

## Guest Playing Policy

This policy provides the necessary structure for the provision of allowing guest players to play

on/with existing SF Elite teams and for allowing SFE players to guest play for another club.

### General Recitals

- SF Elite teams are formed under the concept that there are sufficient players selected to avoid the need to utilize guest players.
- SFE members on each team pay a significant amount of money for participation on that team, and within the club, and therefore should be the beneficiaries of playing time opportunities within the club.
- SFE also strives to provide playing time opportunities to club players with outside teams and clubs to the extent possible.
- SFE recognizes that there are circumstances that necessitate the need for a team to use guest players.
- SFE recognizes that an appropriate policy is needed to guide the decision-making process surrounding guest playing decisions.

## Policy

### Section 1. General

Any use of a guest player, unless it is a goalkeeper who fits within the exceptions outlined in the sections below, by any coach for any reason must be approved by the Executive Director. The

Coaching Director(s), at his or her discretion, may designate another club official to approve the use of a guest player.

### Section 2. League Games

- A coach of a U8 through U12 team shall not use a guest player for any SFE league game if their team has 11 able body individuals capable of playing.

### Section 2

- A coach of a U13 through U18/U19 team shall not use a guest player for any SFE league game if their team has 14 able body individuals capable of playing.
- If a team has less than the minimum number of able body individuals, and therefore needs a guest player or multiple guest players for the upcoming game, the team shall pull from players within the SFE. This includes players from the second team in the same age group, if applicable, or from the younger age group red team.
- If the team is missing a goalkeeper for their upcoming

game, for any reason, that team may use a guest goalkeeper from another team within the club even if the team meets the minimum number of able body individuals capable of playing.

- Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Director, or his or her designee, from granting an exception to the minimum number of able body individuals capable of playing, if in his or her professional opinion a valid reason not contemplated here arises.

### Section 3. Tournaments

- A coach of a U8 through U12 team shall not use a guest player for a tournament if their team has 11 able body individuals capable of playing.
- A coach of a U13 through U18/U19 team shall not use a guest player for a tournament if their team has 15 able body individuals capable of playing.
- Based on their professional opinion regarding what is in the best interest of the team, and taking into consideration the tournament the team is attending, the Director, or his or her designee, may grant an exception to the restrictions in this section.
- A coach seeking to use a guest player for a tournament must first seek to utilize players from within the club. This includes players from the second team in the same age group, if applicable, or from the younger age group red team.
- If the team is missing a goalkeeper for their upcoming

tournament, for any reason, that team may use a guest goalkeeper from another team within the club even if the team meets the minimum number of able body individuals capable of playing.

- If players from the second team in the same age group or the younger red team are not available, due to their own team's schedule, or they do not wish to participate, the coach may then seek to obtain guest players from outside the club. The coach must go through and get approval to use a player from outside the club from the Director, or his or her designee.
- Under no circumstances can a coach approve the use of a guest player on their own.
- All applicable US Club loan player forms must be filled out and signed by the Director, or his or her designee.
- Any guest player from outside the club, who has been approved to participate in an upcoming tournament with a SFE team, shall only be allowed to train with the team

during the week leading up to the event. At no time shall a guest player from outside the club train with a team for a period that exceeds one week. This requirement applies to each event that the outside player is approved to participate in.

#### Section 4. Guest Playing with Another Club

- Any SFE player invited to guest play for a team outside

the SFE must go through and get approval from the Executive Director, or his or her designee, before participating with that club/team.

- All guest players playing outside the SFE for another club must be authorized via the required US Club loan forms. Such forms must be signed by the Director, or his or her designee.

#### Section 5. Handling of Reported Violations of Guest Playing Policy

- The Club Director shall address all reported concerns/violations and shall notify the DLSC Board of Directors within ten business days, of reported concerns/violations.
- All reported concerns/violations will be promptly investigated by the Club Director, and if a violation is confirmed appropriate corrective action will be implemented. The Club Director may recommend, at their discretion, the corrective action necessary to remedy the violation to the Board of Directors for approval, if in their opinion it is warranted by the nature of the investigation. In addition, action taken must include a conclusion and/or follow-up with the complainant for complete closure of the concern.
- Anyone reporting a concern must act in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates an improper conformance to the policy.

The act of making allegations that prove to be

unsubstantiated, and that prove to have been made maliciously, recklessly, or with the foreknowledge that the allegations are false, will be viewed as a serious offense and could result in discipline, up to and including dismissal from participation with SFE.

- All reports of concerns/violations, and investigations pertaining thereto, shall be kept strictly confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation. Disclosure of reports of concerns to individuals not involved in the investigation will be viewed as a serious offense and may result in discipline, up to and including dismissal from SFE. Such conduct could also give rise to other actions, including civil lawsuits.

#### Section 6. Acknowledgement of Policy Contents

- Each Coach shall sign and acknowledge the receipt of this policy at the beginning of each season for their team. The signing shall be done at the same time as the execution of the coach's contract for that upcoming season.