

Fort St. John Soccer Club

Northern Strikers Rules & Regulations
































MISSION STATEMENT

To administer, promote, and encourage participation and interest in soccer for all members, and to develop the highest possible standard of sportsmanship, self-discipline, courage, perseverance, and citizenship of this community.

(Version December 2016-V.2)

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Definitions

ASA:	Alberta Soccer Association
CSA:	Canadian Soccer Association
NWPSA:	Northwest Peace Soccer Association
FSJSC:	Fort St. John Soccer Club
FSJNS:	Fort St. John Northern Strikers
BOD:	Board of Directors

Guest / Replacement Player:

A player picked up to play on a team. A Guest / Replacement is usually a player from a younger age group whose skills are being evaluated and/or a player who is needed to fulfill a depleted roster for a game and/or tournament.

Team Official:

Team Officials refers to any person formally associated with a team, such as a coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, first aid attendant, or a bench parent.

Affiliations

The FSJSC is affiliated, through the Northwest Peace Soccer Association, with the Alberta Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association. In general, the FSJSC concurs with the rules and regulations of these Associations.









All affiliates of the FSJSC are expected to obey the FSJSC Constitution and Rules and Regulations. Any organization affiliated with the FSJSC in contravention of FSJSC, ASA or CSA Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations may face disciplinary action.

Fort St John Soccer Club Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort St John Soccer Club is to administer, promote, and encourage participation and interest in soccer for all members and to develop the highest possible standard of sportsmanship, self-discipline, courage, perseverance, and citizenship of this community. This is also the mission statement of the FSJNS

General Information

The FSJSC currently registers approximately 600 players for the outdoor season and 400+ players for the indoor season. Members of the FSJSC include parents and guardians of registered players, plus active coaches and recognized volunteers. Each year, members elect a Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. The FSJNS offers the following programs:

-  Development Programs (Northern Strikers) 7 to 10 years old (U9 to U11)
-  Competitive Soccer (Northern Strikers) 11 to 19 years old (U13 to U19) and Adults
-  Participation in Provincial Competition 11 to 19 years old (U13 to U19)
-  Participation in tournaments
-  Summer Soccer Camps
-  Player specific Camps throughout the year
-  Coaching Clinics
-  Referee Clinics

Development and Competitive Program Objectives

It is the goal of the FSJSC to provide Development/Competitive Soccer to players in our association, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The overall objective of the Development/Competitive Program is to support the development of players and coaches. Through directed support, both the quality of play and personal growth of the players can be supported and developed. A key philosophical aspect is improving the experience for the player through development and support of effective coaching. Coaches can work together as a team to promote the FSJSC's philosophy. Furthermore, there are elite players whose playing skills would benefit by playing with more skilled players on an ongoing basis. As a soccer organization, it is our role to support these elite players so they can develop to their maximum.

These programs are designed for players who aspire to play soccer at a highly competitive level now and in the future. This format is balanced by our ongoing responsibilities to support and develop all competitive players participating in soccer. Our actions must **ALWAYS** be in the best interest of the team, program, and association.

Development and Competitive Coach Evaluation and Appointment

Advertising for competitive coaches will begin in August for our indoor season and March for our outdoor season.

All FSJNS Team Officials must complete and be cleared for their criminal record check (CRC) every 2 years. This CRC must be completed when applying for a coaching position.

- 1) Anyone wishing to coach a Development/Competitive Team must submit a coaching application to the Competitive Director. The *application* form can be found on our website.
- 2) The Competitive Director will review the applications and decide on the coach. The decision is based on (not in this order):
 - a. Coaching certification level
 - b. Past an Achievements in soccer
 - c. Interview with the Competitive Director
- 3) Once the coach has been selected, all applicants will be notified by email of the decision. The Competitive Director will document how the coach selection was made if multiple coaches have applied for a division.
- 4) The coach must then select a Team Manager and at least one Assistant Coach.

Every Development and Competitive team must have at least one assistant coach and a Team Manager. *No exceptions.*

A Development and Competitive Coaches' meeting will be held to discuss try-outs, the team selection process, travel, and the coaches, Players and Parents Code of Conduct, and general competitive team guidelines, policies and procedures, prior to the start of the season.

The Fort St John Soccer Club will provide information on where and when the community coaching workshops will be provided.

ASA Rule 7.6 One staff member from each team involved in the Provincial Championships must fulfill the coaching requirements for the appropriate level as per the chart below:

Competition	Coaching Requirements
U15, U17 Tier 1	C License Trained OR Higher
U13 Tier 1	Soccer for Life + MED OR C License Trained
U15+, Tiers 2-4	Soccer for Life Trained
U13, Tiers 2-4	Learn to Train OR Soccer for Life

Note: While not required for all Competitions, Alberta Soccer recommends all coaches take the online MED module.

7.6.1 Teams that do not meet this requirement must apply, with the support of their District, to the Competitions Department for an exemption.

Team Officials

The FSJSC requires that **ALL** team officials obtain security clearance (through a CRC) every 2 years, as per ASA rules. All FSJNS teams comprised of female players must have an adult (18 years old) female present at all times during games and *practices* for indoor games. The attendant must be present on the bench during the games and before and after the game in the dressing room. During the outdoor season, the attendant must be present during the game in the technical area. Teams that are comprised of male-only players must have an adult male attendant at all times in accordance with the above. Any bench personnel must be at least 16 years old, AND they must be assisting with teams at least two age groups younger than they play in, e.g., U19 players can be on the bench for U17, U15, and U13 teams.

FSJNS teams must adhere to the rules for provincial competition, tournaments or play in other games for the number of team officials allowed on the bench or in the technical area in those competitions.

Player, Parent, and Coach Conduct, Expectations, Commitments, and Responsibilities

Player, parent manager, and coach expectations, commitments and responsibilities are located in the Code of Conduct and Expectations. These will be revised annually where necessary to reflect changes to the FSJNS Program and provided to players, parents, coaches and managers.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held prior to every indoor and outdoor season. The Competitive Coordinator and Club Scheduler will set the tryout times and locations per division. Tryouts will consist of no more than 3 sessions, after which the team selection shall be decided. Player evaluation will be conducted by the team officials with the assistance of the FSJSC Competitive Coordinator and other FSJSC executive if required. If needed, coaches within the FSJSC may assist in the evaluation process for a team that they are not assigned to coach. Previous participation on FSJNS teams is no guarantee that a player will continue to participate on a FSJNS team in the following season. All players participating in tryouts will have to earn a position for one of the FSJNS teams based on their performance during tryouts and participation in the outdoor and indoor programs. Player attitude and behavior will also be a factor in player selection. Teams cannot be rostered until after the final tryouts are concluded.

Tryout dates and times will be advertised on Fort St John Soccer Club website.

Players are restricted from wearing any articles of clothing that have any affiliation with previous competitive teams (practice jerseys from the previous seasons). Once teams have been officially formed, it will be the responsibility of the team officials to communicate the teams' practice attire.

Player Release

After the evaluations are completed but before any players are released the FSJNS Competitive Director should be contacted to discuss the player(s) in question. If it is agreed to release the player(s), a meeting with the player, parent(s)/guardian(s), team officials and Competitive Director will be set to advise of the release. An executive member present, the coach will release the player.

Player Movement Policy- *valid for players U13 to U19*

For players requesting to move to a different (higher) division, a player movement application form must be submitted to the Competitive Director. This application will be submitted before the players attend a tryout or team practice for the team they are applying to. The Competitive Director and Club Head Coach will conduct an evaluation of players. The general rule is that players must be in the top 30% skill level of the division they are applying to move into, and the move shall not be a detriment to either of the two teams involved. Maturity of players will also be assessed and considered in the decision.

Season and Schedules

The Competitive Teams Program will run year-round if coaches are available for teams. The outdoor season will annually commence on May 1 and end on October 31. The indoor season will annually commence on November 1 and end on April 30, recognizing there may be minor variations to season start-ups from season to season.

Practice times will be scheduled by the FSJSC Scheduler and Competitive Director. All competitive teams are free to arrange pick-up games against each other and other teams, as long as they are within the ASA jurisdiction and are a registered Club within their province. If teams are seeking games outside ASA jurisdiction, formal permission must be applied for and granted 2 weeks prior to the game. In such cases, contact the FSJSC office to process paperwork.

Registration Fees

U13-U19 Competitive players will pay a base fee per season. This fee will be decided annually by the FSJSC Executive. This fee will cover 1 tournament per season, player insurance, Club fees, allotted pitch time, and jersey and equipment usage. If a team plans to attend more than 1 tournament or has other expenses, fees may increase for that specific team.

U11 Development players will pay a base fee per season. This fee will be decided annually by the FSJSC Executive. This fee will cover 1 tournament per season, player insurance, Club fees, allotted pitch time, and jersey and equipment usage. If a team plans to attend more than 1 tournament or has other expenses, fees may increase for that specific team.

U9 Development players will pay a base fee per season. This fee will be decided annually by the FSJSC Executive. This fee will cover 1 tournament per season, player insurance, Club fees, allotted pitch time, and jersey and equipment usage. If a team plans to attend more than 1 tournament or has other expenses, fees may increase for that specific team.

Player Registration

Any player, U9 to U15 (2004), playing for a FSJNS team, must be registered in a NWPSA House League program, and be in good standing with their home Club and the FSJSC. Any player, U15 (2003) to U19, playing for a FSJNS team, must be registered in a NWPSA Club as a house league player or as a non-house player and must be in good standing with their home Club and the FSJSC.

Any changes in players must be communicated to the FSJSC Office.

When players register, their birth certificates or other proof of age must be provided on request to the FSJSC.

It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all players are eligible to play.

Team officials of the FSJNS teams playing in games or tournaments must ensure that the team and player registration is completed according to the rules and regulations of the host game and/or tournament. In case of roster changes, team officials must ensure that all transfer / release forms have been completed.

Player identification cards will be handed out to all players U11 to U19 within the FSJNS. These cards will remain the property of the FSJSC and must be returned to the Club when requested.

Player cards (where required by competitive rules) must be made available on request. Replacement player cards issued by the FSJSC may be subject to a replacement fee.

Age Groups

The age group categories for the FSJNS are as follows:

Adult: 16 years of age and above

U19: Players under nineteen (19) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U17: Players under seventeen (17) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U15: Players under fifteen (15) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U13: Players under thirteen (13) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

Categories are comprised of teams of players that have not reached the limiting age before December 31 of the year for which they are registered.

Team Officials can decide if their age category can be split into multiple teams, providing it is done with the consent of the FSJSC Competitive Coordinator, and it is done for the best interest of all the players involved in that division.

Player Playing in Older Group or Higher Tier than One Registered In

Any registered player may play games for an older age group team or a team of the same age in a higher tier within the parent organization, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. Prior permission has been granted using our Guest Player / Loan Player Form
2. The player card must be in the possession of the team official they are now playing for
3. All guest / loan players are subject to the rules and regulations of the specific game / tournament they are playing in.

Transfer to a Lower Tier within the Same Age Group

The transfer of players to a lower tier within the same age group is not permitted unless the transfer is completed prior to the player completing the 5th game of the higher tier.

Player Recruitment

Teams are permitted to recruit from a lower age division within the FSJSC. Players must comply with the Club's player movement policy and the move must not be to the detriment of either of the two teams involved.

Players 16 years and older may play unlimited games for a registered ASA Senior team, provided they follow the rules and regulations of the senior team in question. ASA rules regarding the conditions under which a minor player may play for a senior team will apply.

Uniforms and Equipment

All players must wear proper soccer attire at all times during practices and games. The referee has the authority to remove a player who is not complying with this rule. Shin-pads and proper indoor or outdoor shoes are mandatory. No shorts may have pockets or zippers.

The Equipment Director, equipmentfsjsc@telus.net, or someone appointed by him or her will give equipment such as balls and cones to the coaches at the beginning of the season.

The primary uniform will be worn during all games played by our development and/or competitive teams. The primary uniform will consist of a yellow jersey, royal blue shorts, and white socks. The alternate uniform will consist of a royal blue jersey, royal blue shorts and white socks. The jerseys are property of the FSJSC and will be returned at the end of each season. A deposit for the uniforms will be required. Uniforms will be distributed to players by their coaches or managers once their fees have been paid.

A jersey deposit fee of \$100 per player is required before the players will receive their jerseys. When the jersey is returned at the end of the season, the deposit will be given back. If the jersey is not returned or is returned in poor condition, the deposit may be forfeited.

-Jersey deposit cheques for the Indoor season will be post-dated March 1

-Jersey deposit cheques for the Outdoor season will be post-dated August 1

Shorts (same shorts to be used with both jerseys) will be purchased by the players. The players will keep them at the end of the season. Socks will be purchased by the player; players will keep these at the end of the season.

Team warm-up suits will consist of black and royal blue jacket and black pants and will be purchased by the player. Warm-up suits will be worn by the team to all games / tournaments / provincial championships played under the name FSJNS.

The shorts, socks and warm-up suits will be purchased from the Club or through an approved vendor provided by the Club.

U9 Players have the option to purchase the Club team apparel.

U11-U19 Players are required to purchase the Club team apparel: shorts, socks, and warm-up suit. All other Club apparel is optional unless otherwise stated by your Team official.

A player's name may be placed on the Club apparel aside from the Club jerseys that are on loan to the players and on their own shorts and socks.

Team practice kits (shirts, socks, shorts) are at the discretion of the team officials. The cost of the practice kits is the responsibility of the players (parents). The color and silk screening decisions are made by the team officials. The FSJNS logo must be on practice kits.

Further details on uniforms, equipment, and attire can be found in the Players Code of Conduct and Expectations in the Code of Conduct.

Referees and Assistant Referees

The Referee in Chief can email a list of qualified referees and assistant referees for home games. It will be up to teams to book the best qualified referee for their game from this list. The team will pay for the cost for the referees or both teams may share the cost of the referees.

The payment to the referees will be made by the Club Treasurer from competitive team funds; payment will be based on written notice or a referee sheet approved by a team official.

If the referee does not show up for the game, both coaches may agree to use another coach / parent / spectator as an official for the purposes of that game only. Please notify the Referee Coordinator if the referee does not attend.

If team officials deem the field unplayable, they should inform the referee. The referee will make the final decision about field playability. If the field is unsafe and / or unplayable, the referee must call the game.

If both teams have similar colored jerseys, the home team will change their jerseys or wear scrimmage vests.

Any complaints concerning the officials must be directed in writing to the Referee in Chief, refereefsjsc@telus.net

Pitch, Field and Gym Usage, Closures, and Postponements

Field allocation is done through the FSJSC. Practice times will be assigned to teams at the beginning of each season. Teams may share or trade times keeping in mind the originally scheduled team will be billed for the usage if the FSJSC is not notified. Notification to the FSJSC office to record changes is recommended.

Both games and practices must be booked through the FSJSC and be approved before usage.

Games must be played at the field and times scheduled unless an official postponement is granted by the FSJSC or the referee calls the game.

A game will be called when the referee decides the field is unplayable, when weather or darkness make play too difficult or unsafe, and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Use of school gymnasiums are free of charge to the FSJSC. They should be treated with respect and left cleaner than when you arrived. Teams are not permitted anywhere in the school but the gymnasiums. School functions take precedence over any soccer usage. The FSJSC staff will notify teams if gym cancellations arise and do their best to relocate the practice.

Teams using school gymnasiums that require a key to enter will be billed for the deposit of \$50 per key. Once the key is returned the deposit will be given back to team. If the key is not returned, the deposit is forfeited, and teams may lose use of that facility in the future.

School fields may be closed by Leisure Services to protect them from damage during wet weather. Announcement regarding any game cancellations will be on the website, www.fsjsoccer.com, on the local radio stations, Club Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fsjsoccerclub/>), or emailed to the members. If weekend practices are cancelled because of wet weather, it is up to the team manager to inform the team of the cancelled practice/game.

For any issues with scheduling, contact the FSJSC Administrator at fsjsoccer@telus.net or FSJNS Competitive Director at northernstrikersfsjsc@telus.net

Any cancellations of pitch, field usage, or meeting room usage require a minimum of 2 weeks' notice prior to the cancellation date to avoid paying a usage fee. If less than 2 weeks' notice is given, teams will be responsible to cover the usage fee.

Tournament and Travel Regulations

Team officials shall notify the Competitive Director of the tournaments their teams are planning to attend. After the tournament, the Competitive Director (northernstrikersfsjsc@telus.net) must be notified of the results of the tournament.

Any team playing games or attending any unsanctioned tournaments (out of province or within) must ensure the teams they are playing are registered teams and are in good standing in their district.




Out of Province travel applications must be sent through the FSJSC office. These forms are available on the ASA website. This should be done at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled games.

If a team plays without properly informing the Club and/or District, that team may be fined and receive further reprimand.

It is suggested that accommodation costs for coaches, managers, and chaperones that do not have a child playing on the team be covered by and distributed equally among players on

the team. Covering these costs recognizes these individuals' time commitment, organization, and supervision of players while at out-of-town games or tournaments. Expenses may be adjusted seasonally at the Board of Directors' discretion.

Expense sheets must be filled out and approved by the team manager. Expense forms should be submitted no later than 15 days after the tournament date.

-  Fuel expense to / from game / tournament to a max of one vehicle at \$0.30 per km
-  Meals out of town game / tournament to a maximum of \$75/day
-  Accommodations out-of-town game / tournament to a maximum of one room

Traveling as a Team

Teams must be accompanied and supervised by at least two Team Officials. Teams with coaches of the opposite sex to the team will only be permitted to travel when a supervisor of the same sex is provided on the bus and at the place of accommodation. Coaches are responsible for their team's behavior throughout the trip. They must set and enforce a reasonable curfew. Players who steal, commit willful damage, or endanger other people may be barred from future traveling, and any costs will be charged to their parents. Players who use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will be sent home immediately at their parent's/parents' expense and will be barred from travel for a year. They may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

Play-downs and Provincials Championships

District play-downs for Provincials will be organized by the District. They will be played before Feb. 15 for the indoor season. For the outdoor season the play-downs will take place before June 10 for Tier IV and before July 10 for Tier III. Dates may vary from year to year.

Provincial competitions are held annually in March for the indoor season. Outdoor provincials are held in July and August.

Disciplinary Guidelines

The FSJSC Board of Directors (BOD) is empowered to deal with reported cases of misconduct, violations of FIFA Laws of the Game, and violations of FSJSC or ASA regulations. Disciplinary action may be taken against any team official, player, parent, supporter, or official in connection with activities in Fort St. John or elsewhere. Coaches, parents, or supporters can be removed from the field if the referee believes they are interfering with the game.

The FSJSC BOD has the authority to remove offenders from the Club or suspend them for a stated period. Disciplinary action is normally delegated to a Discipline Committee. Offenders will have the opportunity to appear before the committee. Parents and coaches may also attend.

During games, practices, tournaments, and competitions, the team officials will attempt to control the actions of team parents and supporters. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action for the team.

Any player or team official who is “red-carded” is automatically suspended from the next game. After this, he/she may be eligible to participate, pending the decision of the Discipline Committee or the BOD. The Guidelines is two yellow cards for one player in one game will also result in a one-game automatic suspension. Three accumulated yellow cards will result in a one game suspension

Referees will report both yellow and red cards in their official game reports. Additionally, red cards must be reported as soon as possible to the Referee in Chief who will convene the Discipline Committee.

All complaints of misconduct should be addressed, in writing, to the BOD.

Appeals must be directed, in writing, to the Competitive Director within one week of a decision by the Discipline Committee. Anyone making an appeal must attend the next scheduled board meeting to make their appeal in person. Suspensions must be served while the appeal is pending.

Discipline (on and off the field), the procedure of the Discipline Committee, and appeals are governed by the FSJSC Discipline Regulations and Guidelines. A copy of these Regulations and Guidelines is available from the Club Head Coach and on the FSJSC Website.

Summer Soccer Camps and Clinics

Under the direction of the Competitive Director, FSJSC will host summer development / high performance soccer camps for boys and girls of all ages. For more information contact the Competitive Director.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

Teams and Team Officials may engage in fundraising activities only with the permission of the FSJSC BOD. All requests to participate in fundraising activities must clearly state the type of fundraising activity to be undertaken and how the proceeds from the fundraising activity will be used. FSJSC has the right to limit or deny any fundraising activities. Any individual, player, or team official fundraising without permission of FSJSC is subject to discipline. A general sponsorship request letter is available for all teams to use. Contact the FSJSC office.

Sponsorship logos must be approved by the FSJSC Executive prior to going on any clothing. Sponsorship logos on the warm-up suits will be placed on the back of the coat centered below the collar of the jacket.

FSJSC has the right as an association to fundraise for the betterment of the association as a whole.

All fundraising and sponsorship money raised belongs to the team for one year (one indoor season and one outdoor season); after that, any funds remaining will be placed in a general competitive account.

Insurance

The FSJSC is not liable for any injury to individuals, players, team officials, game officials, or spectators. All registered players and team officials will have limited insurance coverage through the Alberta Soccer Association for all sanctioned events.

In the unfortunate event of having to submit a claim, follow the steps provided on the ASA website, <http://www.albertasoccer.com/member-services/insurance/>.

Competitive Team Bank Accounts

All team funds will be routed through the FSJSC; however, all team funds belong to the individual teams. This process is for the protection of the team funds.

For any purchases, such as team clothing, an invoice should first go to the team manager for their files. It will be passed on to the club treasurer for payment. The club treasurer shall not process any invoices without team manager approval.

Any overages on a team's account that are not covered from player fees, fundraising, or sponsorship will need to be made up by the team by the end of each season.

Expectations and Information for Competitive Director

The Competitive Director should organize a coaches' / managers' meeting at the beginning of each season to distribute and discuss coaching philosophy, competencies and values. Other items to discuss include distribution of equipment, schedules, uniforms, field usage, practice venues, league play, tournaments, play downs, provincial championships, travel, technical assistance, and referees. The Competitive Director will handle complaints and disputes from coaches, players, or parents and attempt to resolve them in accordance with the FSJSC rules and policies. When problems cannot be solved the Competitive Director will refer the matter in writing to the FSJSC President, presidentfsjsc@telus.net.

The Competitive Director will manage the competitive division. He or she will work closely with team managers to ensure clothing orders are complete, roster forms are submitted on time, equipment issues are resolved, and games scheduled. For more specific information on Competitive Director duties see Board of Directors Operational Rules and Regulations.