

# MARYLAND UNITED FC



MDUnitedFC.org P.O. Box 2093 Bowie, MD 20718 @Maryland\_United Maryland United FC marylandunitedfc

## CODE OF CONDUCT, ATTITUDE AND EXPECTATION PLAYER AGREEMENT

Our purpose is to provide an outstanding environment for young student-athletes to develop as soccer players and people, while promoting values of good sportsmanship, teamwork, achievement, a commitment to excellence, self-confidence and fun for players and their families through the game of soccer. The conduct of players, coaches, family members and spectators is critical to this process. Considering the thousands of people involved with Maryland United, the instances of poor conduct each year are remarkably few. These few instances, however, we will not tolerate. Civility, decency and respect are concepts that we all should embrace and understand.

### RESPECT

- All coaches, parents, players, teammates, officials and opponents will be treated with respect. We need a respectful and supportive family atmosphere among all teams, parents, players and coaches. Divisive behavior, negativity, poor body language, cliques, drama, talking back will not be tolerated. Through all the ups and downs we need to maintain our perspective, have a strong club spirit, and enjoy the process.

### COMMITMENT

- It is a great privilege and opportunity to be in the Maryland United program. *For HS aged players and all ECNL players, the MD United must be your first priority.* Missing practice or games for illegitimate reasons or providing late notice of your absence will result in a decrease in playing time and may jeopardize your position on the team.
- All players must attend practice and travel to all home and away conference games and tournaments.
- Players must be fit, willing and motivated to self-train technically outside of team practice and improve tactical knowledge by watching professional soccer.
- *The only valid reasons to not practice and travel will be injury, academic reasons, SAT & ACT test dates, US Soccer Training Centers, Youth National Team camps, Senior Prom and personal or family member school graduation or ceremonies.*
- *Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Prom will not be considered an acceptable reason to miss a game.*
- *Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior cannot miss an official league game to attend a college ID Clinic (Seniors will be by case by case basis).*
- *High-School aged players can participate in Fall HS soccer and in a Winter HS sport but cannot miss practice or games due to participation in a winter HS sport.*
- *High-School aged players cannot participate in a spring HS sport. The MD United program is too demanding and requires 100% focus and dedication to the game of soccer. Also trying to do another sport in also increases the risk of major injury. On days off players should either take proper rest & recovery days or be improving physical strength, stability, condition, and spending time refining technique.*
- It is assumed that a Maryland United high-school aged player has decided that soccer is a very important part of their life and they want to pursue the game at the highest level of youth soccer with the goal of playing collegiately or professionally.

### PLAYING ON OTHER MARYLAND UNITED TEAMS

- Maryland United ECNL, Red and White players may be asked to play on different teams in the club throughout the year due to following circumstances: performance merit, the team has suffered injuries and need players, league requirements, positional needs, the player needs to be challenged by playing up.

### ATTITUDE, TEAMWORK, WORK ETHIC

- It is expected you will give 100% effort, concentration and love the challenge of competition.
- Have a selfless "Club over I" positive attitude.
- Be a supportive, compassionate and positive teammate.
- There are many good players, but the great players are those who consistently demonstrate habits on and off the field that make themselves and others around them better.

### WILLINGNESS TO LEARN AND DEMONSTRATE MATURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Players must be coachable and attentive to instruction.
- Players must develop an understanding that feedback, both positive and constructive, is essential for growth and development.
- Players must show leadership and accountability for their preparation and performance. It is easy to blame others or make excuses. Request feedback and have mature conversations with your coach to help you improve or get through a tough period.

#### QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

- Ask your coach directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding your performance, role, team, or need feedback for clarification.

#### GUEST PLAYING AND PRIVATE TRAINING

- Guest playing opportunity will be allowed within Maryland United. Must get permission from your coach or DOC to guest outside of the club.
- Players can hire private trainers for additional training but the player's current Head coach or Assistant coach are not allowed to privately train their own players.

#### EQUIPMENT

- Take care of your equipment and leave places clean. Everyone has a duty to help clean up fields of balls, pennies, cones and trash. Take care of cleats and attire. Do not let your parents carry your bag, ball or water. It is your responsibility.

#### PRACTICE ATTIRE

- Wear designated Maryland United practice gear and warmup. Shin guards must be at all times during practice unless specified by the coaches. Bring your own inflated ball and water.

#### GAME DAY

- Arrive One hour before kickoff unless specified by your coach. Wear Maryland United Warm-up and practice jersey. Bring all uniforms, cleats and necessary equipment.

#### TRAVEL

- Players will be required to function as a team when we travel. This means all players must stay in the same hotel, eat with the team unless specified by coaches, and abide by all rules and curfews set forth in the itinerary.
- Parents are very welcome to stay in the team hotel but can choose to do otherwise. Players traveling solo will be roomed with other players/families.
- Overall this is extremely important for player and team development and unity and dealing with last minute logistical problems that arise in travel tournaments.

#### TRAVEL SAFETY

- Players must always be accompanied by an adult or walk in groups of 2-3 players in and around the hotel premises, to and from meetings, during free-times if going to the mall, movies, or designated activities. Never go into another hotel room of an opposing team or strangers and at all times be vigilant of suspicious activity.