



## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

CUW Soccer Academy understands the role of technology in the world today – especially cell phones, tablets and WIFI. It has been our observation that children are using cell phones earlier and earlier in their lives. One of the first questions we are asked as youngsters enter to the residence hall for camp is “What is the WIFI password?” Every season we receive numerous requests from parents to have personal cell phones and access to WIFI in order to communicate back home. We find it important to provide a rationale and full explanation to our “No Cell Phone” and “No WIFI” policies.

One objective we have at camp is for the children to receive a quality experience both on and off the soccer field – an experience which is safe, comfortable, social, and enjoyable. We believe that one of the unique opportunities a child receives in a camp environment is to be disconnected from technology. Children are constantly surrounded by technology, and a camp environment provides a break from this technology-heavy world.

We attempt to create an environment where the children are interacting with each other and making new friends. We do not want this time to be interfered with by spending time on their cell phones or tablets playing games, texting, calling, posting social media, etc.

### *No Cell Phone*



A child may bring a cell phone to camp. However, **usage of the cell phone must be in the presence of a staff member, coach, or counselor.** We understand that it is very important to communicate with your child. For many, saying “good night” is very helpful for a child to feel more comfortable and get a good night’s rest. With this being stated, **we strongly encourage all cell phones to be left at home.** If a child feels the need to call home, they may easily ask a staff member and he/she will lead them to a phone to call.

### *No WIFI*



Requests for WIFI are made each year in order to allow a child to message or Facetime with their parents. In the past, we have tried to accommodate these requests but have found that this creates too much temptation for campers to use the device for activities other than checking in with Mom and Dad. A child’s supervised internet usage varies from home to home and every parent may have different philosophies on how to supervise internet activity. Supervision of internet activity in a camp setting is practically impossible. We need to set a policy which protects our campers from making choices or posting inappropriate material that could negatively impact themselves or others for the rest of their lives. **The WIFI password will not be shared with campers or parents.** If a phone call home is necessary, a child must ask a staff member (counselor/coach) and he/she will provide a phone to use under the staff member’s supervision.

We are looking forward to an action packed, safe, and friend filled soccer experience at camp this year. Purposeful violation of these policies by camper or parent may result in immediate removal from camp. No refund will be given should this occur. Please help us communicate the necessity of this policy to your camper.