

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK



"Instilling a life-long love of the game of soccer."

**WELCOME
TO THE
AJAX
NATION**

Dedicated Coaches. Proven Results

www.nbajax.com



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MEET THE DIRECTOR'S

DIRECTOR OF SELECT - DARREN LENTON

Darren Lenton began his career in England as a Youth Player in the Manchester United Program. He went on to play professionally for Bolton Wanderers FC and for a number of semi-professional teams; including Northwich Victoria, where he was coached by Man U legends, Sammy McEllroy and Norman Whiteside, before deciding to make his home in the United States.

For the last 26 years, he has coached Division 1 to Premier club soccer in the Austin & San Antonio area, as well as, High School varsity soccer for both St. Stephen's Academy & St. Michael's Academy where he won a State Championship. Darren previously was the Director of Player Development for Lake Travis Elite.

Darren has been coaching in New Braunfels for 17 years & has taken numerous teams to district & state finals. While being in charge of the soccer program for the past 15 years, he has placed almost 100 boys & girls at all levels of collegiate soccer programs, from Division 1 to NAIA.



Darren also spent 3 years in California coaching at CYSA. There he worked as the assistant to CYSA Pro-gram Director of the year, Clint Greenwood at the Santa Anita Soccer Club.

Darren lives in Austin with his wife, Heather and daughter, Harper.

Darren holds his NSCAA Advanced Regional Diploma and Level 1 and 2 FA Certificates from England, as well as his USSF E & NSCAA DOC Certificate.

DIRECTOR OF ACADEMY

MIKE ABALOS

Coach Mike Attended St. Francis University (PA) in 2006 and University of The Incarnate Word from 2007-2009 Mike also played in the Professional Development League (PDL) for the WTU Sockers in 2009 and Laredo Heat in 2010

Mike's club experience was with FC Texas 88, as well as playing in the North Texas 87 Olympic Development Program (ODP)

Mike has been coaching with NB Ajax since 2011 and has been the Academy Director since 2013, as well as coaching 4 Ajax teams, 3 of those teams playing SCL (State Classic League).

Mike lives in San Antonio with his wife, Jordan and 2 year old daughter, "Charli".

Mike holds USSF E, D Licenses as well as the USSF National Youth License. Mike is currently working on his USSF C License.



CLUB PHILOSOPHY, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Our on the field philosophy is captured in the word: technique. Technical expertise is the focus of everything we teach, at the center of every training session, and we pride ourselves on delivering the highest level of technical expertise in the area. Once a player masters the ball -- and what he or she can do with it -- they begin to love the game. At NB Ajax, we believe winning is the by-product of proper development. We don't believe winning alone will foster enjoyment of the game. We passionately believe in winning the "right way." The "right way" is expansive, skillful soccer with an emphasis on dynamic attacking principles combined with defensive discipline. NB Ajax's main priority is to instill in our players a life-long love of the game of soccer. We do this by promoting the highest degree of individual technical expertise for each player and utilizing that talent to make each team successful.

ACCOUNTABILITY

AJAX MEMBERS & STAFF WILL DELIVER ON THEIR COMMITMENTS TO THEMSELVES & THEIR TEAMS BY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

RESPECT

AJAX MEMBERS & STAFF WILL TREAT OTHERS
IN A POSITIVE & DIGNIFIED MANNER

AMBITION

AJAX MEMBERS & STAFF WILL HAVE A STRONG DESIRE FOR THEMSELVES & THEIR TEAM'S COLLECTIVE SUCCESS & ACHIEVEMENT

UNIQUE

AJAX DEVELOPS DISTINCTIVE MEMBERS & STAFF TO BE INSPIRED, INVENTIVE & KIND

FAMILY

AJAX IS A COMMUNITY UNITED BY COMMON GOALS, IDEALS & KINSHIP

SERVICE

AJAX MEMBERS & STAFF WILL PROVIDE BENEFIT
TO EACH OTHER & OUR COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION


We know you have choices in select soccer, and we appreciate that you have chosen to become part of the NB Ajax Family.

Through New Braunfels Youth Soccer Association (NBYSA), NB Ajax has a voice in shaping youth soccer in the San Antonio and surrounding areas. We are also affiliated with the Alamo Area Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA), Western District Designated Operations Association (WDDOA), USC (US Club), South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) and United States Youth Soccer (USYS).

Our Club has made great strides since our beginning in 2010 and has become a well-respected select soccer club in South Texas. In addition to the work with our select players, NB Ajax is hard at work in the community working with recreational teams, youth groups and other organizations promoting youth soccer.

The focus is on player development and not necessarily on wins and losses, we understand that results are important, but at the end of the day, the game score isn't a measure of success, but rather success is measured by how well players have developed.

NB Ajax is a volunteer driven organization and we have expectations of all families who join our community. To support the continued success of our club and our parents, we are dependent upon the commitment of all when it comes to fundraising, field days, and other volunteer efforts. It all goes back to our children and that is why we are here in the first place.

The logo for NB Ajax is located in the bottom left corner of the page. It features the letters 'NB' in a large, bold, blue font. Below 'NB', the word 'AJAX' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized blue and white swoosh or arc is positioned between 'NB' and 'AJAX'. To the right of the 'NB' and 'AJAX' text, there are several blue geometric shapes, including a large 'A' and a smaller 'J', which are part of the overall design.

NB Ajax is a close-knit family whose primary mission is to provide an environment where players can learn the game of soccer in a fashion which will push them to maximize their potential while supporting players during the learning process.

PLAYER EXPECTATION

Our Club expects players to develop and maintain a tradition of excellence. We feel that it is important to have positive recognition through exemplary dress, behavior, and playing style, among other things.



SET THE STANDARD

Our Club intends to set the standard that other soccer organizations will endeavor to achieve.

Players are to develop and maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship towards the club, their coach, their teammates, and their opponents remembering that they represent their club as well as themselves. Proper and professional dress is required at all training and games. All players are expected to attend all training and games, while being mentally, nutritionally, and physically prepared.



TOURNAMENT PLAY, TRAVEL RULES AND OVERVIEW

Club teams should only enter tournaments approved by the Directors of Coaching. The criteria used to create this list include strength of opposition, prestige of tournament, location, availability of trainers, dates of the event, number of college coaches in attendance, etc. All Club teams are expected to play in several tournaments each year. The number of events and the travel involved vary depending on the skill level and age group of each team, as well as the discretion of your coach.

Teams may invite guest players from other teams or clubs to attend tournaments. "Guest" players should be treated as a regular team member during the tournament. Development of our players and, in the case of the older players, affords them the greatest opportunity for exposure to college/university coaches.

Tournaments attended by your child's team will be at additional cost to the players who attend the tournament.

Individual teams are responsible for trainer travel expenses (hotel, flights, car rental, food, mileage, etc) incurred for tournaments outside of the local area as defined and approved by the Directors of Coaching. For club-wide or multiple team participation in multiple-day tournaments, teams will equally share trainers' expenses.

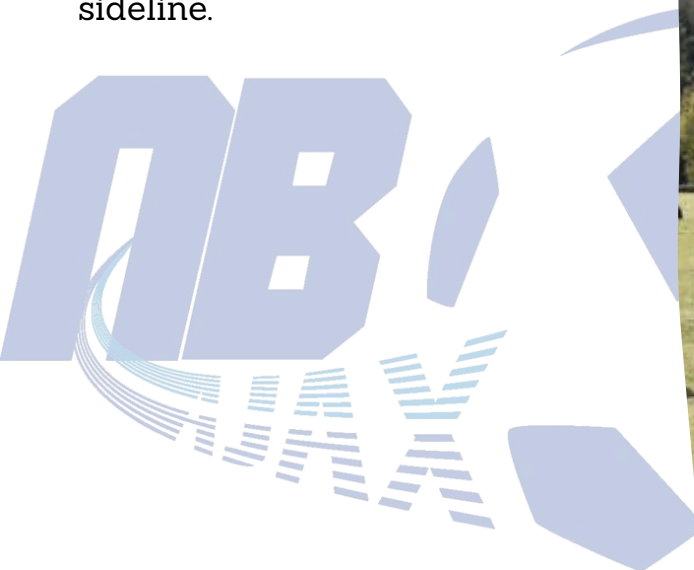
GAME SCHEDULES

"Play to win but enjoy the fun." - David Ogilvy

Matches are played either home or away, or neutral site, depending on your team's league. Players should adopt a good attitude and, within the rules of the game, demonstrate good sportsmanship both in victory and defeat. Each coach will decide on how early they would like players to report for a game. During all matches, parents will be asked to remain in the spectator area. Coaches are responsible for the proper behavior of the parent's sideline.

Parents are encouraged to cheer! Parents must refrain from shouting any verbal abuse or general negative comments towards the referee crew, all players, opposing parents, and coaches.

Parents are not allowed to shout information to the players during the matches as this may cause conflict with the coaches and players internal thought process.



GAME OR TRAINING CANCELLATION

Due to adverse weather conditions, training or matches may be cancelled.

Parents will be notified by the coach or Team Manager as quickly as the information is available for them to update the team. In the case of home games, cancellations only will be posted on the NB AJAX Website and social media, along with emails sent to Team Managers and Coaches. Then the info will be passed to the team parents via the AJAX mobile app. For away or neutral site games, coaches and team managers should check the complex's website for information and notify the team as soon as possible. Please understand that AJAX is not in charge of closures at other soccer **complexes** and is not responsible for the timeliness of **their updates or notifications.**

When training is cancelled at Weston, AJAX teams will be notified through the AJAX mobile app.



TRAINING

"Don't cry to give up, cry to keep going. Don't cry to quit, you already in pain. Get a reward from it." - Eric Thomas

1

All teams will be assigned 2-3, 90-minutes training sessions per week.

2

Players are required to wear the club's official training gear to practice. Training shirts are purchased with the uniform kit and additional shirts can be purchased at Soccer.com.

3

Players should always bring water and a ball to training.

4

Most importantly have fun!



The club attempts to keep training times and days static, however, at time, changes will be required due to unforeseen circumstances, a coach's availability, or emergency. If this happens, arrangements will be made for the team to attend an alternate session with another coach/team or a make-up session will be scheduled.

MEDICAL NEEDS AND TREATMENT

"The comeback is always stronger than the setback"

It is the responsibility of the player and parent to notify the coach in the event of a player injury sustained in training or match play, and/or away from the club. In the case of injury, the player may return to training and/or games by presenting a note to the club (coach or Business Manager) from their doctor releasing the player to participate.



PLAYER PATHWAY

