team Manager to arrange a meeting with the Coach or Director of Coaching.
- f. Parents are expected to fulfil all financial obligations.
  - i. If a players account is 30 days behind the player will be suspended from games until payment is made.
  - ii. If a players account is 60 days behind the player will be suspended from all practices and games until payment is made.
- g. Should a Parent be found to consistently and persistently engage in any of the above acts, they are subject to the following tiered system:
  - i. Written Warning
  - ii. Temporary suspension of right to view games form sidelines
  - iii. Expulsion from the Club

- h. Parents are also required to participate in Volunteer Activities, hopefully, at least 1 time per season (twice a year). These volunteer opportunities will be available throughout the season, club wide and team led.
- i. Final note: Your child is a Student-Athlete. At Arsenal FC, we support academic excellence and highly promote many of our successful Student-Athlete's. As the name suggests, the importance is of the Student over the Athlete. However, mismanagement of time, irresponsibility, and lack of commitment are NOT adequate excuses. Your Player signed up for a soccer commitment to a Team and a soccer family. They must hold themselves to a higher standard, and therefore, must be held accountable to higher standards that some of their peers may not be. In short, acceptance of a spot on an Arsenal FC Team is a commitment, please do not take that lightly.



### III. GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

#### a. Player Selection:

Our professional coaching staff makes all team formation decisions. Parents, AFC Board Members and Team Managers are not involved.

- i. SCL, Division I, Super 2 and Division II teams are annual teams. However, their rosters may be adjusted between fall and spring seasons as deemed necessary by the Arsenal FC teams Coaching Staff.
- ii. Academy rosters are established on a seasonal basis.
- iii. Because of the complexity of the team formation process and because of the skill-sensitive environment in which Arsenal FC teams participate, parent requests for player placement may not be accommodated.
- iv. Once formed, teams generally remain fixed through the end of the upcoming season; however, the Arsenal Coaching Staff reserves the right to adjust rosters as needed, prior to any applicable transfer deadlines, to ensure that all players are placed on teams that best match their commitment and skill level.
- v. Arsenal makes every effort to accommodate ALL registrants. However, we are occasionally unable to place every registrant on a team. In the event that we are unable to accommodate your player, Director of Coaching will contact you to discuss the situation.

#### b. Tryouts:

- i. Tryouts are held in May at Schertz Soccer Complex. Parents are only required to attend should they want further specifics. This meeting will be held during the Tryout. Tryouts are held for 3 days, and Players are expected to attend all Tryout dates provided. This gives the Trainers the best possible chance to properly evaluate the players. The format will remain small sided games then full sided games, respective to their ages.
- ii. Players will be notified by email or phone call after the final tryout. Parents will then have 24 hours to accept the roster spot and complete the online registration and pay the commitment fee in full.
- iii. If a player is not registered within 24 hours of being offered a spot, the coaching staff reserves the right to offer the spot to another player.

#### c. Playing Up:

Players must try-out for their age appropriate team. If considered appropriate, the age group coach and/or Director may recommend the player to the Director of Coaching that a player plays 'up'. The Director of Coaching's decision is final.



**d. Team Meeting: (within 5 days of Tryouts)**

When the official team has been chosen, approved, and informed, the Head Coach will announce your first Team Meeting. Here you will learn:

- i. Coach Introduction
- ii. Contact information for Players, Parents, Team Manager and Coach
- iii. Season Schedule and Training Schedule: what days, when and times.
- iv. Team Contract: Expectations and Team rules
- v. Financial Information
- vi. Uniform Information
- vii. Fundraising Organization: assign a Fundraising Lead

**e. Team Formation:**

Players are evaluated and selected by our professional coaching staff. There is no definite number of players required for each team. However, guidelines are:

- i. 8Us, play 4v4; Max 8 per roster
- ii. 9U–10Us, play 7v7: Max 12 per roster
- iii. 11U–12Us, play 9v9: Max 16 per roster
- iv. 13U–15Us, play 11v11: Max 18 per roster
- v. 16U–19Us, play 11v11: Max 22 per roster

**f. Scholarships**

We understand the cost of competitive athletics can be high, which is why Arsenal FC has remained the lowest costing club in the San Antonio area. Should you request a Scholarship, your Player will have to be evaluated by the Director of Coaching and faces approval from the Scholarship Committee. Also, the Player and Parents are expected to volunteer in Club Fundraising Events because these events are how we ensure we have Scholarship Fund to provide for those who should need it. Each Scholarship player is expected to complete 20 hours of volunteer hours. Scholarship awards based on Club availability of funds, no guarantee.

**g. Tournaments**

- i. Each team is required to participate in at least 2 tournaments per soccer season (August – May). You are expected to attend, this not optional, you are not financially excused.
- ii. Head Coach may ask to enter your team in further tournaments, these must be agreed upon by the majority of the Team and approved by the Director of Coaching. Should your team enter an additional Tournament, you are not expected to attend, nor are you financially responsible.

**h. Travel Policy**

- i. Occasionally, Arsenal FC teams participate in tournaments, playoffs or other events out of the San Antonio area which require travel, meals and hotel costs (collectively, Travel Costs), in addition to required participation costs. Players participating in out-of-town events are responsible for covering their own Travel Costs. The manner in which teams organize for out of town events may vary from team to team, but any player who participates in a team's out of town event and

fails to pay his or her Travel Costs may be deemed ineligible to participate in future team events, including league games. This includes players receiving financial aid.

- ii. While attending out of town events, all Arsenal FC parents and players must adhere to Arsenal FC's Code of Conduct, as set forth on our website, and to any additional conduct requirements set forth herein. All applicable hotel policies apply to out of town travel as well. Players and adults who are unable to adhere to the foregoing while attending out of town events are subject to sanctions as set forth in the Code of Conduct.
- iii. Hotel arrangements for out of town events should be coordinated through the Team Manager, and all players and parents should stay at the same hotel throughout the duration of the event. Normally, this is required by the event's host as a condition for participation. However, even if not required, lodging in the same hotel is crucial to players being able to gain the chemistry building benefits of team travel. Additionally, while attending out of town events, Arsenal FC players and their families are encouraged to always stay in groups for safety reasons.

**i. Guest Player Policy**

Guest Players are players who are not currently registered with Arsenal and who participate in any event involving Arsenal teams. Guest Players are considered part of Arsenal FC and must adhere to all Arsenal FC rules and policies, as set forth herein and on our website. The team's Coach and Team Manager are both charged with ensuring that Guest Players and their parents are fully informed of this policy prior to their participation with Arsenal. Guest Players are responsible for paying their own participation costs and Travel Costs associated with any event in which they participate with Arsenal FC teams. All guest players must be approved by the Director of Coaching. Prior to participating with Arsenal FC teams, Guest Players must provide the Team Manager and the team's Coach with all necessary documentation required by any applicable gaming leagues and sanctioning organizations. Arsenal FC players may not guest play with a non-Arsenal FC team without the prior consent of his or her team's Coach and the Director of Coaching.

**j. Coach Travel Policy**

All Arsenal FC teams participating in out of town games or tournaments must be covered by a member of the Arsenal FC Coaching Staff unless otherwise approved by the Director of Coaching. Parents of players on Arsenal FC teams participating in an approved out of town events are collectively responsible for covering 100% of the travel costs, hotel costs and meals incurred by members of the Arsenal FC Coaching Staff covering the approved out of town events. An approved out of town event is a league game, a tournament which has been previously approved by the Director of Coaching or a playoff event, involving an Arsenal FC and which is located 30 miles outside Bexar/Guadalupe county, Texas. Travel costs are 58 cents per mile driven, meal costs are \$45 per day, flight costs and hotel accommodations where the team is staying. If a member of the Arsenal FC Coaching Staff covers more than one team in an approved out of town event, then the participating teams share the responsibility for reimbursing the coach in proportion to the amount of coach coverage received by each team at the event. Arsenal FC coaches must adhere to Arsenal FC's Code of Conduct when attending out of town events.



**k. Fundraising**

All Arsenal FC teams are encouraged to raise funds to cover team costs such as gaming league fees, tournament fees, travel costs, team parties, etc. Prior to conducting any fundraisers, Team Managers must submit a Fundraising Request Form by e-mail to the VP Arsenal FC requesting approval. All requests will be responded to within seven (7) business days.

**l. Inclement Weather Policy**

Every effort is made to hold training sessions and games as scheduled. In the event of inclement weather, the following procedures will be used: A decision whether to close the fields is made by 3 pm daily. However, because weather at 3 pm may not be the same as at 5 pm or 8 pm, sometimes a later notification becomes necessary. Arsenal FC endeavors to provide a safe training and playing environment based on current and/or forecasted weather conditions. If a session or game is stopped due to lightning, all players and parents must go to their cars immediately and wait for further notification from Arsenal FC before returning to the fields. As soon as any decisions on field closings or re-openings are made, parents will receive an email or text message via RainedOut.com. Please register for this service on the bottom center of the homepage of our website or by clicking the following link: [https://www.rainedout.net/team\\_page.php?a=c318816b9033c20ef4f8](https://www.rainedout.net/team_page.php?a=c318816b9033c20ef4f8).

Although RainedOut is a free service, your cellular phone carrier may charge a fee for receiving text messages. Please check with your carrier to determine if there is a fee for receiving text messages before signing up. To stop receiving text messages from RainedOut, simply reply to a text message with the word STOP.

**Gaming League Fields Status Information**

In most cases, weather related game delays or cancellations are determined by the policies of the respective gaming leagues or by the policies of the host club where the games are played. We recommend that you check the field status before leaving your home. We compiled a list of local game venues you can find field status phone numbers and additional information regarding their status under AREA FIELD MAPS on our website:

<http://arsenalfcsa.org/fields>

**m. Uniforms Policy**

Arsenal FC purchases uniforms on a 2-year cycle, however we are using the same uniform package again. This is the third year of our uniforms. New players will be purchased uniforms prior to the start of the beginning of the 2020 season. Returning players will need to purchase two new pair of socks (only). The next time players will be required to purchase a new uniform will be prior to the beginning of the 2021 season. Please keep this in mind when choosing uniform sizes.

Hummel is the exclusive uniform provider for Arsenal FC; Soccer Factory is the exclusive distributor for Arsenal FC uniforms. Players are encouraged to use Hummel products, such as: cleats, shin guards, balls, headbands, goalkeeping jerseys and gloves to match their Hummel uniform kits. All Arsenal FC players are expected to wear the Arsenal approved training kits without any variation to all training sessions and the Arsenal FC approved game kits to games.

**Arsenal FC Select Player 2020/2021 Hummel kits will consist of:**

2 – Hummel Game Jerseys – 1 Blue/Red and 1 Red  
2 – Hummel Game Shorts – 1 Royal Blue and 1 Red  
2 – Hummel Socks – 1 pair of Royal Blue and 1 Red  
Training Jersey – Neon Blue  
Hummel Charge Ball Backpack  
Hummel Training Jacket – Black  
Hummel Training Pant – Black  
Hummel All Weather Jacket - Black (not required)

**Black Arsenal FC Uniform Kit Fee:** \$260.66

**Goal Keeper Jersey:** \$53.45

**Arsenal FC Academy Player 2020/2021 Hummel kits will consist of:**

2 – Hummel Game Jerseys – 1 Blue/Red and 1 Red  
1 – Hummel Game Shorts – 1 Royal Blue  
1 – Hummel Socks – 1 pair of Royal Blue  
Training Jersey – Neon Blue  
Hummel Charge Ball Backpack  
Hummel Training Jacket – Black  
Hummel Training Pant – Black

**Arsenal FC Uniform Kit Fee:** \$239.10

**Goal Keeper Jersey:** \$53.45

In most, if not all gaming leagues and tournaments, in the event of a jersey color conflict, the HOME team must change jerseys. For this reason, it is imperative all players should bring both full uniform sets to every game in order to avoid having to sit out because of a color conflict. Failure to resolve a color conflict could result in a forfeiture being awarded against the Home team. During cold weather practices players should wear their Arsenal warm-up with the required training kit underneath. For games, warm-ups are worn during the warm-up session and are not allowed to be worn during the game unless a player is subbed out. Players may wear black long sleeve tops under the jersey. Players may wear slider shorts under their shorts but may not wear leggings or pants underneath. Gloves are allowed; however, hats are discouraged due to the limitation it places on players ability to head the ball. Ear bands are acceptable.

**n. Jersey Numbering**

If a player changes teams and a uniform number conflict exists, the club does not cover the expense of any new uniform items the player may need. The club does not allow any altering of uniform numbers. Players changing teams are responsible for purchasing two new jerseys if a number conflict exists with the team they are joining.

**o. Modifications**

Arsenal FC Hummel practice uniforms, game uniforms and warm-ups may not be modified in any way (e.g., applying names or patches, etc.). You are allowed to have your backpacks embroidered on. Any violations of the above stated uniform policy may result in disciplinary action per club policy.

#### IV. CLUB FEES

- a. Academy Program (4v4)**
  - i. Season Fee: \$700 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$150 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$55
  
- b. Academy Program (7v7)**
  - i. Season Fee: \$800 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$150 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$65
  
- c. Division II**
  - i. Season Fee: \$1,200 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$300 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$100 (9 month payment plan)
  
- d. Alpha**
  - i. Season Fee: \$1,350 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$300 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$116.66 (9 month payment plan)
  
- e. Challenger**
  - i. Season Fee: \$1,400 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$300 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$122.22 (9 month payment plan)
  
- f. Prime**
  - i. Season Fee: \$1,450 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$300 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$127.77 (9 month payment plan)
  
- g. State Classic League (SCL)**
  - i. Season Fee: \$1,550 (total)
  - ii. Commitment Fee: \$300 (applied to season fee)
  - iii. Monthly Payments: \$138.88 (9 month payment plan)

**Incentives:**

\$100 off if commitment fee if signed with in 24 hours of invitation to play, plus two Hummel fan wear shirts (for Select)-this applies to upfront no refundable money, not to the total of registration.

\$50.00 off commitment fee if signed within 72 hours of invitation to play, plus one Hummel fan wear shirt (for Select) this applies to upfront no refundable money, not to the total of registration.

## **V. FIELD AND FACILITY POLICIES**

Use of Schertz Soccer Complex without prior written consent from the Director of Coaching is strictly prohibited. Requests for field use – including but not limited to the use for scrimmages and private training sessions – must be made in advance to the Club.

- a. Our fields are city property and we strictly prohibit:
  - i. Unorganized games or training activities, where an Arsenal FC Staff Coach is not present.
  - ii. No pets of any sort at our facilities. Service dogs are allowed at our facilities but not on the fields.
  - iii. Smoking, alcoholic beverages or banned substances.
  - iv. Destroying or defacing soccer facilities or equipment such as goals, nets, corner flags, bleachers, grass, walkways, etc.
- b. Please observe the following guidelines when parking at Schertz Soccer Complex:
  - i. Allow pedestrians the right of way.
  - ii. Maintain less than 10 MPH speed.
  - iii. Please park your car in an orderly manner so as to maximize use of parking space and to maintain driving lanes.
  - iv. Enter and exit facilities only through appropriately designated gates.
  - v. No parking on any grass areas. - Children should avoid walking through the parking lots as much as possible.
- c. Violation of the Arsenal FC field use policy shall be deemed a violation of the Arsenal FC Code of Conduct.

## **VI. CLUB MEMBER SAFETY**

Arsenal FC makes every reasonable effort to provide a safe environment for its players. However, parents should not leave players unattended at any field.

Get to know other coaches, team managers, parents and players in the club and, in particular, those on your player's team and on the teams, which practice on adjacent fields. Players should practice the "Buddy System" when using restrooms at games and training sessions. Parents and parent appointed chaperones are responsible for their respective players when traveling. Be aware of your surroundings. Do not become complacent. Report dangerous field conditions to the Director of Coaching.

## **VII. PLAYER INSUREANCE COVERAGE**

Limited secondary insurance coverage is automatically provided to registered Arsenal FC players through STYSA. Such coverage applies ONLY to certain sanctioned events including regularly scheduled training sessions and games and requires the player to have completed and submitted the appropriate Medical Release Form. This coverage supplements the player's private health insurance policy. For players without private health insurance, this policy may serve as limited primary insurance.

Details on the foregoing secondary insurance coverage may be found on the following websites:  
STYSA: <http://www.stxsoccer.org>