



Stepaside FC

Parent/Guardian Contract

The Role of the Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians play an important role in promoting children's happiness and success in football and sport in general. Parental expectation and behaviour have a significant bearing on children's attitude and behaviour while participating in football.

While winning is important, it must be remembered that winning at all costs does not meet the needs of players. Results are not necessarily a good indicator of coaching effectiveness or ability; the improvement of players and their level of enjoyment is.

It is important for parents/guardians to find out what their children want from football and help them set realistic targets to achieve this.

The support and encouragement from parents/guardians will contribute to children having;

- A sense of personal achievement
- An enjoyment of football
- Improved physical fitness
- Higher self-esteem
- A greater level of skill
- Improved social skills

Stepaside FC would also encourage all Parents/Guardians to:

- Give the coaches help when asked and show appreciation for a job well done
- Volunteer to assist the coach, for example putting up goal posts and nets, assisting at training, matches etc.
- Support coaches' and referees' decisions - they are doing their best
- Inform the coach about any illness, injury, holidays etc.
- Make an effort to attend training and games
- Communicate any concerns you may have to the coaches
- Make sure the child has appropriate equipment / clothing / refreshments
- Encourage fair play at home and do not instill a "win at all costs" attitude in children

- Be positive or quiet, negative comments are counter-productive

As a Parent / Guardian of a child / children playing for Stepside FC, we would ask that you read the following carefully and return this form signed as a confirmation of your acceptance of your responsibilities.

We would also request that you review the Players' Code of Conduct with your child / children and ask that they also sign as confirmation that they understand what is being asked of them and will endeavor to uphold these principals.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

I therefore agree:

- I will ensure my child is punctual for all training and games.
- I will help and encourage my child to complete all homework set.
- I will not force my child to participate in soccer.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the young player, not for the glory of the adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical injury or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- I will talk to my child about the importance of not 'bullying' teammates or taking advantage of another player. I will also talk to them about not accepting 'bullying' of themselves or others.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will emphasise skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.
- I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the players ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during matches or practices.
- I give permission for photographs of my child to be used for publicity purposes. (Subject to FAI policies and guidelines on the use of images)
- I will accept all final decisions made by the staff of the Stepside FC.

Signed (Parent/Guardian): _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Team: U____ Boys / Girls