

# 2023-2024

# **PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK**





International Academy Massachusetts



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Liverpool International Academy MA (hereinafter referred to as Liverpool International Academy CT, MA, RI)



# Our Player Pathway of Development Through the Foundation and Youth Development Phases





# **Region Map**





Connecticut



International Academy Massachusetts



Academy Rhode Island

### PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOCCER PARENTING ASSOCIATION

We are committed to helping your child feel inspired about soccer. With that in mind, we have secured a free membership to the Soccer Parent Resource Center for all the parents and coaches in the club. At the Soccer Parent Resource Center you will find monthly webinars for parents, articles and interviews with tips and advice, guidance and support, and much more to help you support your child in soccer.

We are proud to be a Club Member of the Soccer Parenting Association. We believe youth soccer parents will be difference makers when it comes to improving the game and we believe a more collaborative environment between coach, parent, club and player is in the best interest of player development. The mission of the Soccer Parenting Association is to Inspire Players by Empowering Parents.

To gain free access to the content and community at the Soccer Parent Resource Center, simply click this link:

SOCCER PARENT RESOURCE CENTER





# 2023-2024 SEASON FEES

The fee and a description of what services are included in your player's fee will be detailed in the invite email for your review before you accept the team assignment. A first installment will be due upon registration to signify your player's acceptance and installment plans are available.

#### **PAYMENT PLANS:**

**Returning** players accepting their position by May12 2023 will receive the benefit of a reduced deposit of \$150 with an extended installment plan of 8 months for the balance.

Beginning May13 2023 the deposit will be approximately 30% of the Annual Club Fee with a 6month installment plan for all **new** players and our returning players who did not accept their position by May 12 2023.

Credit Cards (excluding American Express) and ACH are available methods of payment.

For all players, an administration fee will be charged on each credit card transaction which will be processed by the Merchant Provider. These service fees are non-refundable.

#### SIBLING DISCOUNT:

Families registering a second child in the same playing season will receive a discount of 10% off the lowest team fee. Families registering 3 or more children will receive a 10% discount off the annual team fee for each child.



#### **REFUND POLICY:**

Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI may make a contractual offer to join a team to a player and the player's parent/guardian. This offer will include terms of payments for the services to be provided. The offer will be sent via email, generated from PlayerFirst, our secure registration management system. A player's position on a team must be accepted via a link within the email which will direct the player/parent/guardian to the registration portal to pay the identified initial payment and accept the further payment terms. Such actions by the player and the player's parent/guardian constitute the acceptance of the contractual offer by Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI and thereby establish a valid and enforceable contract.

Thereafter, Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI will immediately begin to offer the identified services to the player and will have relied on the promise made by the player and the player's parent/guardian. AS SUCH, THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS OFFERED OR PROVIDED TO THE PLAYER OR THE PLAYER'S PARENT/GUARDIAN FOR ANY REASON. (*However, please see Page 7 for information on an optional Refund Insurance Policy, that is available at extra cost, and which may provide financial security to cover some covered perils, such as player injury*). Further, Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI is relying on the player and the player's parent/guardian to pay the entire contracted price, even if said price is agreed to be paid over time and some services have yet to be provided, as Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI has, at a minimum, relied on the promise of payment and incurred the costs associated with providing said services.

Additionally, if services cannot be offered because of situations beyond our control (such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic that force quarantines, stay at home orders or shelter at home mandates) we shall not be liable to provide refunds for the services not provided. Instead we will, first, endeavor to provide the services at a later date or to provide an equivalent service in place of what the players have missed. In the event that this is not possible, the Academy Directors may make a decision on other actions which may include a credit towards another program.



#### **REFUND INSURANCE POLICY – For Player Injury or Other Covered Event:**

For an additional 7% of the Annual Club Fee, the player and the player's parent/guardian may purchase Refund Insurance for the contract entered into with Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI. Said insurance will provide a refund for the value of services that Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI is yet to provide the player should an identified event occur. An identified event is defined as the player suffering an injury that will take longer than the remainder of the club year to allow the player to return to the field and of which a doctor has provided written confirmation, the player is relocating to an area in which Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI does not have programs to provide services to the player, or some other such similar event that will prevent the player from being physically able or geographically available to receive the remaining services provided by Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI. Please visit our website for further information and to complete the application:

#### www.registrationsaver.com/LFCinternational

When you register your player for the 2023-24 Competitive Program you will be asked to electronically sign a form to confirm your understanding that this insurance is available and provides the only way to claim a refund for any player injuries (or any other covered peril).

Please note, this is not included in your player's fee – you must purchase the policy through the link provided which will direct you to a third-party vendor.



#### DELINQUENT PAYMENTS

Players that are not compliant with their payments pursuant to their contract with Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI shall not be eligible to participate in club activities, including matches, trainings, and tournaments. The pass cards for said players will be held by the club until the players are compliant with their payments.

To remain in good standing with Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI, payments must be made pursuant to their contract and must be received on or before the identified due date. A player is considered past due when any payment is not received on a due date. For accounts that are one (1) month past due there will be a \$25 late fee. Failure to bring the account current (including the \$25 late fee) will result in the player card being pulled.

Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI reserves the right to suspend the player card of any player whose team or club account is past due.

Players with outstanding balances from the prior season will NOT be issued a player card for the current season until this balance has been paid in full.

Any player that requests a release to join another club during the club year will not be granted said release from Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI until all outstanding fees have been paid. These fees include, but are not limited to, team fees, uniform fees, tournament fees and program fees. Installment payments are authorized as a convenience to our players and their families. However, unpaid installment payments are outstanding fees that must be paid before a player will be granted a release.

If Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI receives a returned check for insufficient funds, a \$50 fee will be charged to the player's account and a \$25 late fee charge.

Questions regarding the standing of any player should be directed to karen.hollands@lfciasne.com



### ORDERING UNIFORMS AND UNIFORM CYCLE

The 2023-24 season is **year 2 of the 2-year** uniform cycle. The uniform sponsor is NIKE and the uniform provider is <u>Soccer.com</u>. Here is a link to the soccer.com <u>PlayBook</u> which gives some useful insight into the soccer.com history, ordering process and a \$10 coupon for non-uniform items.

#### **OUTFIELD PLAYERS**

**Returning** players may use Red, White and Black Uniform from the 2022-23 Season, as long as they are the required items.

New players must purchase Red, White and Black Required Uniform as detailed below:

**Game Uniform (RED**) Cost approx. \$78 1 x Jersey, Short, Socks

**Practice Uniform (BLACK)** Cost approx. \$48 1 x Park Jersey, Short, Socks

Alternate Game Uniform (WHITE) Cost approx.\$54 1 x Jersey, Socks

#### **GOALKEEPERS**

**Game Uniform (YELLOW)** or optional Grey Jersey Cost approx. \$64 1 x Park Jersey, Short, Socks

**Practice Uniform (BLACK**) Cost approx. \$48 1 x Park Jersey, Short, Socks

**OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED FOR ALL PLAYERS:** Team Backpack, Pants, Track Jacket (lightweight), Rain Jacket

Uniform will be purchased directly from soccer.com and families will earn Goal Points on each purchase. Ordering details will be sent after a player accepts a team invite.



# COACH TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

#### TOURNAMENTS:

When necessary, a Coach's expenses for overnight or tournaments outside of a 75-mile radius of Fore Kicks, Taunton MA, shall be paid by each player attending that tournament. An invoice will be added to the player's account and must be paid in full prior to the team's participation in the tournament.

The expenses that shall be included in the additional fee, for each coach, may include: roundtrip transportation cost to tournament; ground transportation while team is at a tournament; hotel accommodations at team hotel; \$40 daily allowance for each day of the tournament.

Teams are not obligated to pay for more than two coaches to attend a tournament at the same time.

#### ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENTS:

A specific number of tournaments are included in your player's team fee. Sometimes, it is decided that the team may attend additional tournaments that are not included in the team fee. In this situation, players attending the additional tournament will be responsible for paying the expenses associated with it. The expenses will be divided equally among the families and an invoice will be added to your Liverpool account which must be settled prior to attending the tournament.

The expenses that shall be included in the additional fee, for each coach, may include: tournament fee, roundtrip transportation cost to tournament; ground transportation while team is at a tournament; hotel accommodations at team hotel; \$40 daily allowance for each day of the tournament.



# PLAYER AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI PLAYERS:**

Players are expected, at all times, to act and play "The Liverpool Way" and to conduct themselves in a manner which is in keeping with the Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI values of Ambition, Commitment, Dignity and Unity.

Players shall not bring discredit upon the organization and shall maintain the highest standard of conduct and good sportsmanship.

Players shall refrain from using profanity during matches and practices.

Player will show respect toward referees, opposing teams, and fans. They will not harass, abuse, or berate a referee for any reason.

Players shall not participate in physical violence or threats thereof during games or practices.

Players should bring cleats, shin guards, water, and a properly inflated soccer ball to practice.

Players are expected to show respect for all coaches and adhere to all instructions.

Players shall be on time and prepared for all practices and matches as outlined by their coach. All team practices, meetings and activities are essential for player development; the coach or team representative must be notified in each instance in which a player is unable to attend a scheduled team activity.

Players will play within the Spirit and Laws of the Game.

Players are expected to wear the approved club attire during practices and matches.

Home Games – all Red kit Away Games – all Red kit preferred but if opposing team has similar color, then full alternate kit (white) Practice/Training – Practice kit (black)

Playing time is not automatic; it is earned. Players normally will receive enough playing time for their continued development. However, the coach will determine an individual player's actual playing time. Playing time may not be equal in a game or a weekend. Playing time should be measured over the course of the season.



#### PARENTAL INTERACTION AND BEHAVIOR

<u>Avoid 'coaching' from the sideline while watching your child's game</u>. A common problem in youth soccer is the impulse parents have to shout instructions to their young players from the sideline. It is especially difficult for a child because he or she has a tendency to refer to what a parent says, which often conflicts with the instruction from the coach.

<u>Do not criticize the referee</u>. Spectators should realize that referees sometimes make mistakes – even those officiating at the highest levels of play. Officials, coaches and players will be treated with respect during all Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI events. Parents and spectators are not permitted to disparage, ridicule, or otherwise engage in threatening or harassing conduct toward an official, coach, or player at any time.

<u>Focus on the benefits of the game rather than the score</u>. Far too often parents focus on the score in a game rather than the experience their child has while playing youth sports. While it is natural to want to win, parents need to keep focus on the larger picture.

<u>Think when interacting with opposing fans</u>. Avoid confrontation with opposing team parents, spectators, coaches and players. Represent Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI as a club, and your child in a respectful manner.

<u>Alcohol, drugs, smoking</u>. The use or possession of these substances or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs immediately before and during Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI events, is strictly prohibited.

Parents/guardians and other spectators that are not able to conform to the above expectations, will be asked to leave the activity and action may result in the suspension of their child from club activities and/or termination from the club.

MASS YOUTH SOCCER issued the following updated **Codes of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy**. Kindly read the documents listed below, that can be found on the <u>Mass</u> <u>Youth Soccer</u> website. By accepting your player's team assignment you are acknowledging that you have read, understand and adhere to the Mass Youth Soccer Codes of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy.

Zero Tolerance Policy Player's Code of Conduct Parent's/Guardian's/Spectator's Code of Conduct Coach's Code of Conduct Soccer Official's Code of Conduct



### PROCEDURES FOR ISSUES REGARDING COACH ACTIONS OR DECISIONS

- If a Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI player or parent has an issue with their coach regarding a coaching action or decision, the following steps shall be followed:
- Any player or parent that has an issue with a coaching action or decision should first wait at least 24 hours following the event to address the issue. This provides all parties time to process the circumstances at issue.
- Following the 24-hour waiting period, the player and/or parent/guardian should contact their head coach to discuss the issue. In the Academy age groups, the player/parent should speak with the lead coach in their age group.
- If the issue is not resolved after speaking with the head or lead coach, the parent/player should contact the Regional Director. Parent/player should email the Regional Director with the following information: name of the person making the complaint, player's name, coach's name, team name, and a detailed description of the issue at hand, steps taken to resolve the issue, along with a recommended solution. All decisions by the Regional Director regarding soccer coaching issues are final.



## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI recognizes the importance of the internet in shaping the public's perception of our organization. Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI also recognizes the importance of setting the tone of social media interactions for players and parents that advances Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI's mission and goals. This Social Media Policy applies to all social media content posted by players and parents/guardians in their professional and personal capacity to the extent such content is related to Liverpool International Academy CT, MA, RI.

- Players and parents/guardians shall not post content that would harm Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI or damage Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI's reputation.
- Players and parents/guardians should use good judgement when posting comments on any official Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI sites.
- Players and parents/guardians shall encourage others to engage in positive interactions on social media.
- A player's personally identifiable information (information, such as a name and date of birth and/or street address which, when taken together, can identify a particular individual) should not be disclosed in any manner.
- Players and parents/guardians shall not degrade their opponents before, during, or after matches.
- Players and parents/guardians shall post only positive things about his/her teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.

#### **Violations of the Social Media Policy**

Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI shall have the authority to monitor and enforce this Social Media Policy. Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI reserves the right to remove any inappropriate or offensive comments from official Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI sites and to block any individual or organization from posting on any official Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI social media platform if they determine, in their sole discretion, that such removal or block is in the best interests of Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI. The failure of any player or parent/guardian to adhere to this Social Media Policy shall be considered a violation of the Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI Code of Conduct and subject the player or parent/guardian to disciplinary action.



# LOGO POLICY

The Liverpool FC Crest is our coat of arms and is the most precious asset of the brand. To us, it is more than a logo. It represents Liverpool city, the culture and the people. It is recognized worldwide. To maintain its integrity, we must ensure we all respect the crest, using the rules outlined here.

-Do not change the colors of the logo.

-Do not crop, skew or resize any component of the logo.

-Do not use the logo on a background where it does not stand out.

-Do not rotate the logo.

-Do not use the crest on its own.

If you are looking to use the Logo in any way, please reach out to Elise Cloutier for approval. Elise may be reached at <u>Elise.Cloutier@LFCiasne.com</u>



# 2023-2024 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Application must be submitted no later than 10 days after player receives INVITE to a team.

| PLAYER INFORMATION                         |             |                |  |  |
|--|-------------|----------------|--|--|
| Last Name:                                 | First Name: | Date of Birth: |  |  |
| Address:                                   |             |                |  |  |
| City:                                      | State:      | Zip:           |  |  |
| ADDITIONAL PLAYER REQUESTING FINANCIAL AID |             |                |  |  |
| Last Name:                                 | First Name: | Date of Birth: |  |  |
| MOTHER/GUARDIAN INFORMATION                |             |                |  |  |
| Last Name:                                 | First Name: |                |  |  |
| Address: (if different from above)         |             |                |  |  |
| City:                                      | State:      | Zip:           |  |  |
| Home Phone:                                | Cell Phone: | Work Phone:    |  |  |
| Email:                                     |             |                |  |  |
| Occupation and Employment Address:         |             |                |  |  |
| FATHER/GUARDIAN INFORMATION                |             |                |  |  |
| Last Name:                                 | First Name: |                |  |  |
| Address: (if different from above)         |             |                |  |  |
| City:                                      | State:      | Zip:           |  |  |
| Home Phone:                                | Cell Phone: | Work Phone:    |  |  |
| Email:                                     |             |                |  |  |



Occupation and Employment Address:

Please complete the following pages for the assessment of need.

Please state your reason(s) for requesting Financial Aid from Liverpool International Academy CT, MA, RI:

Is your current financial situation temporary or permanent? YES or NO

Please explain:

 Full amount of team fee:
 \$\_\_\_\_\_\_

 How much do you think you are able to contribute?
 \$\_\_\_\_\_\_

 How much financial assistance are you seeking?
 \$\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many people are in your household?\_\_\_\_\_(include all children/adults/adult children)

We ask that all families in receipt of Financial Aid volunteer for a minimum of 6 hours per Competitive season. Please indicate how you would like to volunteer:

 TOURNAMENT: Set Up\_\_\_\_ Clean-up\_\_\_ Parking Lot Attendant\_\_\_\_

 FUNDRAISING: Event Planning/Help\_\_\_ Table Attendance\_\_\_ Toy/Food Collection/Delivery\_\_\_

 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Community Outreach\_\_\_ Identify Sponsorship Opportunities\_\_\_

 OTHER VOLUNTEER SERVICES AS NEEDED:



All information contained in this application is considered CONFIDENTIAL by the Board of Directors, Committee Members and Team Coaches.

Financial assistance is offered for Club dues only and does not include the following:

- Mandatory deposit
- Game and practice uniform
- Costs associated with away/overnight tournament and/or travel expenses

The application must be completed in full and include the required documentation.

There must be a true and verifiable financial need.

Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI reserves the right to discontinue Financial Aid at any time if the information submitted is found to be inaccurate.

I (we) the applicant have read and agree to the terms of Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI and any requirements outlined on this application. I (we) certify that all materials supplied and statements made on this application are true to the best of my (our) knowledge and agree to answer questions and supply any information that the Liverpool International Academy CT / MA / RI Financial Aid Committee requests.

| Mother/Guardian Signature | Print Name | Date |
|---------------------------|------------|------|
|                           |            |      |

Father/Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date

Submit the following to the mailing address listed below:

- Signed and completed application
- First 2 pages of your 2022 federal tax return and W2s and/or 1099s (if you have filed it)
- If filing individually both tax returns are required

Please direct any questions to karen.hollands@lfciasne.com