A group of children are shown from a low angle, holding a soccer ball together with their hands. The background is a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**SOCCER
ASSOCIATION
OF BOCA RATON
2018-2019
PLAYER HANDBOOK**



Welcome to the **Soccer Association of Boca Raton**. You have joined the largest soccer club in Florida affiliated with the **US Soccer Federation**—the national governing body of soccer in the United States.

SABR's fundamental outlook is to best serve our community with the mission of being a 'total' club. We accomplish this by offering a variety of programs, so players of all skill levels in Boca Raton have an opportunity to play the game at the

level that best suits them. Further, we strive to develop every player to his or her maximum within each of our programs.

As a member of the SABR club, you will learn first-hand that player development extends beyond skills needed to play the game. Social development of our players is also an important part of our mission. Teamwork and cooperation, good sportsmanship and fair play, value of effort versus outcome of game, camaraderie, and most of all FUN are the keys to our club philosophy.

SABR trains and provides nearly 100 referees—mostly youth from our community—who are certified each year by the **US Soccer Federation** as qualified and knowledgeable in the **Laws of the Game** to manage the games for our players.

SABR also provides the opportunity for community service for more than 100 local high school students who volunteer their time as **Buddies** in our **TOPSoccer** Program or other efforts that help our club. Players looking for a more competitive game and schedule are encouraged to check out TeamBoca, our travel program. Finally, rounding out SABR's offerings are adult leagues and scrimmages organized throughout the year to give back to parents, coaches and sponsors the joy of playing the game.

Again to all of you and our sponsors, thanks and welcome to SABR's 2018–2019 season.

SABR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Earl Starkoff	sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net
Secretary, Phil Rothschild	prothschild@sabrsoccer.net
Treasurer, Bob Rollins	rrollins@sabrsoccer.net
Director-Boys Soccer, Steve Leeds	sleeds@sabrsoccer.net
Director-Girls Soccer, Larry Faerman	lfaerman@sabrsoccer.net
Director of Referees, Ray Saba	rsaba@sabrsoccer.net
Director-Training, Walli Ali	wali@sabrsoccer.net
Director-Adult Soccer, Rebecca Hahassey	adultleague@sabrsoccer.net
Director-Team Boca, Bill D’Addio	bdaddio@sabrsoccer.net
Director-TOPSoccer, Vic Nocera	vnocera@sabrsoccer.net
Past President, Jennifer Bielec	

YOUTH SOCCER CONTACTS— WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Most of your questions can be answered by your child’s coach or age group Division Rep. *Please start there.* If they don’t know the answer, they will “go up the ladder” and get it for you. The current list of **Division Reps** is at www.sabrsoccer.net/youth-soccer/contact/.

You can also send us an eMail to sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net. Your eMail will be directed for response from a SABR volunteer. Please allow a few days for our volunteers to catch up with you.

Often the information you seek is on our web site—[sabrsoccer.net](http://www.sabrsoccer.net). Our SABR web site will keep you up to date on current events, our calendar, and more. For example, each week, we post the game results from all of our U9–U19 coaches. You can also find us on **FaceBook**.

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2018–2019 SOCCER SEASON

Registration Converts to Wait List	September 17, 2018
Coaches Clinic.....	September 22, 2018
Coaches Meeting	October 13, 2018
Contact Players	October 13–14, 2018
Practice Begins U7 & up	October 15, 2018
Orientation U5 & U6	October 27, 2018
Jamboree U7–U12.....	October 27, 2018
Practice Begins U5 & U6	October 29, 2018
No Practice October 31, 2018	
First Season Games.....	November 2–4, 2018
Thanksgiving Break.....	November 19–23, 2018 (No Practices)
Practices Resume	November 26, 2018
Holiday Break	Begins December 17, 2018 Ends January 4, 2019
Practices resume.....	January 7, 2019
Regular Season Ends.....	February 3, 2019
Tom Cherubin Cup Playoffs	February 4–15, 2019 (Under 9 and older)
Cherubin Cup Finalists Practice Week.....	February 18–21, 2019
Top Cherubin Cup Finals	February 23, 2019
Trophy Day for U5–U8.....	February 23, 2019



SABR reserves the right to change this schedule if necessary due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. The Club will make every attempt to update the online version of this calendar as needed.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Boys and girls born between January 2000 and December 2014 are eligible to play in the 41st annual season of SABR. The club serves players in the area south of C-15 canal, north of the Hillsborough canal and east of the Turnpike to A1A. The club primarily serves players who reside within the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District (mybocaparks.org/WhoWeServe). Proof of residency is required at registration. Anyone who lives outside the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District must pay a non-resident youth administration fee of \$65 per player to the City of Boca Raton. Participants must pay this fee at our registration sessions or online.

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Registration is completed online at www.sabrsoccer.net. New players need to document date of birth by emailing a copy of an official birth certificate or passport to registrar@sabrsoccer.net. If you miss scheduled registration, complete the online waiting list at www.sabrsoccer.net.

SKILLS EVALUATION

Players in the Under 9 and older age divisions are assigned to teams based on skills ratings in order to have balanced play. Players who did not play last season and were born on or before January 2010 must attend a skills evaluation. Evaluations take place in August and September, and registered players are notified if they must attend. All registered players (regardless of skills level) are placed on a team.

WAIT LIST

Anyone missing registration dates should go to www.sabrsoccer.net to complete the registration form. If a spot becomes available, you will be contacted to attend a skill evaluation if the player is born before January 2010. Once accepted, wait listed players are required to pay the standard registration fees. You will also need to provide proof of age in the form of an official birth certificate or passport. Placement on teams from the wait list is not guaranteed and will be filled only if openings occur.

LIMITED REFUNDS

SABR will honor all refund requests through September 30, 2018, less a \$25 administrative fee. Registration fees help pay for uniforms, insurance, equipment and referee/coaches training. These expenses are paid in advance of our season and cannot be recouped. All refund requests must be in writing and emailed to the **Director of Boys, Steve Leeds**, at sleeds@sabrsoccer.net or the **Director of Girls, Larry Faerman**, at lfaerman@sabrsoccer.net by September 30, 2018.

INSURANCE

Via SABR's affiliation with **Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA)**, all youth players and coaches are covered by accidental medical insurance. The medical payments coverage is excess of other valid and collectible coverage. All coaches, managers and administrators are covered by liability insurance. Note, all claims for insurance must be reported to the appropriate director of boys or girls soccer.

SABR is also affiliated with the **Florida State Soccer Association**, and our adult members are similarly registered to that organization, which provides a supplemental medical insurance benefit.

SPONSORS

The success of SABR and its ability to provide an affordable athletic program is dependent on its sponsors. Local businesses and parents can help by sponsoring a team this season. Sponsorships start at \$375 for our Under 7 through Under 19 divisions, which covers team uniforms that feature the sponsor's name on the jersey, as well as expenses for team equipment, coaches clinics and referee fees. Choice of uniform color may be requested but cannot be guaranteed. An introductory sponsorship for Under 5 & 6 divisions is \$275. Due to the large number of sponsors in some of our age groups, SABR cannot guarantee color or team selection. Decisions are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone interested in sponsoring a team is encouraged to email us at sponsor@sabrsoccer.net.

TEAM SELECTION

Players must be registered and in good standing to be placed on a team in the recreational program. Rosters are generated using Team Building software, and the teams are balanced by the software using player ratings (including the effect of any pre-assigned players due to sponsors' and coaches' commitment). Prior year players are skill rated by the respective coaches at the end of previous season; new players are rated during the current year registration process. The maximum number of pre-assignments to the same team is two.

PRE-ASSIGNMENTS

Only our volunteers – coaches, assistant coaches, team parents – and sponsors are eligible to request pre-assignment to the same team. Pre-assignments are not guaranteed. In cases where a head coach and a sponsor request to be assigned to the same team, the player of the head coach and player of the sponsor will be pre-assigned to the same team. However, in the event that both a sponsor and an assistant coach have requested pre-assignment to the same coach, the coach will make the choice between the two. If the sponsor does not have a player in that age division, the assistant coach's player will be pre-assigned.

The only exception is for siblings provided SABR is advised during registration and exclusive of children added to the teams from the wait list. Note, if the siblings pre-assigned to the same team are the children of a head coach, assistant coach, or sponsor, then no other pre-assigned children can be placed on the team – including those of the head coach, assistant coach, or sponsor.

In short, no more than two players will be assigned to the same team.

PRIORITY PRE-ASSIGNMENT LIST

1. Coach's child 2. Sponsor's child 3. Assistant Coach's child

No trades or preferential player assignments will be permitted. To avoid problems of team imbalance, the assignment of more than two players to a given team is prohibited. Only sponsor, coaches or assistant coaches will be considered for changes provided balance controls are upheld. *THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.*

COACHES

SABR has adopted the new US Soccer Federation Play-Practice-Play coaching system for volunteer parent coaches. USSF rolled P-P-P out this Spring for recreational soccer programs like ours across the country. We invest in all of our coaches and assistant coaches through coaching clinics with USSF National Instructors, and we pay the annual fees for their season of USSF weekly practice plans designed for our coaches' phones, plus the cones & equipment they need to run practices, and access to USSF's digital resources and videos for those that want to learn more.

SABR recruits and develops coaches and assistant coaches. All coaches, new or returning, are expected to attend one or more coaches clinics. All clinics are free of charge and feature licensed members of the U.S. Soccer Federation national staff. Attendance is recorded for verification. Contact the appropriate age group division representative or Director of Boys or Girls Soccer for details.

One coach from each age group receives a 'Coach of the Year' plaque. SABR tracks the performance of every coach throughout the year and then chooses one who best represents the superior character of a SABR coach. These coaches are recommended by our Board of Directors, division representatives, coaches and parents. Award criteria include: integrity, honesty, teaching ability, team cooperation, personal involvement, encouragement, respect for others and fairness of play.

COACHES CLINICS & MEETING

SABR provides all coaches with the necessary training, materials and support to ensure proper development of players. The coaches clinics are designed to teach and inform ALL coaches in divisions U7 through U19 about age appropriate activities for youth players. Every year the clinics focus on the changing growth, development and learning styles of players through their maturation.

A mandatory coaches meeting will be held on October 13, 2018 to provide coaches with a general overview of season expectations and sportsmanship. Team rosters and uniforms are distributed. Every coach is required to attend in order to ensure their team is well informed and ready for the season. Check our web site, www.sabrsoccer.net, for times and location.

REFEREES

SABR encourages local community members to be a part of the game as a referee. Referees are paid on a per game basis and are required to participate in a referee licensing course if they do not already have a USSF certification. To be certified, referees must take a USSF course, which is offered online by the Florida State Referees (FSR) website at flsrc.org. Interested participants must register online to be eligible. Contact Director of Referees Ray Saba for more information.

PARENTS' COMMITMENT TO ATTENDANCE

Each SABR family has made a commitment to all of the other parents and their children to attend practices and games when they registered their children to play.

Soccer is a team sport. SABR's coaches are volunteers who give of themselves for all of the league's children. They plan practices and games expecting their players to be ready to take the field on time. It is important for parents to play their part to meet these expectations.

The SABR league encourages the effort and not the result. It sends the wrong message to players when other family activities are scheduled and games and practices are missed. Please consider the disappointment of fellow players in the event your team might have to forfeit due to your player missing a game.

RAIN OUTS & FIELD CONDITION HOTLINE



Always assume that games will be played and practices will be held unless you are contacted by SABR. Apart from lightning, games and practices will only be canceled when the weather or field conditions interfere with player safety. SABR families can always call the City of Boca Raton Fields Condition Hotline at 367-7068 for up-to-date reports. If you are not sure, go to the field. SABR does not play when lightning is present in the field area.

SABR will attempt to schedule make-up games, but not practices. Coaches do not schedule make-up games; they are advised by their division representative as to those schedules.

WHAT ‘WINNING’ MEANS TO SABR

SABR’s long-term goal is for players to be winners off the field. SABR soccer offers players a chance to participate in a great game that is just that — a game, and people of all ages play games for fun. Through the game, players also exercise and learn about individual effort, teamwork and sportsmanship, and, as they get older, they gain a better perspective about competition.

In the Under 5, Under 6, Under 7 and Under 8 divisions, SABR does not keep score, results or standings. Players receive participation trophies following their last regular season game. As players grow older and mature, SABR keeps season standings in the Under 9 and older divisions. Regular season games ending in a tie will remain tied. Trophies are given to each member of the regular season conference champion team in each older age division.

TOM CHERUBIN CUP & CELEBRATION

The Tom Cherubin Cup is a post-season championship single elimination tournament for all boys and girls teams in the Under 9 and older divisions. It is named in honor of one of SABR’s most dedicated volunteers whose outlook always epitomized “what’s right for the kids.”

SABR uses the regular season standings to establish tournament brackets. During the Tom Cup Tournament, ties are broken according to procedures listed in the tournament rules given to each coach prior to the start of the tournament. Trophies are awarded to each member of the winning and runner up teams in the Tom Cherubin Cup and to the first and second place teams in the final regular season standings.

The last day of tournament play is a celebration of the whole SABR soccer season. SABR welcomes all players and families to hold team picnics, come to the games, and play in the soccer midway bounce house, climbing wall and other attractions.

SABR fully believes that it is the fun our players, regardless of age, get from their participation and effort that far outweighs the outcome of any particular game.

GAME & PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Games are played mostly on Saturdays but some divisions will play Friday night and/or Sunday afternoon games due to field availability or other considerations. It is possible for some divisions to have two games in one weekend although this does not happen frequently for any given team or division. Occasionally, games will be played on selected weeknights, mainly in the case of makeup games and during the Tom Cherubin Cup Tournament playoffs at the end of the season for our Under 9 and older age divisions. Each division will play approximately 12 regular season games and one to three play-off games. SABR tries to work around most holiday schedules sanctioned by the public school system.

Practice day and time for a given team is determined by the coach and division representative. Field time slots are assigned by the SABR Director of Fields. Once assigned, a team's practice day and time cannot be changed.

SABR cannot and will not make changes to accommodate a player who is assigned to a team having practices inconvenient to player or family. Unfortunately, in an organization of nearly 2,000 players, any attempt to accommodate individual schedules is administratively impossible.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES

Team practice is permitted only as assigned by SABR. Any practice, team meeting or event in which some or all of the players from the same team congregate with the aim of improvement of the team, outside of the practice slot, will be considered an illegal practice by SABR. The penalty imposed on a team for an illegal practice will be up to the discretion of SABR and may entail forfeiture of games and/or disqualification from further play. In short, SABR takes a very dim view of illegal practices and will deal with offenders harshly.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

REFEREES

If a referee is not available at the start of the game, the game may be played with the mutual consent of both opposing coaches by utilizing a parent or coach to act as a referee, or the game may be rescheduled for play at a later date. Once an agreement is reached, this decision is final.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

SABR encourages player maximum participation for every player.

Every player in attendance at a game in our Recreational Program — and who is physically able to play — will play at least 50% of each game. Coaches will use their best efforts to maximize player participation for every player within the flow of the game. In our Under 5 through Under 8 age divisions, our games are designed so that all of the players can play all of the time.

All of the players are teammates, and everyone gets to play. Players should not be considered as either full time players or substitutes regardless of which players start the game. In our U9 and older divisions, roster sizes are made so no one should ever play less than one-half of the game when all the players attend.

EQUIPMENT

Each player must provide shin guards and soccer or athletic shoes with molded rubber or plastic cleats. Elastic-strapped eyeglasses and glasses designed for athletic activities are recommended. Players are encouraged to own a soccer ball to bring to practice. Shin guards must be worn under socks during all practices and games. Insurance does not cover players who are injured if they are not wearing proper equipment.

JEWELRY & CASTS

New or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may not be worn during games or practice. SABR rules forbid players from playing in games or practice with a hard or soft cast. The referee has final authority to determine player eligibility to play in games.

DISCIPLINE CHART

The following chart represents discipline and suspensions for violating the rule of SABR. Anyone involved with these violations will be assessed and punished accordingly. A rules committee reviews each offense and administers judgment.

Offense and Discipline	Non-Player	Player	Suspensions
Assault	x		1 to 5 years
Assault on Referee	x		2 to 10 years
Assault on Referee		x	1 year
Criticism	x	x	1 game
Dissent	x	x	1 game
Enter field without permission	x		1 year
Enter field without permission		x	1 year
Enter ineligible player	x		1 year
Fighting		x	5 games
Foul and abusive language	x	x	2 games
F/A language to Coach/League Officials	x	x	4 games
Joining fight in progress		x	8 games
Profanity or insult	x	x	2 games
Profanity or insult to Referee/League Official	x		5 games
Profanity or insult to Referee/League Official		x	4 games
Pushing nonviolent		x	2 games
Red card nonviolent		x	1 game
Removing team from field	x		1 game
Second caution		x	1 game
Serious foul play		x	2 games
Spitting		x	4 games
Striking nonviolent		x	1 game
Striking violent		x	5 games
Stopping imminent goal		x	1 game
Swearing	x	x	2 games
Threatening gesture		x	4 games
Threatening gesture to Coach or League Official	x	x	5 games
Threatening gesture to Referee	x		1 year
Threatening gesture to Referee		x	8 games
Verbal abuse	x	x	1 game
Verbal threats	x		1 year
Verbal threats		x	8 games
Violent conduct	x		1 year
Violent conduct		x	8 games

AGE CHART FOR 2018–2019 SEASON

SABR follows U.S. Soccer’s Birth Year Registration Mandate which will began 2 years ago. Per the U.S. Soccer mandate, all U.S. Youth Soccer members were required to transition age grouping of teams from school-year based (Aug.1-July 31) to birth year based (Jan.1- Dec. 31). Therefore, all children born in a calendar year play together in their birth year age group.

AGE DIVISION	PLAYER’S YEAR OF BIRTH
U5	2014
U6	2013
U7	2012
U8	2011
U9	2010
U10	2009
U11	2008
U12	2007
U15	2006, 2005, 2004
U19	2003, 2002, 2001, 2000

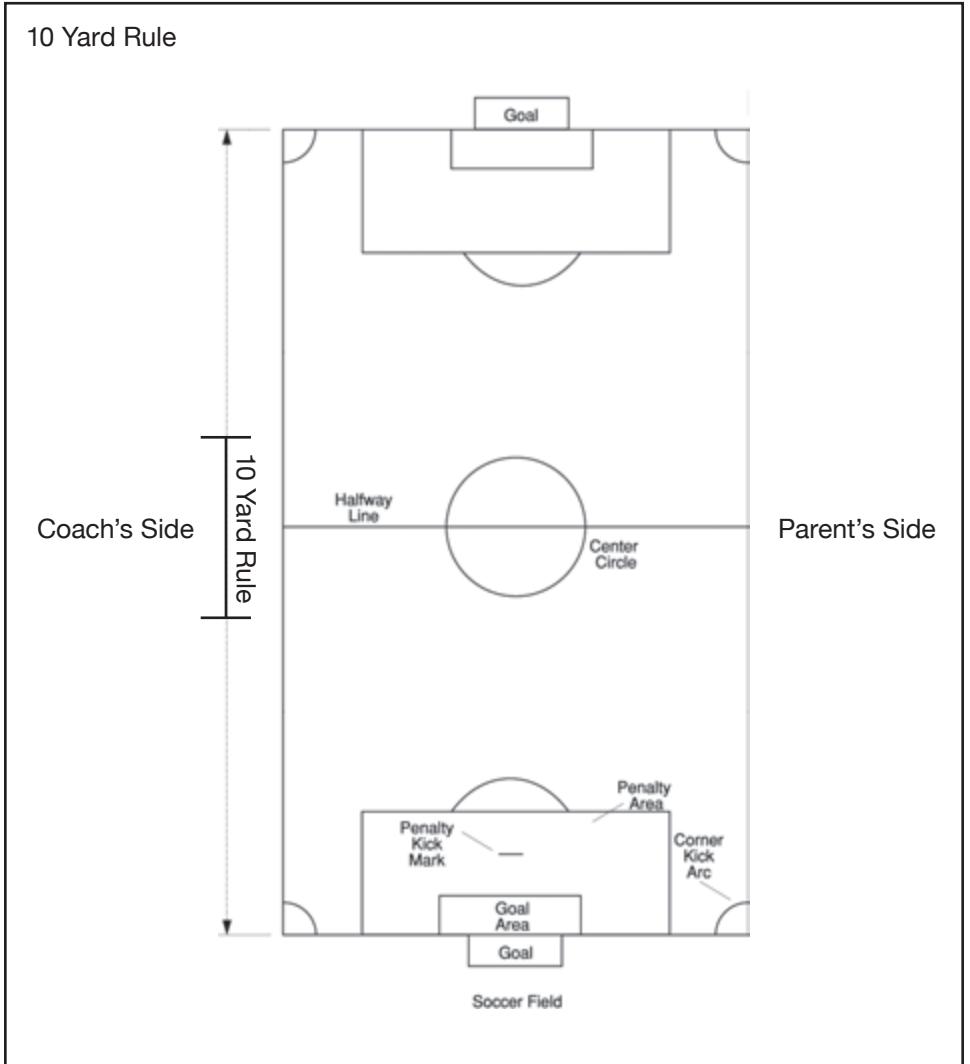
GAME DAY SET-UP

This schedule represents game day parameters for each age category.

Age Group	Ball Size	Players	Goalie	Play Time	Offside
Under 5	#3	4-5	No	8-minute quarter	No
Under 6	#3	4-5	No	8-minute quarter	No
Under 7	#3	4-5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 8	#3	4-5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 9	#4	7	Yes	25-minute half	No
Under 10	#4	7	Yes	25-minute half	No
Under 11	#4	9	Yes	30-minute half	Yes
Under 12	#4	9	Yes	30-minute half	Yes
Under 15	#5	11	Yes	35-minute half	Yes
Under 19	#5	11	Yes	40-minute half	Yes

RULES OF CONDUCT

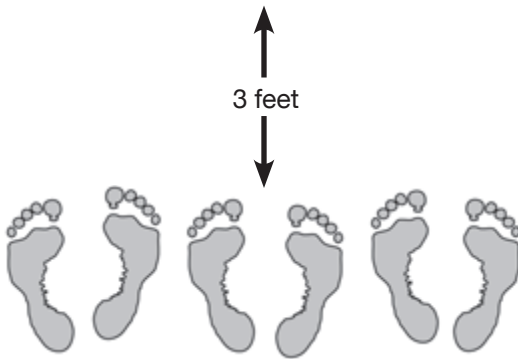
The coach of each team shall be responsible for the conduct and demeanor of assistant coaches, team volunteers, and fans. The following items highlight some of the rules regarding non-player conduct: No person shall be allowed to argue with, confront, or abuse a referee. Under no circumstances are parents or fans allowed to enter the field at any time during the game unless permitted by the referee or coach; this can result in a minimum suspension of one game. SABR administrators also serve as field marshals when present at games. Please respect their directives.



COACHES' AND SPECTATORS' AREA

Coaches and assistant coaches, shall be restricted to an area ten (10) yards to one side of the center line (the opposing team coaches are restricted to the other ten yard area from the center line), on only one side of the field. Parents and fans must occupy the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches. The ten yard areas are not rotated, irrespective of the team's changing sides of the field to start the second half. No one may be behind the goals! **COACHES MUST BE ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE FIELD AS THE PLAYERS AT ALL TIMES.**

THREE FEET BEHIND THE LINE



All players and coaches on one side of the field and parents and fans on the other shall remain at least three (3) feet behind the touch (side) lines.

GET OUT!

Anyone failing to abide by these rules of conduct is subject to expulsion from the playing area by the referee, Division Representative, SABR Administrator or Program Director. Failure to leave the area when requested to do so shall result in a forfeiture by the team with which the offending party is associated. Further rules and sanctions for players and non-players are listed in the league **Discipline Chart** in the SABR handbook.

In case of injury, the referee shall decide if it is severe enough to stop the game. If play is stopped for any injury, the referee may allow a coach to attend to the injured player. Parents and fans may not enter the field at any time during the game unless permitted by the referee or coach.

PARENTS' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Every parent who permits his/her child to play in the Soccer Association of Boca Raton must abide by the following statement of understanding:

STATEMENT OF PARENTAL/GUARDIAN UNDERSTANDING

- The SABR Program is for the sole benefit of the youth in our community.
- I will, to the best of my ability, arrange to have my child attend all team practices and games.
- I agree to the pre-assignment guidelines for players on each team.
- I understand that my child's team assignment will not be changed due to conflicts.
- I will not argue with, confront, or abuse any referee.
- I will observe my child's games from the designated area assigned by league officials.
- I understand that my child will not be able to play in games or practice without wearing shin guards and shoes that are appropriate for soccer.
- No new or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may be worn during a game or practice.
- I understand that the primary SABR Service Area is the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District (www.mybocaparks.org/WhoWeServe). Anyone who lives outside of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District must pay an annual Non-Resident Fee of \$65 per player to the City of Boca Raton.

COACHES' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Every coach who registers for the SABR Soccer program must agree and conform to the Coaches' Statement of Understanding. By registering as a coach, the coach is agreeing to the bylaws of SABR and the Florida Youth Soccer Association.

STATEMENT OF COACHES UNDERSTANDING

- The SABR Program is for the sole benefit of the youth in our community.
- I agree to abide by the philosophies, objectives and rules of the SABR program.
- I agree to play all team players at least 50% of each game. I will use my best efforts to maximize player participation for every player.
- I will not condone or turn my back on any illegal practices.
- I will not argue with, confront or abuse any referee.
- I agree to coach games from the designated area assigned by league officials.
- I understand that no player on my team will be permitted to participate at practice or play in games unless he/she is wearing shin guards and shoes that are appropriate for soccer. During all games, team players must also wear SABR uniforms.
- No new or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may be worn during a game or a practice.
- I agree to report results of all games to my division representative.
- I understand that the use of tobacco is prohibited at games and practices.
- It is my responsibility to demonstrate good sportsmanship and fun for the children and parents.
- I agree to attend the training session(s) and meeting(s) held by SABR to assist me in coaching the players.
- I agree to attend the coaches administrative meeting to receive my roster, team uniforms, schedules and other information for the management of my team.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Want to get involved? Want to meet others who care about our community's youth? SABR always needs volunteers — no matter what age, you can help! SABR has more than 450 volunteer parents and grandparents whose valuable time, energy and knowledge help make SABR one of the best soccer programs in the U.S. Most parents start out as assistant coaches. Two hours a week for 12 weeks is all it takes. SABR can use your help off the field, too. An organization our size has many tasks that can always 'use another pair of hands'. Send us an email to sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net to find out more.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR SABR HIGH SCHOOLERS

SABR encourages our high school aged players to give back to the community. Teenagers from SABR are the core of our **TOPSoccer Buddy Crew**, as well as in other league programs. All high school age players who are registered in the recreational, travel and **TOPSoccer** programs are eligible to serve as volunteer coaches or assistant coaches for our younger teams. We provide these players with coaches training and mentoring. All of these activities are eligible for accredited community service hours with our local high schools. This is a great way to each community hours while learning leadership skills and youth development. Send us an email to topsoccer@sabrsoccer.net to find out more.

UNIFORM PALS

Uniform Pals is our outreach program for donations of players' old soccer uniforms to be reused and enjoyed by other athletes. Uniform Pals volunteers collect jerseys, shorts, socks, cleats and shin guards at the end of the season to pass on to players throughout the world who need them.



Soccer Association of Boca Raton
P.O. Box 812650
Boca Raton, Florida 33481

www.sabrsoccer.net

September 2018