



**Colorado Fusion Soccer Club  
Parent Welcome Packet  
2011- 2012**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2011/2012 soccer season with the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. Our goal is to provide your player with a fun, healthy activity that will help instill sportsmanship and help your child develop the soccer skills that will allow them to enjoy the sport for years to come.

We hope that this welcome packet provides you with information that will help your child to have a successful soccer season, and additional information that helps you understand what to expect throughout the year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to any of our staff (listed below) by phone or email.

On behalf of all of our staff, thank you for entrusting your children to us, and have a great season.

See you on the fields!



Jon Goldin-Dubois  
Executive Director

## COLORADO FUSION SOCCER CLUB CONTACTS

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# **COLORADO FUSION SOCCER CLUB MISSION AND VISION**

## **MISSION**

The Colorado Fusion Soccer Club provides the youth of our diverse community with the benefits of a team sport that develops character and sportsmanship, fosters a healthy lifestyle and enjoyment and encourages each player to achieve his or her highest potential on and off the soccer field.

## **VISION**

The Colorado Fusion Soccer Club will achieve its mission by partnering with parents, schools, recreation centers and other community organizations to develop cutting edge programming that provides players and staff the challenge and the opportunity to reach their potential.

## **CLUB VALUES**

Fusion soccer should be **fun**.

Fusion soccer should be **accessible**.

Fusion players, parents, coaches and staff should recognize that winning is important but **player development is paramount**.

## **THE FUSION PHILOSOPHY**

The Colorado Fusion curriculum focuses on technical training and competence that will enable our players to compete in different soccer environments, whether it is club, school, select team soccer or a pick-up game in the park.

- We use games to continue the player education process rather than as the sole barometer of success;
- We expect coaches to develop a passion for soccer in every player, measure their performance and provide regular feedback on their progress;
- We will structure our training to prepare our players to perform at their highest level;
- We aim to prepare our players for lasting success on and off the field.

We have succeeded when children have fun playing soccer, increase their skill level and make the decision to continue playing into the next season.

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN COLORADO FUSION SOCCER**

While soccer is a game for our children, parents play an important role in whether the game results in a positive, fun and rewarding experience. Our primary role as parents is to be role models of sportsmanship and support the participants of the game. These participants include the players, referees and the coaches. The examples we set for the players far exceed the importance of the results of any particular game. Parents must:

- Respect all players from both teams
- Respect the referees and game facilitators
- Respect the coaches

## **COLORADO FUSION SOCCER CLUB'S PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Youth soccer is for the players. All parents associated with the Colorado Fusion are invited to share in the pleasure of watching their children participate in the world's most popular sport so long as their behavior does not distract the players and officials from the free flow of play, which is the trademark of the sport.

### **Parents should:**

- Foster an environment of respect for referees, players, coaches and spectators of the opposing team through words of encouragement and support.
- Applaud superior play, effort and sportsmanship by players on both teams.
- Support your coaches and managers consistently regardless of the results on the field. Coaches are volunteers who contribute many hours of their time to your children. They deserve your congratulations when the team wins and your encouragement when the team doesn't. Communicate any concerns to the coach at the appropriate time (recommended 24 hour cool off period) away from the playing location and players.
- Always remain at least two yards from the playing field so our young players have room to play and enjoy the game.
- Cooperate with any request by the game officials.

### **Parents must not:**

- Use foul language or obscene gestures at a game or practice site.
- Make comments or gestures that express disagreement with referee decisions.
- Consume alcoholic beverages on the field location at practices or games.
- Attempt to coach their child, yell instructions or criticize players from either team on the playing field.

### **Each parent understands that:**

- Any parent or spectator who fails to adhere to these standards will be required to leave the playing area, and play will be suspended until he or she does so.
- The Colorado Fusion reserves the right to suspend or terminate a player's enrollment for his or her parent's persistent or extreme sideline misbehavior, and there will be no refunds of player fees in such cases.
- They will be responsible for their guests' behavior and must inform their guests of the applicable rules of conduct.

Your cooperation with these standards before, during and after each game or practice will make Colorado Fusion soccer more enjoyable for everyone.

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH THE COLORADO FUSION**

1. Complaints regarding Colorado Fusion coaches, assistant coaches and or managers should be addressed with the head coach. If resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the appropriate program director.
2. Concerns regarding your child's team should be addressed directly with your child's coach or assistant coach at a proper time and place. If resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the appropriate program director.
3. If after following the appropriate measures as listed in #1 and #2 above, and resolution is not satisfactory, document your concerns in writing to the attention of the Colorado Fusion Executive Director.
4. Complaints and concerns regarding Colorado Fusion's player development policies, programs and coaching staff should be documented in writing and sent to the attention of the Colorado Fusion Executive Director.
5. Complaints and concerns regarding Colorado Fusion's administrative policies should be documented in writing and sent to the attention of the Colorado Fusion Executive Director.
6. Any breaches of the above standards of conduct can result in your child's suspension and a member's removal from the Colorado Fusion. Comments and behavior of any member, which contradict the mission statement, or disrupt the functioning of a team of the Colorado Fusion can result in the suspension and/or removal from the Colorado Fusion.

# WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SEASON

## Calendar/Important Dates

August 2, 2011	Competitive Advanced I team practices begin
August 15, 2011	Competitive Advanced II and Developmental U11-U18 team practices begin
August 22, 2011	Developmental (U5-U10) practices begin
August 27, 2011	Competitive games begin
September 10, 2011	Developmental games begin
October 29, 2011	Last developmental for fall

## Uniforms and Equipment

### Uniforms

All developmental uniforms are available at Soccer Stop, 12300 E Cornell Ave, Aurora, CO 80014. They can also be purchased from their website, <http://www.soccerstop.com/c-253-colorado-fusion.aspx>.

- Junior Academy players will wear a reversible jersey with black shorts and red socks. The kit is \$39.99.
- U9 and older developmental players will wear a developmental package consisting of a red jersey, a black jersey, black shorts and red socks. The kit is \$44.99 for youth sizes and \$49.99 for adult sizes.

Numbers are not required on any developmental uniforms.

Competitive players and their parents should consult with their team manager to order uniforms.

### Equipment

- All players are required for to wear shin guards for all practices and games. Shin guards should be worn **under** the socks.
- Soccer cleats are recommended but not required. No metal cleats are allowed.
- A soccer ball should be brought to each practice. U5-U8 players will use a size 3 ball, U9-U12 use a size 4 ball, and U13 and older will use a size 5 ball.
- Water should be brought to each practice and to all games.
- Players should bring a bag with a jacket and other warm clothing for our ever-changing Colorado weather.
- All equipment should be clearly marked with the player's name.

## Team Organization

Our teams are organized by age, gender and geographic location.

### Age

One method used to organize teams is the age of the player, as the player's age determines the age group in which a player will play in.

These age groups are determined by US Youth Soccer and are based on the soccer calendar, which runs from August 1 through July 31. An age group chart can be found on our website: <http://www.coloradofusion.org/docs/2011agegroupchart.pdf>

A player may choose to play with classmates if their birth date falls within the school guidelines (usually August and September birthdays) and they are in the appropriate grade level.

Our club policy allows players to request to "play up" with the approval of the Program Director, although this is not recommended. Players are not allowed to "play down" in a younger division. In other words a player turning 6 during the soccer calendar year cannot play on a U5 team.

### Gender

We also form teams by gender. In other words girls play with girls and boys play with boys. There are some exceptions particularly when there insufficient players to form a viable team. In that case we combine boys and girls and the team plays in the boys division. This generally only occurs in the youngest age groups (U5 and U6).

Some girls may request to play on a boy's team. This requires permission by the appropriate Technical Director for the age group. Boys are not permitted to play on a girl's team in any circumstances.

### Geographic Location

Our club has teams in Aurora, Centennial, Denver, and Commerce City. We try to place players as close to their home as possible which allows families some ease with practices. When a player registers the playing area may be requested.

Please be aware that the teams can only be formed when there are enough registered players for a particular area/neighborhood.

**While we make every effort to place every child on an appropriate team, it is sometimes impossible to find a spot for every child. If we are unable to place your child on a team you will receive a full refund.**

### Team Size

Colorado Fusion believes that playing is one of the best teachers for learning the game of soccer. In order to achieve these objectives and to allow each player at least 50% playing time we recommend the following roster sizes:

U5 and U6 teams limited to 6 to 7 players  
U7 and U8 teams limited to 8 to 9 players  
U9 teams are limited to 10 to 12 players  
U10 teams are limited to 12 to 14 players  
U11 and older teams limited to 12 to 18 players

Colorado Fusion shoots for the targeted number but sometimes we settle on higher or lower numbers based on any number of factors. These factors include: registration numbers, existing team considerations, and geographic considerations.

## **Team Formation Dates and Processes**

After the deadline to register passes (July 8<sup>th</sup> for the fall season and February for the spring season) we will begin the process of team formation.

Our first consideration in placing players is the opportunity for returning players to return to their team from the previous season. If space is available new players can be placed on these teams. The team placement will be clearly communicated by email or phone to both the family and the coach.

If there are additional players who need a team placement we then look at forming new teams. Players are grouped by age, gender and location. The club then begins the process of finding a team coach. Our coaches in the developmental program are volunteers. If you are interested in coaching with Colorado Fusion please contact our office so we might start the process of placing you and your child on a team.

Families will be notified by email, phone or both with the player placement.

You can also check the status of your player's placement by viewing our website. Once we have processed your player's registration you can use this tool to view the team placement.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://ssl.demosphere.com/CFSC>
2. Choose option 3 (I am currently registered and would like to update my personal info.)
3. Enter your personal information to log-in.
4. Under your player's name you will see a team name next to their name along with the coach contact information.

If you have not heard about your player's placement by August 19<sup>th</sup> please contact our office.

You should hear from your player's coach no later than August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact our office immediately at 303-399-5858, ext 101 if you have not.

## **Fields and Schedules**

Our teams practice and play games on fields owned by local municipalities (Denver and Aurora). These fields provide us with a great local resource for both games and practices.

However, since we often are not “awarded” fields from the cities until just days before our season begins, scheduling field times can be one of the most challenging of all of our tasks. Please be patient as we look to schedule both practices (for our developmental and advance programs) and games (for our developmental program) for over 300 teams with very little notice from the cities of fields that will be available to us.

## **Practices**

Junior Academy teams will practice one time per week for 45-60 minutes. U9 and older developmental teams will practice two times per week for 60 minutes.

Each coach will establish the times and locations of regular practices. Practice times are based on the coach’s availability and field availability.

Be prepared to arrive at practice on time with your player ready to participate. Players should always have water, an appropriate sized soccer ball, extra clothing and soccer cleats.

Our coaches are required to stay on the field until the last player has been picked up. Parents should respect the schedules of both our volunteer and professional coaches and always be on time to pick up their player(s).

Weather may cause cancellation of practice. Cancellations will be posted on our website, [www.coloradofusion.org](http://www.coloradofusion.org) or on our weather line, 303-399-5858, ext 5 by 2:00 p.m.. Individual coaches may also determine that weather conditions are not appropriate for practices. You will be contacted directly by your coach if that should occur.

## **Games**

Developmental team games for the fall season will begin on September 10, 2011. Game schedules will be posted 2 weeks prior to the start of the season. Complete schedules can be found on our website. Games generally start no earlier than 9:00 a.m. but can run as late as 4:00 p.m.

Weather conditions may cause the cancellation of games. Cancellations will be posted on our website, [www.coloradofusion.org](http://www.coloradofusion.org) or on our weather line, 303-399-5858, ext 5 by 7:30 a.m. We will also notify Channel 9 and Channel 4 News. They will scroll the information on the bottom of their newscasts.