



VERMONT SOCCER ASSOCIATION POLICY ON PLAYER RECRUITMENT

Revised 5-4-24

Recruitment of player(s) actively registered/rostered with another team is prohibited, except as specifically provided in this rule. A player is actively registered/rostered with another team if the player appears on an official team roster certified by an authorized representative of Vermont Soccer Association for the current Soccer Year **OR** has signed a contract **OR** paid a deposit for the upcoming seasonal Soccer Year. The current Soccer Year begins September 1 of each calendar year (the “Soccer Year”). Recruitment window is a floating date based on the VSA calendar of events. The current recruiting window is between July 1, 2024 and October 1, 2024.

No adult registered with Vermont Soccer Association as a volunteer (administrator, coach, trainer or booster) shall recruit players actively playing for another team for participation in their program during the Soccer Year.

No person may encourage players within their program to recruit players actively playing for another team during the Soccer Year.

This rule does not prohibit the communication or publication of open tryouts to the general public, or the conduct of open tryouts.

Recruitment includes, **but is not limited to**, the following activity:

1. Communicating with a player or parent about that player’s participation in a club or a team.
2. Inducing, soliciting or otherwise using current players, or their parents, to persuade players from another team to transfer.
3. Providing incentives to players such as reductions in fees, trips, uniforms, and other equipment, other than financial aid with respect to Club fees in cases of financial need or hardship.

4. Using a position of authority to persuade a player to transfer from one team to another. This shall include adults involved with the State ODP program, adults involved with clinics and soccer camps, and adults involved with High School programs or other programs such as indoor soccer.

SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO COACHES

1. All Vermont Soccer Association rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by coach, manager, and all club/team representatives. Compliance with these rules shall be the responsibility of the club who are responsible for educating their coaches. Violations of this rule may be regarded as violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct and subject to Vermont Soccer Association's Disciplinary Policy.
2. Any direct contact with a player or parent with the intent to recruit must begin with an inquiry as to the player's current status with any other team.
3. Continuing any contact with a player or parent after learning that the player is actively playing for another team is prohibited.
4. Discussing a club or program with a player from another team (after being contacted first) without notifying the player's parents is prohibited.
5. At all times when discussing the advantages of his/her Club, program or organization, the coach has an obligation to be truthful, forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.
6. No coach may make a statement, at any time, to a prospective athlete which cannot be verified as true or promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play.
7. Once authorized direct contact with a player has been made, no further contact with that player may be made without the express consent of the player's parent or legal guardian.

PENALTIES

Any player recruited in violation of the rule shall subject the coach and/or Club to fines or suspensions as may be imposed consistent with Vermont Soccer Association's Disciplinary Rules.