



Odyssey Sport Soccer Club  
Player/Family Handbook and Contract  
2009/2010

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**2009/2010**  
**PLAYER/FAMILY HANDBOOK AND CONTRACT**  
Welcome to Odyssey Sport Soccer Club 2009/2010 season!

**Mission Statement**

Using the sport of soccer, Odyssey Sport Soccer Club fosters an environment that builds character and sportsmanship through the total development of players and teams at all ages and levels of competition. Odyssey Sport Soccer Club:

- ❖ Instills the highest standard of professionalism for our coaches, respect for individual players, and sportsmanship on and off the field of play.
- ❖ Instills respect for the game, respect for others, and the importance of giving back to the game and community.
- ❖ Instills the concept of continued education for our players, families, coaches and teams in all areas of the sport of soccer.
- ❖ Ensures that players reach their fullest potential in fitness, game play, leadership, ethics and honesty.

Odyssey is committed to the development of the individual within the program, both athletically and personally. The combination of supportive parents, quality coaching, and strong management equals a successful program.

Odyssey Sport Soccer Club (Odyssey) is dedicated to the development of soccer players to the highest level possible. Because of that goal, Odyssey must maintain standards that enable the club, coaches and players to participate at what is considered the highest level of youth soccer. Participating at this level requires commitment and behavior that goes beyond that of a recreational focus. To help establish and maintain a guideline of standards, this Player/Parent handbook and contract must be read, fully understood and agreed to by all Odyssey players and families.

Please read this agreement carefully, sign it where indicated, and return the signed acknowledgement to your team manager.

Best regards,

Mike Sheridan, President, Odyssey Sport Soccer Club

Claire McLain, Director of Coaching

Chris McLain, Assistant Director of Coaching (Girls)

Paul Stinson, Assistant Director of Coaching (Boys)

## EXPECTATIONS

### The Parent's Role

Parental involvement is vital to the success of Odyssey Sport Soccer Club. Parents pay substantial tuition fees, transport players to training and games, and usually support the Club in other ways. However, reasonable boundaries around parental involvement are essential to player and team development, and Odyssey has established these guidelines:

Please:

- ❖ Drop players off on time for games and practices. Let coaches know if your player will be late or absent
- ❖ Feel free to support and cheer players during a game
- ❖ Allow players and coaches the freedom to train without your constant supervision
- ❖ If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, allow yourself a twenty-four hour "cooling off" period, express your concern, and then give the coach enough time to respond

The following is unacceptable behavior:

- ❖ Being overly zealous on the sidelines during games
- ❖ Berating or directing degrading remarks at anyone (players, parents or officials)
- ❖ Using foul language
- ❖ Coaching from the sidelines

Parents who do not follow these guidelines will be counseled by Odyssey directors and may be asked to leave an event or not attend games. As a last resort, a player will be removed from the team roster and dismissed from the Club. THERE WILL BE NO WRITTEN WARNING.

### The Player's Role

Odyssey Sport Soccer Club exists solely for your benefit. Please respect your coaches and the experience that they share with you. Additionally:

- ❖ Thank your parents for giving you the opportunity to play
- ❖ Communicate directly with your coach regarding absences from training, games, or tournaments.
- ❖ Train regularly - be on time - work hard
- ❖ Take care of your uniform and equipment
- ❖ Exhibit good sportsmanship
- ❖ Ask questions if you don't understand something
- ❖ Warm up in advance in order to maximize coaching time on the field (this is especially important in the winter, when indoor training time is short)
- ❖ Try to watch good soccer on television.
- ❖ Remember that your behavior reflects on you, your family, your coach, your team, and the Club
- ❖ Do your best in school: education is more important than soccer

### The Coach's Role

The coach is responsible for:

- ❖ Selecting a team roster at tryouts, notifying players who try out, and assuring that teams have sufficient numbers of players committed to leagues, games and tournaments
- ❖ Creating a training schedule that is acceptable to both families and the directors of coaching and maintaining that schedule throughout the soccer year
- ❖ Working with the coaching director to choose appropriate leagues and tournaments for the team
- ❖ Attending all training sessions, games, and tournaments or securing a qualified substitute
- ❖ Providing regular feedback to players and families
- ❖ Working with the team administrator to maintain communication with families
- ❖ Assuring that a medical kit, ice, and the team book with Odyssey medical cards for each player are available at all training sessions and games
- ❖ Providing players with two written evaluations per year.

## The Role of the Team Manager

Each team will have a manager to help the coach. The team manager coordinates communication among the coach, the families and the Club. Some responsibilities are:

- ❖ Collecting initial forms and information from families – players will not train or compete until their files are complete.
- ❖ Arranging travel to tournaments by registering, securing paper work, and reserving hotel accommodations
- ❖ Communicating with families about schedules, schedule changes, and providing the coach and Club with a player availability matrix
- ❖ Coordinating uniform orders
- ❖ Soliciting volunteers for committees and Odyssey events
- ❖ Maintaining a team web page.
- ❖ Attending a regularly scheduled meeting.

Team managers are not involved in coaching decisions, player and family concerns, fees and billing, or financial aid. Coaching and player/family issues should be directed either to the coach or to the coaching director, and financial questions/issues should be addressed to Corinne Banker

### Tournament behavior:

- ❖ Players will follow curfews set by coaches
- ❖ Socializing with members of the opposite sex will take place only outside of hotel rooms
  - only coaches or their representatives will make any exception to this rule
- ❖ Coaches may set other rules or regulations as they see fit
- ❖ All players on teams through and including the U14s must room with at least one adult

### Drug and Alcohol Policy:

Use or possession of any alcohol or tobacco product, or any illegal substance, at any Club sponsored event by any Odyssey player will result in immediate removal from the Club for the duration of the playing season. Fees will be forfeited.

### Discipline:

ENY Youth Soccer requires each club to attach a disciplinary procedure to its bylaws, and Odyssey's official paperwork includes a formal hearing process. This procedure deals with serious player, parent, or coach misbehavior, such as fighting, swearing, or disrespect toward opponents, officials, coaches, or fellow teammates. Incidents are handled at the club level. Although Odyssey has never convened a disciplinary hearing, it reserves the right to respond to infractions with measures ranging from temporary suspension to dismissal from the Club.

## PLAYER STATUS

### Roster players:

Players who accept a roster spot are committed to the team and guaranteed their roster position through the spring season provided they:

- ❖ Train consistently - coaches expect players to attend most training sessions
- ❖ Are available for State Cup and Regional competition. Parents will complete an availability matrix for their player which includes religious and family obligations, standardized test dates, and other anticipated conflicts. While it is understood that there will be occasional unanticipated conflicts that cause a player to miss a game, players and families are expected to be fully committed to game attendance.
- ❖ Pay their fees

### Training players:

Training players are sometimes included on teams when coaches believe that those players can benefit from the Odyssey program, contribute to the training environment, and grow as soccer players. Training players are not promised any game time and, because match competition is essential to development, those players are encouraged to pursue a roster spot on another team (unless the limited participation suits their current needs). Training players pay a reduced fee.

## **Playing time:**

Odyssey understands that individual player development is based on competitive experience, so the Club has developed policy to support fair playing time for players. Coaches are permitted to make exceptions to this policy, for example, during a "must-win" State Cup game that sends the team to regional competition or a tournament championship that qualifies the team for other opportunities, but those exceptions are supervised by the coaching directors. Occasionally, coaches make mistakes in the run of play and a player or group of players isn't substituted properly. Please mention errors to the coach and allow him or her to respond. However, a qualified player who is routinely excluded from substantial match play should follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

### U15 and younger

- ❖ Players who train seriously and consistently (a minimum of 60% of all sessions) can expect to play for at least half of every game unless an exception is clearly communicated to them and their parents before that game. Communication should occur before the day of the game.
- ❖ Players traveling overnight to tournaments can expect to play in 50% of the tournament regardless of attendance.
- ❖ Some contests, including State Cup and Region 1 beginning at U15, enforce limited substitution rules whereby a player cannot be re-entered into play after he or she leaves the field in a half. These rules affect playing time, and coaches will explain limited substitution situations and resulting playing time expectations as they occur.

### U16 – U18

- ❖ Players who train seriously and consistently (a minimum of 60% of all sessions) can expect to play for at least half the season, rather than half of each game. This provision, while it allows the coach more flexibility in fielding a team for a particular contest, is not intended as an excuse to exclude any player from most of the team's quality contests.
- ❖ Players traveling overnight to tournaments can expect to play in 50% of the tournament regardless of attendance.
- ❖ Some contests, including State Cup and Region 1 beginning at U15, enforce limited substitution rules whereby a player cannot be re-entered into play after he or she leaves the field in a half. These rules affect playing time, and coaches will explain limited substitution situations and resulting playing time expectations as they occur.

### U19 and older

Players are not guaranteed any game time

## **FEES**

The Odyssey tuition fee covers:

Two weekly team training sessions from December through June for younger teams and July for older teams

Goalkeeper training within team training sessions

Foot skills training

Fitness, speed and agility training

Odyssey commitment fee

ENY Youth Soccer registration fee

ENY Youth Soccer permission to travel fees

Indoor league sessions

Outdoor league fees

Field rental costs

Indoor facility rental costs

All referee costs

All coaches' expenses

Administrative expenses

For U10 - U19 players, the annual club fees covers December 1 - July 31. The annual club fee does not include the uniform kit, tournament fees, personal travel costs, and spirit wear/accessories. Members have the option to pay the club fees using our approved payment plan or a one-time full-pay plan.

### **How to claim your roster spot**

To claim your roster spot you must pay \$100.00 which is a non-refundable deposit as soon as you get your confirmation about making the team. The \$100.00 will be applied towards your first club fee payment which is due no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and you will be expected to begin training in December with your team. The \$100 deposit will NOT hold your spot until spring if you decide you do not want to play the indoor season. Lastly, the parent/player contract must be signed and handed in to confirm your position within the team.

### **Late charge Fees**

Payments are due on the date specified and subject to a \$25 late charge if payment is not received before the next payment is due.

### **Returned Payment Fees**

Returned Check payments that do not settle your account and are returned unpaid to Odyssey are subject to a \$25 service charge. Odyssey will bill you the service charge and you will have 10 days to pay your account. This applies to payments by check, electronic debit, credit card and debit card.

### **Overdue Accounts**

The Odyssey board unanimously voted to exclude players who have not met their financial commitment. All ages, are required to be up-to-date in order to be added to a new year roster. Also, the Board will no longer allow players who have not met their financial commitment to participate in training and games. This means that the players pass will be pulled until all financial commitments are met.

### **Special Cases**

The club does make exceptions in the event of injury or other extraordinary circumstances. You may make a request for an exception by sending an email to Corinne Banker (cbanker@odysseysportny.com) All requests shall be answered within one (1) board meeting cycle.

### **Refund Policy**

Odyssey is committed to each player for a full year and we expect each player to be committed to Odyssey for the year as well. Once the soccer year has begun, no refunds will be issued, as other players may have been rejected on the basis of your commitment, demonstrated by accepting an Odyssey roster spot.

To request **financial aid** the Financial Aid Application must be submitted to the Odyssey office no later than December 1, 2009. Visit [www.odysseysportny.com](http://www.odysseysportny.com) for an application or the last page of this document. Financial aid is based on financial need using the Federal Poverty Guidelines as a tool and an award is not guaranteed. Financial aid awards are not talent based nor are they guaranteed from year to year. All financial aid requests will be held in the strictest of confidence by the Odyssey Board of Directors. All requests shall be answered within one (1) board meeting cycle.

\* In addition to the annual club fees a **fundraiser fee** of \$100.00 will be added per player to annual fees (Max 2 per family). This fundraiser fee can be offset by the selling of raffle tickets. A tax deductible donation equal to or more than the fundraiser amount can be made in lieu of participating in the fundraiser.

### **Fee structure**

**Tryouts - \$25 Due at time of registration**

**Full season - \$575 paid in full by January 1st**

**Full season with payment plan - \$650**  
**\$100 due at time of acceptance**  
**\$110 due on 1/1/10**  
**\$110 due on 2/1/10**  
**\$110 due on 3/1/10**  
**\$110 due on 4/1/10**  
**\$110 due on 5/1/10**

If behind on May 1<sup>st</sup>, a player will not be participating in the outdoor season until the member has regained good financial status standing.

### **Training only - \$200 per season**

\$200 Indoor training - unlimited sessions with ONE age appropriate team

\$200 Outdoor training - unlimited sessions with ONE age appropriate team

### **Indoor or Outdoor Season ONLY - \$400**

**Should you wish to start indoor and then add outdoor the additional cost would be \$250**

**Should you wait or not start until mid season or only want to play outdoors** we cannot guarantee that the roster for your team will not already have been filled. If there is room on the roster, and you are invited to play after a tryout, you can certainly be added to a roster. But, many times a roster fills to capacity, and there may be no room for players that do not join at the beginning of the season. Roster sizes are determined by ENYSA, our State association, not by Odyssey.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> child discount available of \$200(for the third child only) ONLY if all children play BOTH seasons**

In addition to the annual club fees a **fundraiser fee of \$100.00** will be added per player to annual fees (Max 2 per family). This fundraiser fee can be offset by the selling of raffle tickets. A tax deductible donation equal to or more than the fundraiser amount can be made in lieu of participating in the fundraiser.

The annual club fee does not include the uniform kit, tournament fees, personal travel costs, and spirit wear/accessories. For the 2010 season and foreseeable future, we will be wearing Nike uniforms. Every 2 years the uniforms will change and players will be required to purchase new ones. The cost for the entire uniform (2 jerseys, 1 pr shorts, 1 pr socks) will be approximately \$60-70. Warm Ups will be approximately \$75-80 and are not required for U11 and 12 teams.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Recruiting:**

Please tell your friends if you're enjoying your Odyssey experience, let the coach know if you're aware of an unattached player, but don't solicit families yourself. It is a nuisance to the Club to answer baseless recruiting complaints.

#### **Complaint procedure:**

If your complaint involves team or coaching issues, please direct concerns to your coach and give him or her time to consider your situation and respond to you. If you and the coach are unable to resolve an issue or if you have a concern that is not team-related, contact Director of Coaching Claire McLain or Club Administrator Corinne Banker. Claire or Corinne will direct your complaint to the correct person and follow through to be sure that you receive a prompt response. Try to address issues and concerns promptly: positive player, family and team morale are essential to a successful and enjoyable soccer season.

#### **Withdrawing mid-season:**

If a family experiences unexpected financial reversals during the year, a parent should contact the business office to arrange for an extension of his obligation. Odyssey's scholarship dollars are promised and spent early in the soccer year, but other arrangements are usually possible. On the other hand, there are situations that warrant releasing a player from his or her obligation to the Club. These include, but are not limited to: illness or injury, a family move, unexpected conflicts with other activities, and unhappiness with the soccer program. To withdraw mid-season, families should arrange an exit interview with their team manager and a Club representative. Parents will complete a ENY status form which includes a release from Odyssey, retrieve the player's card, and clarify their financial obligation.

**THE PLAYER IS NOT AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER TEAM AND THE FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TUITION PAYMENTS UNTIL THE EXIT PROCEDURE IS COMPLETE.**

#### **CANCELLATIONS:**

Weather-related cancellations for the training will be posted on the website [www.odysseysportny.com](http://www.odysseysportny.com). Any other schedule changes will be communicated through the team coach or manager. Coaches are required to attend training sessions or to find a suitable replacement. Outdoor team training may be cancelled by dangerous weather or other emergencies, but families should expect a regular, dependable, training schedule.

**CONTACTS:**

See [www.odysseysportny.com](http://www.odysseysportny.com) for more detail

President – Mike Sheridan – [msheridan@twcny.rr.com](mailto:msheridan@twcny.rr.com)

Director of Coaching - Claire McLain – [cmclain@utica.edu](mailto:cmclain@utica.edu)

Assistant Director of Coaching Girls – Chris McLain – [cmclain@colgate.edu](mailto:cmclain@colgate.edu)

Assistant Director of Coaching Boys – Paul Stinson – [pstinson@colgate.edu](mailto:pstinson@colgate.edu)

Administrator - Corinne Banker - [cbanker@odysseysportny.com](mailto:cbanker@odysseysportny.com)

Registrar – Annette Keil – [akeil@odysseysportny.com](mailto:akeil@odysseysportny.com)

Treasurer – Penni Conley – [pconley2614@gmail.com](mailto:pconley2614@gmail.com)

**Odyssey Sport Soccer Club 2009/2010  
PLAYER/FAMILY CONTRACT**

By accepting a roster spot, you agree to abide by the bylaws, rules, and sanctions of the Club and the soccer organizations that govern the Club. You'll find most of these posted on the Club website and the websites of our governing organizations. A few rules are posted at our facility, and these rules govern all members and guests on Club property.

I understand the Odyssey Sport Player/Family Handbook and agree to its guidelines and expectations.

Player \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1 \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2 \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**This page must be received in addition to your payment to secure roster position.**

## Odyssey Sport Soccer Club Financial Aid Application

Odyssey Sport Soccer Club has instituted a financial aid program available to players needing financial assistance in order to participate as an athlete and play Odyssey Soccer. Odyssey financial aid funding may only be applied to the season registration fee. Acceptance into the Odyssey financial aid program does not mean full payment of a player's registration fee. **Odyssey Sport Soccer Club reserves the right to award scholarships based upon availability of funds.**

APPLICATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM (Age/Gender) \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PLAYER BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please state your request in the following space (Continue on back of page if necessary):

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**Family Information:** Parent/Guardian (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

**Income Information and Qualification:** Odyssey Sport Soccer Club has determined that eligibility for financial aid will be based on eligibility and acceptance for free and reduced price meals in accordance with NYS policy. **To be eligible for financial aid with Odyssey Sport Soccer Club, you must provide Odyssey with a copy of the letter confirming your acceptance into the "Free or Reduced Lunch" Program for the current school year. No other financial information is required.**

All other financial hardship requests must be submitted in writing to the Odyssey Board of Directors. In order to receive financial aid, you must agree to the following. Please initial each box.

- I may be asked to volunteer for club activities.
- I agree to the commitment of competitive traveling soccer, including but not limited to, practices and tournaments.

I, the undersigned, hereby state all the above information to be true and correct.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid Applications can be sent to:

Corinne Banker  
3950 Davis Corners Rd  
Morrisville, NY 13408