

## **FC Alliance Executive Committee – Code of Ethics**

Thank you for volunteering to serve on the FC Alliance Executive Committee. Our Club is built upon the foundation of parent involvement, and we cannot continue to build upon our program and services without parent support and assistance. Our terms of service are generally two years in length and are staggered so that half of the Executive Committee positions come up for reelection each year, allowing for continuity on the committee.

There are a few basic principals we follow while serving on the board to insure the integrity of the board and of the FC Alliance Club as a whole.

- From time to time, sensitive information may be discussed at our Executive Committee meetings, as we work together to problem-solve various issues brought to our attention. ***It is critical for the welfare and privacy of all FC Alliance players, coaches and families that privileged information be held confidential.*** Please do not discuss confidential information with your family or friends. If you are in doubt as to whether a specific topic should be considered confidential, check with your co-committee members (i.e., Club President or Executive Vice President) before discussing it.
- ***Please be supportive of your fellow Executive Committee members.*** We try to bring a good cross-section of parents onto the committee each year to provide fresh input and views. There will be times when a Committee member may not agree with the group's decision. If you are uncomfortable with a Committee decision, feel free to email the group with your concern or ask the Club President for time on the agenda at an upcoming Committee meeting. Understand there may be times when we may be faced with the decision to "agree to disagree," but to then move on without resentment or animosity. Side bar conversations with other FC Alliance families or Executive Committee members can undermine the Committee's cohesiveness (and fracture the club's reputation), so we ask for your flexibility, understanding and professionalism at all times.
- As Executive Committee members, we are representatives for our Club (FC Alliance) and our Association (NYSA). FC Alliance families look to us to set the standard for behavior within the Club. Therefore, we must always conduct ourselves with the utmost of professionalism. ***If you are unhappy with a particular FCA policy, an FCA Coach, Tryout result, player or parent's behavior on your child's team, etc., please bring it to the proper forum for discussion and resolution (i.e., to the Executive Committee and/or Coaching Director).*** Do not discuss the issue with fellow parents on your team; this does not resolve the problem, but adds to it. Likewise, if a parent brings an issue to your attention, carefully listen to the parent's complaint while remaining objective (and not taking sides), and either counsel them in steps to bring about a positive resolution, or if need be, bring the issue to the Executive Committee and/or Coaching Director for resolution. Often, advice you offer may turn into an unofficial FC Alliance policy, so please choose your words

carefully and remain positive about the situation or issue. If you are discussing an issue with a fellow Committee member, please make sure you are not within earshot of current or potential FCA family members.

- ***Please remember that while you serve your term on the FC Alliance Board, all decisions you vote on must be in the best interest of the Club as a whole, not just for your own specific child(ren) in the program.*** Often as parents, it is difficult for us to separate our desires, dreams and experiences for/of our own children with what the Club must do to improve our program and development of players. Please try to keep discussions of your own children down to a minimum during our meetings. (Note: Just use your best judgment on this one...at times, you may need to bring the subject of your child into the conversation, as it was an issue which affected their team.)
- Meeting attendance is important. We all lead very busy family lives, and from time to time, will miss an Executive Committee or Board meeting. However, your input and participation is critical, as we set plans for our program. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the President or Executive Vice President with some advance warning. It would be helpful if you provide the President with a written copy (email) of any items you may wish to have reported or discussed, perhaps ccing the entire Executive Committee.
- Please document your job and responsibilities during your two-year term, so that you have a notebook containing an overview of job responsibilities to pass onto your successor. You should also meet with your successor to present a detailed overview of the job, and continue to be available for questions as the new Executive Committee member comes up to speed. This provides for continuity on the Board as we transition each year, and less time wasted trying to understand basic job responsibilities.

Thanks again for stepping forward to volunteer on the Executive Committee. Together with our coaching staff, we will continue to provide our players with progressive training and competition opportunities.