

RNL Youth
Player and Parent Handbook
2023-2024 Season
rnlyouth.org
© 2022-2024 RNL Youth, Inc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. RNL Youth 4

1.1. Our Philosophy 4

1.2. Our organization- 4

1.3. Our Coaches..... 4

1.4. Our Players..... 4

1.5, Our Goals for Our Players... 4

2. Sports - RNL Youth Way 5

2.1. Making RNL Youth 5

2.1.1. Evaluations

2.1.2. Changes to the Roster 5

2.2. Practices..... 5

2.2.1. Commitment..... 5

2.2.2. Frequency and Location..... 5

2.2.3. Attending Practice..... 5

2.2.4. Respect for Practice Facilities 6

2.2.5. Dress Code 6

2.2.6. Common Sense 6

2.2.7. Valuables..... 6

2.2.8. Homework 6

2.2.9. Clinics 6

2.3. Tournaments 6

2.3.1. Number and Location..... 6

2.3.2. Playing Time..... 7

2.3.3. Game Day..... 7

2.3.4. Dress Code 7

2.3.5. Pregame 7

2.4. Other Activities 7

2.4.1. Community Service 7

2.4.2. Fund Raising..... 7

2.4.3. RNL Youth Athletic Tournament..... 8

2.4.4. Club Events 8

3. Player Expectations and Code of Conduct 8

3.1. Citizenship 8

3.2. Respect..... 8

3.3. Commitment to Team 8

3.4. Sportsmanship..... 8

3.5. Discipline..... 8

3.5.1. Due Process 9

4. Parent (Family) Expectations and Code of Conduct 9

4.1. Support Your Team..... 9

4.2.. Respect The Referees 9

4.3. Support Your Coach 9

4.4. Respect Our Opponents..... 10

4.5. Support Your Child 10

4.6.. Volunteer 10

4.7. Club Activities..... 10

5. Travel 10

5.1.. Commitment..... 10

5.2. Behavior..... 10

5.3. Team Vehicles 11

5.4. Dress Code..... 11

5.5. Team Events..... 11

5.6. Chaperones..... 11

5.7. Team Hotel 11

5.8. Curfew..... 11

5.9. Travel Tips..... 11

5.10. The Obvious	11
6. Financial	11
6.1. Uniforms and Equipment	11
6.2. Club Fees	11
6.2.1. Uniform and Equipment Fee	12
6.2.2. Team Fee	12
6.2.3. Players Joining After Evaluations	12
6.2.4. Special Assessments	12
6.3. Season Commitment	12
6.4. Travel and Related Expenses	12
6.5. Insurance	13
7. Sponsorship and Fund Raising	13
7.1. Sponsorship and Scholarship	13
7.2. Fund Raising	13
7.2.1. Team Activity	13
7.2.2. Sponsorship Donations	13
7.2.3. Directed Gifts	13
7.3. Scholarship	13
8. Required Paperwork	14

1. The RNL Youth

Welcome to RNL Youth! We look forward to a fun and successful experience for you. This handbook will explain our policies, procedures, and expectations. Please review this handbook carefully with your parents and raise any questions or concerns you may have with your coach.

1.1. Our Philosophy

RNL Youth believes that you are the person first, and an athlete second. We focus on the development of children in a positive manner, using sports to promote good life choices. All athletic teams want to win, and we are no different. However, we keep winning and losing in perspective, and success is measured by more than winning percentages and statistics. Our players have already demonstrated a gift for being athletic; we will develop that gift and help our players use it in a way to promote positive change and growth in their lives.

1.2. Our organization

The RNL Youth is an Arizona non-profit corporation and is a qualified charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. RNL Youth is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board Directors may appoint one or more committees, including non-directors, to manage various facets of the club's operations. New Directors and Officers are nominated and elected by the current Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.

1.3. Our Coaches

Our coaches are not required to have prior experience with athletics, either as a player, or coaching youth leagues, school athletics, or as club assistant coaches, but it is preferred. Coaches must go through a certification process. We authorize our coaches to deal with situations arising with their respective teams. Your coach is the primary contact for you, and it is preferred that all issues be managed by a player/coach or parent/coach level.

1.4. Our Players

A RNL Youth athlete is dedicated, industrious, talented, committed, competitive, assertive, self-confident, and team oriented. A RNL Youth athlete knows how to have fun. By playing for RNL Youth, you have chosen to play athletics at the most competitive level available. As an athlete, you will work to achieve excellent physical conditioning. As an athlete, you will work to develop and master several athletic skills and integrate those skills into a team concept. As a person, you will learn to accept responsibility for your role on the team and become a valuable and supportive member of the team. Our players represent some of the best local athletes. RNL Youth provides an opportunity for our players to play against other excellent players, and to display their skills in several tournaments. Many of our players will play for their middle-school, high-school, or college teams, and RNL Youth will work with players as appropriate to help them attain their goals.

1.5. Our Goals for Our Players

For all players, we want to help them develop their athletic games; both from an individual and team perspective. This includes athletic skills and fundamentals, court awareness, and team concepts. We want to see improvement in our players and our teams. If done well, your child will be a better athlete and love the game more than before. We also want to help our players use athletics as a tool for developing life skills such as teamwork, relating to others, understanding roles, and dealing with success and failure. For our junior division players, we see RNL Youth as an excellent way to prepare for High School ball, as well as senior division club.

RNL Youth are supportive of school ball, and our players have done well transitioning to high school. Dozens of RNL Youth junior division players learn the skills to play Varsity athletic in their freshman year of high school. Our players should be the ones who stand out in Evaluations, with superior fundamentals and understanding of the game. For our senior division players, RNL Youth will continue to develop the individual and team aspects of athletics. We want to help our high school players achieve maximum success on their school teams, as well as on

RNL Youth. We are also committed to getting our players exposure to colleges, to further their athletic careers and the possibility of playing beyond high school. To this end, we will play in a number of NCAA sanctioned tournaments, where college coaches will observe our players. We will also assist our players in communicating with colleges and help to facilitate the college recruiting process where appropriate. RNL Youth is proud to help players receive scholarships, ranging from community college all the way up to Division I NCAA.

2. Sports-The RNL Youth Way

Sports involves a great deal of hard work and preparation. There are many alternatives for children to play sports without this level of commitment, including any number of recreational leagues. A Sports team will not succeed with the limited preparation and dedication of the typical recreational player, so we will expect more out of you. In return, we will do much more for you than you will receive in a recreational setting. Sports is a two- way street, so let us see how far we can go together!

2.1. *Making RNL Youth*

Sports are competitive, and we want to field competitive teams. The coach has the final authority in determining the team's roster. Your attitude and team chemistry will be considered along with athletic skills when forming a team roster.

2.1.1. *Evaluations*

RNL Youth hold Evaluations in the beginning of each season for all its team leagues. Roster spots are not guaranteed from year to year, and all players who want to return are expected to be evaluated either live or by submission of evaluation of previous coach. Everyone who registers will join a team. Coaches look for good attitude, effort, and hustle, in addition to athletic skill and athletic ability.

2.1.2. *Changes to the Roster*

Players may be added to the team at the discretion of the coach. This allows teams to respond to specific needs, replace players who leave the team, or allow a skilled player to play club ball.

2.2. *Practices*

Practice is integral to any athletic team, and it is a cornerstone of player and team development. Teams that do not practice well do not win, and players that do not practice well do not improve.

2.2.1. *Commitment*

We expect ALL players to attend ALL practices. Playing for RNL Youth is a commitment that affects other people, and the team expected to be a priority. We do understand that there are school activities and other commitments which may conflict with practice from time to time, and we will work with you in those cases. If you miss practice, we expect you, the player (and not the parent), to notify the coach, as soon as you know, that you will miss practice and why. Absent players make it difficult for the coaches to plan practices, especially if the absence is unexpected, so missed practices take away from your coach and teammates as well as yourself. As a Sports player, you have committed yourself to a rigorous practice schedule, and your team depends on you. Your coach may have additional policies for dealing with missed practices.

2.2.2. *Frequency and Location*

Practices will be held two to three times per week, at the discretion of each team's coach. Practices will last from 90 minutes to two hours, again at the coach's discretion. Practice locations will vary from team to team.

2.2.3. *Attending Practice*

Please arrive at practice ten minutes before the scheduled start time. This will allow you to warm up and allow the practice to begin promptly. *Have your shoes, ankle braces, tape, and any other equipment on BEFORE the practice's scheduled start time.* Many practice sites will provide a limited window in which to practice, so we need to make the most of the time we have available. Parents, please arrive promptly at the scheduled ending time of practice and allow an additional five to ten minutes in case the coach needs to discuss anything with you. BRING WATER!

2.2.4. Respect for Practice Facilities

We are guests at our practice facilities. Treat them like you would treat your own home, even better. Please throw away all trash (used tape, water bottles, etc.) at the end of practice. Do not damage practice facilities; you (and your parents) will be held financially responsible for damage you cause or are an accessory to.

2.2.5. Dress Code

All players are expected to wear their reversible RNL Youth practice jerseys and appropriate athletic shorts to practice. Obviously, proper footwear is also required. It is strongly suggested that players wear knee pads, ankle braces if needed, and protective mouthpieces as well. No jewelry, including earrings. No hats or bandanas. No metallic or rigid plastic headgear. Make sure fingernails are properly trimmed.

2.2.6. Common Sense

Your coach has a great deal to accomplish during practice and is responsible for your safety during that time. Siblings or other family members or friends may not attend practice unless accompanied by an adult. RNL Youth and your coach are not responsible for anyone not on the team. Your coach will not leave the practice site until all the players are picked up, so please be on time.

2.2.7. Valuables

Do not bring valuables to practice. RNL Youth is not responsible for lost items at practice facilities and may not be able to recover lost items. Also, please do not bring items which will serve as a distraction to practice.

2.2.8. Homework

Practice time is limited, and not all skill work can be completely covered in team practices. Your coach will require you to work on skills outside practice. This is mandatory and is important for your development as an athlete. You may also be required to study plays or drill patterns.

2.2.9. Clinics

RNL Youth may schedule clinics from time to time. Clinics will feature NBA, WBNA, College, or High School Players, local high school coaches, as well as personal athletic trainers. These clinics are an excellent way to expand your athletic skills and knowledge in a manner not available outside RNL Youth.

2.3. Tournaments

Tournaments provide our teams with the opportunity to play against high level competition. Teams must be certified as a club team by the director of basketball with the approval of the board. All club teams are expected to raise all additional costs. The games are the payoff for all the hard work and practice, and we need to make the most of them. Games are fun! Winning games is even more fun! Most tournaments are structured to lead to a tournament champion. We may not know until just before tournament time where, when, and against whom we will play our first tournament game. Typically, the results of our game and other games will determine where, when, and against whom we play next. Usually, the more we win, the more we play. Tournaments start on Friday and end on Sunday. RNL Youth may play from two to ten games in a tournament!

2.3.1. Number and Location (Travel Club Teams Only)

We plan 10 to 20 tournaments in a club season. Most tournaments will be local, including the RNL YOUTH state qualifiers, BCI state qualifiers, and the RNL Youth Basketball Tournament. RNL Youth travel teams also will have out of town tournaments, which will be regional or even national in scope. Regional tournaments may include Tucson, Las Vegas, and Southern California. We expect to play in one or more national tournaments, which has included travel to Colorado, Texas, Washington, Florida, and beyond. Specific tournaments may depend on the team's performance and capabilities. We expect ALL our players to attend ALL tournaments and to be ready to play. Your coach will provide you with the most current tournament schedule, which will be revised over time.

2.3.2. Playing Time

Playing time is earned, not guaranteed, and this is an important consideration for any Sports player. Playing time will depend on an objective evaluation of several factors: practice attendance, attitude, effort in practices and games, game matchups, foul trouble, and athletic ability. This is competitive athletics. All players want to play as much as possible, but you cannot play all the time, and some players will play more than others. Since somebody is sitting out, it is a given that some players will not always be happy with their playing time - that is the nature of an athletic team, if we want more than five players on a team. Coaches have discretion over playing time, and nothing will detract from everyone's experience more than repeated playing time discussions, by players or especially by parents. Our coaches will attempt to provide meaningful playing time to all players whenever reasonable to do so. If you want to play more, work harder, get better, do not complain. When not in the game, RNL Youth players are to remain on the bench as close to center-court (and the coaching staff) as possible, and cheer on their team.

2.3.3. Game Day

A tournament game is a demanding athletic event, so you must approach the game as an athlete. This means to prepare and take care of yourself leading up to the event. This is especially important in a typical tournament, as there may be up to five games in one day! Proper nutrition before and in between games is important - high-fat meals, or those high in sodium or sugar are not good choices. Hydration is important: water or other fluids before, during, and after games, but avoid caffeine and soda. Proper rest is essential if you are to play to peak performance. Finally, pre-game activities should be limited. It is impossible to list all the things to think about on game day, but using common sense will go a long way. Be smart and respect your teammates with your choices; if you are not prepared, it affects them as well. Your coach may make specific rules, and you will be expected to follow them.

2.3.4. Dress Code

In games: Players will be expected to have their home and away uniform available at all games. You will wear both the home and the away uniform at every tournament and may need to change uniforms between games. RNL Youth does NOT carry extra uniforms. No jewelry, hats, or bandanas. No metallic or rigid plastic hair ornaments. No makeup designed to intimidate or offend the opposition. No glitter. Coaches have the discretion to enforce other dress code rules as conditions arise. At tournaments: Players will dress appropriately, in a way that demonstrates pride in yourself and your teammates. Coaches have the discretion to determine and enforce dress code rules as conditions arise.

2.3.5. Pre-Game

For local games, players will be expected to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Your coach may direct for an earlier arrival. Arrangements for tournament games will be determined by the coach. Players will be expected to gather prior to the game and stay in one place. Pre-game is a time to mentally prepare for the game.

2.4. Other Activities

RNL Youth will occasionally sponsor other activities for the benefit of the club and its players. Players are expected to support the team in these activities.

2.4.1. Community Service

RNL Youth is part of the community. We have a gift for playing sports and we can use this gift to help others. This may include community service activities, which may or may not be athletic related. We believe that our players will get a great deal from giving back to the community.

2.4.2. Fund Raising

Sports are expensive. If we pull together to raise funds for the club, we can make it less expensive for all. We expect players and encourage parents to attend all fund-raising functions.

Fund raising could include car washes, shoot-a-thons, and product sales. If you have good fund-raising ideas, please let us know!

2.4.3. RNL Youth Athletic Tournament

RNL Youth will host a tournament every year. This tournament is a source of pride and exposure for RNL Youth, as well as a major fund-raising tool. The RNL Youth Basketball Tournament will develop a reputation over the years as the best tournament in Phoenix! It is the commitment of our volunteers which made this happen. ALL families are expected to volunteer at the tournament: this is a REQUIREMENT!! This means significant work for the entire weekend for all our club team families - it is necessary, but it is worth it.

2.4.4. Club Events

Sports will also provide a valuable social experience. Players are encouraged to attend club events, including high school, college, NBA and/or WNBA athletic games, to build team unity.

3. Player Expectations and Code of Conduct

RNL Youth expects its players to conduct themselves with pride and dignity. A player's behavior is not just a reflection on that player, but it reflects the entire organization. Make us all proud.

3.1. Citizenship

This may seem obvious, but we expect you to be a good citizen. This means following rules and laws. Tournament sites, practice facilities, hotels, and airports all have rules, and we expect you to obey them. These sites also pose potential dangers, and good behavior will help assure your safety, and the safety of your teammates. A good common-sense approach to this would be to follow the same rules as applied to school.

3.2. Respect

We expect our players to demonstrate respect for others. Respect your coach, respect your teammates, respect your opponents, and respect your elders. The "Golden Rule" applies to treating others as you would like to be treated. RNL Youth will not tolerate physical or verbal intimidation of any individual. Use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated. On or off the court, you are expected to treat your teammates, coaches, and others with respect, and *consider their feelings* in your actions. We all have fun in diverse ways, and have different values at home, but nothing will tear a team apart more quickly than if we have fun at another's expense, or violate their values, so know your teammates' boundaries, and respect them.

3.3. Commitment to Team

Athletics is a team sport; we cannot succeed as individuals. An RNL Youth player will put the team first. We cheer for our teammates, even when we are not in the game. We are competitive, and it is the nature of the sport that we compete against each other for playing time, and in other ways, but we are also all on the same team. We will not act in any way that is meant to hurt a teammate. We will do everything we can to help all our teammates succeed. We will accept our role on the team, even if it is not the role we hoped for.

3.4. Sportsmanship

We will demonstrate good sportsmanship. We will conduct ourselves in class whether we win or lose. We will not taunt opponents when winning and we will not be sore losers. Referees will make mistakes, and players must learn to play through those mistakes. Finally, in games and in practices, a competitive sport will produce frustrating situations. Use these as a learning experience, not as a time to complain or make excuses.

3.5. Discipline

If a player or parent (family member) acts in such a manner that, in the coach's judgment, is disruptive to the team, the coach will have the authority to discipline the player. Disruptive or inappropriate activity may be disciplined whether it occurs on the court, at a RNL Youth function, or elsewhere; your conduct and how it affects the team is what matters. Consequences may include extra drill work at practice, suspension from one or more games, removal from a

tournament, or in serious cases, removal from the team. In no event will a coach ever administer corporal punishment. For violations of parental and family standards of conduct, RNL Youth reserves the right to ban such family member(s) from practices, games, or team functions, for either a specific amount of time or for the season.

3.5.1. Due Process

If a player or parent disagrees with a disciplinary decision, the player should first discuss this with the coach. If that does not resolve the situation, then the player and parent(s) should discuss the situation with the coach. If we communicate, most situations can be resolved reasonably. If the coach and the player/parent cannot reach an agreement, then the parent should approach the club President and discuss the situation. If necessary, the President will facilitate a meeting between the player and parent, the coach, and one or more board members to resolve the situation. At the discretion of the Board, decisions to suspend or remove a player, by the Board or the Coach, may be enforced before any meetings take place.

4. Parent (Family) Expectations and Code of Conduct

Family is an important part of RNL Youth. Parental and family support is a key to making RNL Youth experience enjoyable for your child and their teammates.

4.1. Support Your Team

Please shout encouragement for your child and their teammates. Parents can be powerful influences when it comes to building the team spirit we value, and cheering loudly for your child and the other players goes a long way toward building that feeling of "team". Similarly, shouting advice to your child during a game (or practice) negatively affects your child and everyone else. "Technique" suggestions during a game have no value. During games and practices, trust your coaches; let them coach. Or, put another way, **DO NOT COACH YOUR CHILD, OR OTHERS, FROM THE SIDELINES**. Our coaches are always willing to listen to suggestions, but at an appropriate time. Our players are 5- to 17-year-olds, although some of them may act and/or appear fairly "grown up" or mature, they are not little adults. It is hard enough for a player to accept and deal with criticism from coaches and (probably) their own family. Please do not add on to this by trying to coach/criticize players who are not part of your family-RNL Youth considers it inappropriate for an adult to do this to one of our players, publicly or privately. Your "friendly" advice is likely to be perceived as hurtful and/or intimidating by the player, even if it is not meant to, it hurt, so just do not do it. Violation of this policy may result in a warning or disciplinary action (see 3.5) on a case-by-case basis as determined by your coach and/or RNL Youth Board.

4.2. Respect The Referees

REFEREES WILL MAKE MANY MISTAKES DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEASON. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM CHANGE THEIR CALLS. Please do not harass the referees. If a referee is being chastised by a parent, the player learns the mistake was not their fault. Do not encourage your child to place blame upon others. A benefit of playing a team sport is learning to accept responsibility. Also, a poor call can be a test of emotional control. We want players to "bite their lip" and move on, whether it is a poor call by a referee or a mistake the player has made. Learning to cope and overcome are valuable life skills we want to teach. RNL Youth reserves the right to remove players and/or family from the game in case of disruptive or disrespectful behavior by a player or family members. Repeated or egregious violations are subject to disciplinary action (see 3.5).

4.3. Support Your Coach

You will not always agree with your coaches' decisions, whether it is strategy, technique, playing time, or any of the hundreds of other decisions we depend on the coaches to make during the club season. Coaches are human and will make mistakes like the rest of us do. Please, do not badmouth our coaches in front of your child or other players or parents. The worst thing a parent can do is take pot shots at the coaches, criticize decisions, and complain about leadership. When you berate your child's coach, you confuse your child, as they do not know.

which authority figure to listen to - that is unfair to them. Support the coaches and stand by their decisions. Our coaches are more than willing to discuss issues, but at an appropriate time. Undermining the coach's ability to do his or her job, whether by a parent or a player, and whether at a game or elsewhere, is subject to disciplinary action. Disruptive behavior, including acts which bring disrepute or embarrassment to RNL Youth or its players or coaches, is subject to disciplinary action (see 3.5).

4.4. Respect Our Opponents

Please do not razz, heckle, or belittle the other team's players. The other team's players are off limits. Yelling at or deriding someone else's child is simply wrong and will not be tolerated. We will not embarrass or disrespect other players.

4.5. Support Your Child

We will not win all our games, and your child will not always play well. After a game, win or lose, please find something encouraging and positive to say to your child. Please refrain from criticizing your child on the ride home, particularly after a loss. When it is time to talk about the game, your child will come to you. Remember, building an athletic team is a lengthy process. It is meant to be fun work. The snapshot of a particular day may be disappointing, but as adults we must focus, and keep our children focused, on the big picture.

4.6. Volunteer

A volunteer organization such as RNL Youth is only as good as its volunteers. Without your help, RNL Youth will not prosper or survive from year to year. We believe that the benefits your child will receive are a worthwhile return on your investment of time. We expect our parents to volunteer from time to time on behalf of the club. This includes volunteering at any club-sponsored tournaments. There are numerous roles in which parents can help, so everyone should be able to find a role with which they are comfortable. Parental participation in the organization will make the club experience more fulfilling for their players and is appreciated by the entire club.

4.7. Club Activities

We need to send positive life messages to our players. Consistent with RNL YOUTH and other organizational guidelines, RNL Youth request that parents and family refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or foul language at any club sponsored activity, and when in the presence of any of the players. The use of illegal drugs in the presence of any RNL Youth players will result in disciplinary action (see 3.5).

5. Travel

RNL Youth traveling teams will play in tournaments outside the Phoenix metropolitan area each season. Traveling to tournaments is exciting, but also provides several challenges to make a trip a success and ensure the safety of all players.

5.1. Commitment

If you are on an RNL Youth travel team, you understand that attendance at all tournaments is important, and you agree to attend the out-of-town tournaments. If you are not prepared to go to travel tournaments, you are not prepared to play on a travel team for RNL Youth. These tournaments will be among the most competitive in which we will play, so we need everyone to make the trip successful.

5.2. Behavior

We expect our players to always have a high standard of conduct, but we expect an even higher level on the road. Unfamiliar surroundings create higher safety concerns, and the club cannot allow activities which endanger any of our players. The coach will have authority to oversee behavioral issues, and deal with problems, as necessary. The club reserves the right to send a player back to Phoenix - at the expense of the parents-if that player's behavior is creating problems for the team.

5.3. Team Vehicles

For tournaments outside the Phoenix area, players will be expected to go to and from the game sites together in team vehicles. This ensures that all players arrive in a timely manner before the game, as well as building team unity at a time of higher stress.

5.4. Dress Code

Players will dress appropriately, in a way that demonstrates pride in yourself and your teammates. Coaches have the discretion to determine and enforce dress code rules as conditions exist.

5.5. Team Events

Coaches will schedule team meetings and team events during out-of-town trips. These meetings and events are mandatory. The team may also schedule optional outings to local areas of interest if time permits, and of course, parents may choose to do this as well. We want to have fun, but tournament schedules may be too tight to permit much in the way of other activities.

5.6. Chaperones

For Junior Division teams (up to 13u), it is preferable that at least one parent accompanies all players. However, we understand that this is not always possible. If a parent is not able to attend, the coach and parents will work together to assign that player to a chaperone. Hence, all players will be assigned either to that player's parent or a chaperone. All non-parent chaperones will be adults over the age of twenty-one. For Senior Division teams (14u and older), players may be assigned to a hotel room, with such assignments at the discretion of the coach.

5.7. Team Hotel

There will be a team hotel for out-of-town tournaments, and RNL Youth expects ALL players to stay there. This builds team unity and makes planning significantly easier. Players are to sleep in the hotel room assigned to that player, with the chaperone responsible for that player. Your coach has the discretion to make other rules as conditions arise.

5.8. Curfew

Curfew will be set by each team's coach, but all teams will have a curfew. All players are to remain in their hotel room after that time.

5.9. Travel Tips

For both local and out-of-state tournaments, players are required to always travel with BOTH their Home and Away uniforms in their RNL Youth travel bag. Also, include extra socks, personal items, and your reversible RNL Youth practice jersey. If attending a tournament via air travel, carry on your RNL Youth travel bag (checked luggage can get lost!).

5.10. The Obvious

In all capacities, when a coach, parent, or other person volunteers to transport or drive players, there is zero tolerance for the use of alcohol or any other mind-altering substance, whether in a team-sponsored vehicle. Do not volunteer to supervise or drive anyone unless you understand and agree to this policy.

6. Financial

6.1. Uniforms and Equipment

Uniforms will be provided by RNL Youth to the players at the players' expense. The uniform package includes a reversible home and away jersey and shorts. Traveling teams also receive a reversible practice jersey, a pre-game shooting T-shirt, and a travel bag. In addition, players will provide on their own and at their own expense knee pads (which match the uniforms), ankle or knee braces, and protective mouth-gear. *Returning players will have first choice of available uniform numbers, as well as the right to retain their old number!*

6.2. Club Fees

Sports entails financial commitment. Each player will be expected to contribute their fair share. For all cost, each player will contribute pro-rata to the team's overall

expenses. Even if a player does not participate in a particular event, they will still help to cover the cost of it.

6.2.1. Uniform and Equipment Fee

RNL Youth will assess an initial, NONREFUNDABLE fee, prior to the beginning of club practice. This fee will cover the uniform package described earlier, USSSA membership, as well as club overhead expenses. This fee is expected to be \$100 or less for returning senior division players, and \$500 or less for new senior division players requiring a uniform package and will be due immediately after Evaluations. The fee is expected to be less than \$100 for all junior division players.

6.2.2. Team Fee

Most of the financial commitment will be the team fee. This is a fee of \$3,000 or less for our senior division travel teams, \$750 for our senior division local teams, and \$1,250 or less for our junior division local teams. Due to the size of the fee, RNL Youth allows for the payment of the fee monthly during the club season. The monthly payments will be payable on the first of each month beginning the month after Evaluations and extending through June 2023. The team fee covers tournament entry fees, practice facility costs, coaching, insurance, and other ongoing team-related expenses. Senior division traveling team fees include anticipated travel costs, including lodging and transportation. You may pay all dues up front by check. The team fee is nonrefundable - PLEASE SEE SECTION 6.3 below!

6.2.3. Players Joining After Evaluations

If you join a RNL Youth club team after Evaluations, you will be expected to pay an initial fee equivalent to what other team members have paid up to that point, and the remainder of the fee, thereafter, as outlined above. If a sizable portion of the club season has elapsed prior to joining the team, the team fee may be pro-rated, but you will still need to bring your payments up to date immediately.

6.2.4. Special Assessments

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, including higher-than expected entry or practice fees, or travel costs, RNL Youth reserves the right to assess a pro-rata share of these costs to the team members. Every effort will be made to budget so that all team costs are covered by the annual and monthly dues, but this cannot be guaranteed.

6.3. Season Commitment

RNL Youth will make plans and incur costs based on a certain number of participants. Further, if you start the season with RNL Youth, then another player who wanted to play *is* not on the team. Another person was cut -- you took that spot! Therefore, it is important to note that by accepting membership on a RNL Youth team, you are committing for the entire season. The team fee and any related monthly payments will be payable even if you decide not to continue to play, and RNL Youth will continue to collect them. Further, there are no refunds of previously collected fees. Also, travel plans, entry fees, and team goals are determined based on full-team participation. RNL Youth teams will play in tournaments both within and outside the Phoenix area, and participation is expected. It is not fair to leave your teammates short-handed. Again, it is important to note that by accepting membership on a RNL Youth team, you are committing for the entire season, including all tournaments.

6.4. Travel and Related Expenses

All costs of hotel rooms, airfare or other modes of transportation are included in the team fee for senior division only. Food is not included in the dues, nor are expenses for family members' transportation or hotel rooms. RNL Youth will attempt to make any group discounts available to family members on a first come first served basis but cannot guarantee the availability of such rates. RNL Youth also cannot guarantee that room will be available on flights or in hotels for family members. Junior division teams will incur a small amount of travel costs, these will be assessed in addition to the normal dues.

6.5. *Insurance*

RNL Youth carries liability and excess medical insurance. Our insurance covers all practices, team events, and tournaments. The player's medical insurance is primary in all cases, and RNL Youth insurance is secondary. Parents will be required to provide RNL Youth with medical insurance information, as well as medical emergency treatment authorization.

7. *Sponsorship and Fund Raising*

As noted earlier, Sports is expensive. Parents are making a financial commitment far in excess of the cost of recreational athletics. However, RNL Youth provides a healthy alternative for our players, and helps develop them as people. This is a cause worth funding, and there are many ways in which we can enlist community support.

1.1. *Sponsorship and Scholarship*

Businesses and individuals may be interested in sponsoring the club or one of its teams. RNL Youth will collaborate with potential sponsors to provide advertising exposure in club handouts, and at club-sponsored events, in exchange for their sponsorship fees. Sponsorship fees will benefit the club as well as the team which raised the sponsorship money. We expect that each player and their family will bring in one sponsor.

7.2. *Fund Raising*

There are three specific types of fund raising RNL Youth will do, and each serves a specific purpose.

7.2.1. *Team Activity*

Funds raised through a team activity (car wash, shoot a-thon, candy sales, etc.) will be allocated 100% to the team for financial aid for its players. No gift receipt is issued; any individual donations of \$250 or more must be treated as a sponsorship donation (below). Any excess (as determined by RNL Youth Board of Directors) funds raised through team activities may be used to reduce the team fee for all players or to fund additional team activities.

7.2.2. *Sponsorship Donations*

A sponsorship donation will be allocated for financial aid for RNL Youth players. Any excess (as determined by RNL Youth Board of Directors) funds raised may be allocated to reduce the team fee for all players or to fund additional team activities. These donations are eligible for the charitable contribution deduction by donor, and a gift receipt will be issued. Sponsorship donors receive recognition in club handouts and on the club website.

7.2.3. *Directed Gifts*

A directed gift is a donation to cover a portion of the dues of a specific player, chosen directly by the donor. PER THE NCAA (FAQs, NCAA Bylaw 12.1.1.1.4.3), directed gifts as described above would violate amateur status for any player who has entered the ninth grade. This is the case whether it is a direct payment of dues, crediting of funds you raise, or a donation in any form which is directed toward a particular player. RNL Youth does not accept donations of directed gifts to protect the amateur status of our players. Be careful if you receive similar types of offers from any club organizations - it is not worth sacrificing your high school or college athletics eligibility.

1.3. *Scholarship*

RNL Youth understands that not all families can bear the expenses described herein. Our goal is to see that NOBODY misses the opportunity to play Sports due to financial considerations. Scholarships are available based on financial need, subject to the availability of funds, Sponsorship and scholarship fund raising will be the keys to allowing the club to provide scholarships. If you need financial aid, please discuss the issue with your coach, or the club Treasurer. Please remember that RNL Youth has limited resources, and that you are expected to contribute what you can afford, so that we may help as many players as possible. RNL Youth will request backup information in the process of awarding financial aid. Finally, in exchange for the scholarship, RNL Youth expects to receive significant volunteer and fund-raising commitment from those who receive financial aid. Note that financial aid, PER THE NCAA (FAQs, NCAA

Bylaw 12.1.1.1.4.3), cannot be based on athletic ability, but only a consistent fee waiver policy, of which athletic ability is not a criterion. Be careful if you receive offers of aid on any basis other than a consistent fee waiver policy, from any club organizations - it is not worth sacrificing your college athletics eligibility. RNL Youth written financial aid policy, including our income-based criteria, is available upon request.

8. Required Paperwork

A player may not begin their season with RNL Youth until all required forms are signed and submitted to the coach. The forms and requirements may include, but are not limited to:

- Registration Form
- Handbook Acceptance Form
- Parent Permission Form, Liability Waiver & Release, and Authorization for Medical/Dental Treatment
- Medical Insurance and Emergency Contact
- Copy of Player's Birth Certificate
- Copy of Player's Recent Report Card
- Recent Photograph