

The Newton Heath Compact

A Summary of Roles and Responsibilities Among Players, Parents and the Club

What NH expects of players

Everyday

When you play for Newton Heath, being part of a team means:

- Putting team before self — playing for your teammates and having their backs.
- Encouraging your teammates positively.
- Playing with maximum effort at all times (practices and games).
- Taking total responsibility for your actions on the field.
- Displaying sportsmanship and respect for coaches, officials, teammates and opponents.

At Practice

- Practices start and end on time and as scheduled – be on the field dressed and ready to go. Arrange to be picked up on time.
- Practice attire is NH shorts, NH socks and any NH T-shirt or warmup.
- Come to practices and games prepared and equipped with:
 - Water or a sport drink (no sharing fluids – please).
 - Shin guards
 - A right-sized and properly inflated ball

It is also a good idea to keep the following items in your backpack:

- Sun screen
- Insect repellent
- Extra shoe laces and socks
- Winter gloves
- Winter hat

In general, dress for the weather – layers allow players to cool down or warm up as needed. We will play and practice in the rain, so a rain top will be a good investment.

On Game Day

- If you will not be able to attend a game or will arrive late, you should let your coach know via email or phone call at least two days before the game is to be played.
- Arrive at the venue 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start dressed and ready to play. Good judgment, in terms of food and hydration prior to a game, is critical.
- Bring a right-sized, properly inflated ball and at least 24 ounces of water or sports drink.
- The standard uniform kit is white jerseys for away games and blue jerseys for home games. Your coach will let you know at least 24 hours in advance if the team will deviate from the standard. Always bring both jerseys.
- Your coach may have multiple games on a particular day and, therefore, may not always arrive 30 minutes prior to kickoff. Players are expected to warm themselves up in an organized and professional manner upon arriving at the game site whether or not their coach is present.

What NH expects of parents

NH wants our parents to enjoy watching their kids soccer, but we must request that all parents/spectators exhibit appropriate behavior, and abide by this NH Compact, remembering that all behavior displayed by players, coaches & parents reflects directly on the club. Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to attend practices – it's a way to monitor your player's progress and reinforce what he is learning when home and practicing on his/her own.

Specifically, parents agree to:

- Encourage the team positively.
- Refrain from sideline coaching; any instruction given to a player from the parents could contradict with what the coach is asking the team to do or conflict what the player's instinct is telling them to do.
- Display sportsmanship and respect for opposing parents, players, coaches and officials. Encourage their child to do the same.
- Be respectful of a coach's time immediately before and after a game and/or practice. Coaches often have back-to-back games/practices and their first priority needs to be keeping kids on task. The best time to communicate with your coach about important issues is during the week, either via email or phone. You will always be able to arrange a face-to-face meeting if you would like.
- Allow 24 hours after a game/tournament before contacting the coach about any concerns/issues that they may have.
- Pay the annual club fees as agreed to at the time of player registration; failure to do so may result in suspension from practices & games until fees are paid.

What you should expect of NH

- A positive experience in all aspects of the club
- A coach who cares about you as a person, not just a player, and is there to help. You should be able approach him or her openly with whatever issues you are facing.
- A variety of high quality programs to fully develop players regardless of their ability level at the time they enter the club
- Competitive teams placed at the an appropriate level within their respective leagues
- Wins and losses. In order to maximize player development, we must challenge players with regard to their level of competition. If we win too much, we've likely under-challenged the team and vice versa. In some instances, we will win more than expected because players are experiencing a phase of accelerated development (a good thing).
- Progress. Players and teams should improve and progress through the league ranks over the course of a few years. While NH definitely takes a long view on player development, and the pace of development will ebb and flow, progress should always be present.
- Open and timely communication from the club directors and coaches to families.
- Regular feedback on player development to player and parents
- Playing time — the NH target minimum playing time for players on all top-level teams is 25%. For second and third level teams U8-U11, the target minimum is 40%. For all teams U12 and older, the target minimum is 25%. Coaches may implement their own target minimums that are greater than the club minimum. Overall skills, degree of improvement, work ethic, attitude and practice attendance are all taken into consideration and contribute to playing time.