



Club Policies

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Playing Time Policy

For age groups U13 and below, each player will receive a minimum of 20 minutes playing time in games. While some players will play more, substantial playing time will occur for everyone on the roster. At the conclusion of the fall season, any U13 teams participating in State Cup will be treated at U14+ in regards to playing time.

For age groups U14 and above the club will commit to you a spot on the roster, the rest is up to you. A player is selected because we believe they can add value to the team, while reaping benefits from being a part of the group. Our club places an extreme importance on the time spent in the training/practice environment. This is where players and coaches will spend the majority of their time with the club. A player adds value by making the team better in training first, games second. The player reaps benefits by being in a better training environment. This is what must be of utmost importance to players, coaches and parents.

Shadow club is based on player development, which comes from training, instruction and competition. The majority of instruction and competition comes within the training environment...the game is the reward! The amount of game contributions a player is able to make to the team will be based on many factors, with the main factor being what the player makes of the training opportunities provided to them. In other words, "how" they do at training, how often they do it, and their attitude in doing so.

There are a few situations where results are paramount, two of which are LPT's (League Placement Tournaments) and the State Cup tournament. During those times, it is possible that players may not play due to the circumstances dictated by the game and the results of the tournament. Playing time decisions will always be based on the best interest of the team in mind: evaluating training habits, individual abilities, attitude, prior contributions, strength of opponent, among other factors.

Again, it is important that our players, parents and coaches remember that the most critical part of the development process takes place during training/practice time. While competition is one component, paying club dues does not mean paying for a specific amount of playing time. We understand that every player wants to play. As former players ourselves, we also know how much satisfaction comes from knowing that you have earned it!

Player Injury Policy

Any injured Shadow player requiring a significant amount of time out of participation will require a doctor's release before returning to play. A medical release for any type of head or neck injury is mandatory before a player will be allowed to practice or play in games.

Copies of all doctor releases must be forwarded to the team coach and Technical Director before a player will be allowed to resume their participation.

Effective July 26, 2009, the Zackery Lystedt Law will be adopted by the State of Washington. This law requires all youth sports organizations to comply as follows:

1. An informed consent must be signed by parents and youth athletes acknowledging the risk of head injury prior to practice or competition
2. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury must be removed from play - "when in doubt, sit them out."
3. A youth athlete who has been removed from play must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider prior to returning to play.

Lightning Safety Policy, Expiration of Time

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to those responsible for making decisions about suspending and restarting games based on the presence of lightning. The current recommendation of the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) is to consider terminating play when the lightning is six miles away (flash-to-bang time of 30 seconds or less). This recommendation was developed as a practical way to make a judgment in situations in which other resources such as technology and instrumentation are not available.

As a minimum, NSSL staff strongly recommends that by the time the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds all individuals should have left the game site and reached a safe structure or location. In addition, a smaller, but still real, risk exists with the presence of lightning at greater distances. Unfortunately, current science cannot predict where within the radius the next strike will occur.

The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.

The flash-to-bang method is the easiest and most convenient way to estimate how far away lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished because of background noise in the immediate environment and its distance to the observer. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how many miles away the lightning is occurring.

When considering resumption of a game, NSSL staff recommends that everyone ideally should wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field of activity. If available, electronic detection devices should be used as additional tools to determine the severity of the weather. However, such devices should not be used as the sole source when considering terminating play.
(www.nssl.noaa.gov/divisions/forecast/mag/ltg_guidelines.html)

No Pay, No Play Policy

The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club will maintain financial accountability and integrity at all times, in accordance with our organizational Bylaws. In order to ensure that all members are treated similarly and fairly, the following policy applies

Club Dues:

Shadow Premier Teams: Shadow offers two Club Dues payment options, both of which are made on the Club website:

1. Paying the full club dues fee in full in one payment at the time of Club registration.
2. An initial payment at the time of Club registration with installment payments thereafter.

Shadow Select Teams: Shadow requires full payment of Club dues at the time of Club registration.

If a player has an outstanding Club dues balance on the 20th of the month after their missed payment, that player will not be allowed to practice or play in games until their payment is made or arrangements have been made with the Club Bookkeeper. Questions regarding outstanding Club Dues payments must be e-mailed to: shadowsoccer@spokaneshadow.org.

Team Expenses:

The team account is to be used for "required" expenses that all members owe, like tournament fees, league fees, and coaches travel expenses. The overall goal is to provide full and fair disclosure to the parents, but also be respectful of personal financial situations.

Any expenses that the team does have, needs to be run through the team account so they may be consistently monitored.

Shadow discourages the use of the team account to purchase benches, canopies, or gifts for the coach. Discretionary expenses like these can be a problem because families may not want to pay for such items by choice or because of financial constraints.

If equipment is purchased through the team account and all families have paid their share of the expense, the equipment is to stay with the team from year to year.

Team expenses will be divided equally among the players on the official team roster and, if applicable, guest players. Three exceptions:

1. Tournaments are posted prior to tryouts. At the time of tryouts, if a member is aware of a future tournament or game conflict they must notify the coach and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of accepting their place on the team roster.
2. If a tournament is added to the team schedule after tryouts and a member has a conflict, they must notify the coach and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of the announcement of the added tournament.
3. Shadow is supportive of the Olympic Development Program (ODP) and our players who choose to participate. ODP is a legitimate excuse from missing a team event and therefore those players will not have to contribute to team expenses, regardless of when they were announced to the team.

All team expenses are to be paid in full to the Team Treasurer one week prior to the scheduled tournament or game departure. If a player has an outstanding Team Expense balance one week after their payment was due, that player will not be allowed to practice or play in games until their payment is made or arrangements have been made with the Team Treasurer.

Shadow coaches are happy to be recognized for their time and efforts. Season-end gift-giving for all coaches is optional for every Shadow player and team. If a team or player desires to give a gift to recognize their coach, the type of gift isn't what is important; a thoughtful one is. Team gifts should be no more than \$100, or \$5-7 per player.

Refund Policy

Upon accepting an invitation to join a Shadow team, the Club requires that the player and their family commit to pay all Club dues and team expenses in full during the course of the team's year.

Should circumstances change where a player leaves their team, the Technical Director, Coach, Team Manager, Team Treasurer, and Club Bookkeeper must be notified in writing or by e-mail 30 days prior to departing the Club. The player will be responsible for paying their Club Dues and all Team Expenses due at the time of departure.

Exceptions will be reviewed by the Club on a case-by-case basis and may include:

1. A season-ending injury
2. Family relocation

Tournament Policy

Prior to tryouts, Shadow works diligently to plan and advertise all team tournaments for the year ahead. Shadow requires all players to pay their fair share of tournament registration fees and coaches expenses for those tournaments advertised at the time of tryouts. At the time of tryouts, if a member is aware of a future tournament or game conflict they must notify the coach and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of accepting their place on the team roster.

If, after the first team meeting, a team chooses to add a tournament to their schedule and a player has prior conflicts and cannot attend, they are not required to pay their fair share of tournament registration fees and coaches travel expenses.

If guest players are added to the official team roster to replace missing players for a tournament, the guest players are required to pay their fair share of team expenses. If a Shadow player has a conflict with an Olympic Development Program (ODP) / Elite Player Development (EPD) tournament, that player will not be required to pay their fair share of Shadow team tournament expenses – whether that tournament was scheduled prior to tryouts or added later in the season.

Snow Removal & Winter Weather Policy

Shadow is excited about the memories created while playing this great sport. Some memories will be about what happened on the field and some will be what happened off of the field...and some will be about what we did to the field.

Shadow teams play year 'round. We have earned the right to do so. Our Regional Club League plays through the winter months and the State Cups we participate in begin (high school aged boys) in January. To provide the best possible opportunities for our players, we need the help of all. The alternative choices are not ones we want to make:

- a. Give away our home games; or,
- b. Not compete.

The City of Spokane Park and Recreation Department has adopted a snow removal policy. When snow falls on the turf fields at Dwight Merkel Sports Complex (DMC), Park and Recreation staff will remove snow until Friday evening to a level of 3/4". Any snow that falls and accumulates from Friday evening until game times on Saturdays or Sundays, must be removed by members of our club one hour prior to the start of the first game. Snow may only be removed by plastic shovels and wheelbarrows, not snowblowers or plows, per SPRD policy.

Joe Albi Stadium is a separate facility altogether. Because of the number of teams we now have competing during winter months, it is necessary that we have more than 2 fields at our disposal. Albi Stadium, per school district policy, does not allow the snow to be removed by the City's equipment, so it can only be done by hand with plastic shovels and wheelbarrows. This is likely to be the Club's responsibility.

We may need to clear Albi a week prior to playing because if the snow sits in the stadium and we get a thaw and then a freeze, we are going to have heavy work on our hands to make the field playable.

In order to work within the guidelines and get fields into playable conditions, we need many volunteers from ALL Shadow premier teams to help clear fields, especially those hosting home games that weekend. However, we must all understand that we are one. As such, even if you are not playing at home on a particular weekend but you are available to help, we would ask that you would. If games get cancelled because a field is not playable, it gets rescheduled. This in turn could affect others on another weekend. We are all affected by one another; we must see this as a good thing. It is what makes a community function. It also makes a community come closer together; our club is one of our communities, so if you can help, please do so. In the end, remember the cause: helping players (children) play, which brings all kinds of positive things: fitness, activity, learning, camaraderie, etc.

Shadow Field Clearing Procedure:

1. If snow has fallen after fields have been cleared by Friday night, Shadow coaching staff will evaluate field conditions at 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday game days.
2. If snow removal is needed, staff will immediately call and text message the coaches and managers letting them know field clearing volunteers are needed. Teams at home have primary responsibility to ensure fields are cleared and playable. Many hands make light work!
3. Beginning at 8 a.m., coaches and managers will text and e-mail players and parents from their team, letting them know their help is needed to clear fields. It is imperative that each team bring their own plastic shovels, plastic rakes, small tarps to place snow on, and/or wheelbarrows.
4. The Coach at the field will serve as the lead coordinator during the clearing process.
5. As snow falls during the game, Shadow teams playing will be responsible before and at half time to help keep the lines viewable.

Shadow Winter Weather Policy:

For home and away games, Shadow follows the Washington Youth Soccer Travel Policy for guidance on inclement weather and unplayable fields.

Shadow Team Practices:

For team practices held on days with inclement weather, Shadow will follow these guidelines:

1. If Spokane School District 81 has been closed for the day, all Shadow practices will be cancelled.
2. If school is in session, but inclement weather has arrived during the day, Shadow will make decisions by 2:00 p.m. about whether or not practices will be held that evening.
3. Parents and players will be contacted by e-mail from their coach or manager IF practice is cancelled. Assume practice is "on" unless you are notified otherwise by e-mail prior to 2:00 p.m.
4. Safety first! Because Shadow welcomes members from throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we encourage players and parents to put safety first when it comes to driving distances to and from practices and games during periods of inclement weather. If you feel roads are unsafe for travel, please stay home.

Player Sponsorship Program Policy

One Shadow goal is to analyze and lower expenses incurred by our families. It is important that Shadow is as affordable as possible to all who want to play. We encourage each player to pursue sponsorships from friends, family, or area businesses to help offset Club dues.

For any player who brings in sponsorships exceeding the Club dues amount, extra funds will be forwarded to their Team Treasurer to be used toward team expenses (tournament registration fees, coaches travel/per diem, etc).

All sponsorship forms and checks must be sent to:

Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club
P.O. Box 18176
Spokane, WA 99228

Please make sure the player name is included on all of the Player Sponsorship Agreements so we may properly account for them.

Fundraising Policy

Shadow encourages its teams to raise funds to help offset expenses. All team fundraising programs and events must:

1. Not conflict with other fundraising efforts of the Club.
2. Be approved in advance by the Technical Director. A written overview of the fundraiser must be submitted for consideration.
3. Uphold the professional image of the Club.

Funds raised by all teams will be deposited into the team account and must be used during the season in which they were raised. All team fundraising funds must be distributed equally among all officially rostered players – whether or not they participated in the fundraising event or program.

E-mail and Texting Policy

Shadow asks that players and parents communicate directly to coaches about practices, questions, or concerns. Players and parents are expected to work directly with their Team Manager and Team Treasurer about game schedules, travel plans, etc. And, in doing so, we ask that all remember our Club's email and texting policy: it should only be used to communicate information; not be used to raise or answer questions of concern, offer up opinions, nor engage in written dialogue. Proper use of e-mail and texting is expected at all times.

Through Club-wide and team-specific emails, Shadow player and family e-mail addresses are often listed in group address blocks. Shadow regards all email addresses and personal registration information as private and confidential. Shadow does not share or sell this information with other organizations.

Use of Shadow e-mail addresses by players or parents for non-soccer related e-mails (political campaigns, religious messages, forwarded messages, etc.) is strongly discouraged. Please get confirmation from other Shadow members that they would like to receive non-soccer related emails before sending them.

Shadow Website Privacy and Security Policy

The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club's main communication vehicle is our website: (www.spokaneshadow.org).

Our email address is: shadowsoccer@spokaneshadow.org.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 18176, Spokane, WA 99228

Our telephone number is (509) 869-6176.

If you would like information about our Club, please contact us by email or by phone. If you provide us with online information through our website, we will respect your privacy. Your visit to our website is subject to this Privacy and Security Policy. This policy is not intended to and does not create contractual or other legal rights in or on behalf of any party.

Privacy Policy: The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club does not collect the domain name or e-mail address of visitors to our website. Information is not shared with any other organizations for commercial purposes. We reserve the right to analyze user behavior and characteristics in order to measure interest in and use of the various areas of the website.

Personal Information: The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club sends electronic mail to its members and those who have registered to receive our e-mail newsletters. Interested parties who want to receive our electronic newsletters and announcements may register on the home page of our website.

Notification of Changes: Shadow reserves the right to use user information for new, unanticipated uses not previously disclosed in our privacy notice. If you are concerned about how your information is used, you should periodically review this privacy policy. By using our site, you signify your assent to the Privacy and Security Policy.

Third Parties: Shadow may utilize other companies and individuals to perform web-related functions on our behalf. We may also use other associated companies and individuals to better serve you, and if so, we would ask them to employ a Privacy and Security Policy. No personal information of our guests is shared with these parties.

Security Policy: We utilize industry-standard encryption technologies when transferring and receiving user data exchanged within our website.

Online Payment Security: The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club accepts payments for Club dues, player sponsorships, and donations through our website. We make every reasonable effort to protect the safety and security of online transactions; however we cannot and do not guarantee such safety or security. We use high-grade encryption and the "https security protocol" to communicate with your browser software. We believe this method to be the industry standard security protocol at the time we adopted it, which

makes it extremely difficult for anyone else to intercept the credit card information you send to us.

We use internet security called SSL technology (Secure Socket Layer). A secure web page address begins with “https” rather than “http” and a padlock icon appears in the status bar at the bottom of your browser.

Copyrighted Information: The design and content of our website is the property of the Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club. Design and content may be downloaded for personal use, but not for commercial purposes under any circumstance. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact shadowsoccer@spokaneshadow.org.

Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club Logo Use Restrictions

The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club logo shall be used to brand and promote the organization. No members, teams, committees, outside organization, business firm, or person shall be allowed to use the logo without the expressed written approval of the Club Administrator and/or Technical Director.

The Spokane Shadow Youth Soccer Club logo - or any other form of expressing approval or endorsement - shall not be used for programs, projects that are unsafe, discriminatory, or not in accordance with the fundamental policies outlined in the Washington Youth Soccer Bylaws.

If you would like to request our logo please contact: admin@spokaneshadow.org.