

## STARS 'N STRIPES INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURS – 2018

361 Cambridge Drive Fairview, TX 75069

Tel - 214-718-9963

Website – [WWW.STARSNSTRIPESOCCER.COM](http://WWW.STARSNSTRIPESOCCER.COM)

Email – [EPuskarich@gmail.com](mailto:EPuskarich@gmail.com)

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Dear Stars 'N Stripes player,

Below is a checklist and an enclosed players packet for the upcoming soccer tour. **Please review the entire packet with your parents and contact Stars 'N Stripes if there are any questions.** The packet includes medical information forms, fundraising ideas, staff information, Stars 'N Stripes philosophy and achievements, payment info, and preliminary itineraries.

Please be aware that Stars 'N Stripes is a "Soccer First" organization. Since 1987, Stars 'N Stripes has provided opportunities for players to achieve their dream of playing soccer internationally. Stars 'N Stripes is designed to benefit the serious soccer player and is not a vacation tour.

After reviewing all of the information, submit pages #2 and #3, the application, to Stars 'N Stripes and a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit immediately. Upon acceptance, Stars 'N Stripes will forward an updated payment plan and financial commitment, final itineraries, tour contract, Stars 'N Stripes merchandise, etc. Note: if player's application is not accepted the \$500.00 will be refunded.

**PLEASE CHECK OFF AFTER PLAYER AND PARENTS HAVE REVIEWED TOGETHER!**

_____ 1.	PAGE #1	Checklist and general player information
_____ 2.	PAGE #2, #3	<b>Player application, complete and return with \$500.00 non-refundable deposit immediately</b>
_____ 3.	PAGE #4	Stars 'n Stripes philosophy and achievements
_____ 4.	PAGE #5	Preliminary itineraries, references, payment info
_____ 5.	PAGE #6, #7	Staff information
_____ 6.	PAGE #8, #9, #10, #11	Medical information and forms – <b>DUE June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018</b>
_____ 7.	PAGE #12-#15	Sponsorship and fundraising information
_____ 8.	PAGE #16	Question and Answer fact sheet

**Note:** Separate mailers that includes player and parent contracts, updated final itineraries, packing checklist, player information form, and permission to travel with a minor, uniform ordering of additional items, etc., will be sent throughout the coming months.

**ATTENTION ALL PLAYERS:** All information regarding Stars 'N Stripes soccer tours will be addressed to the players directly. It is the player's responsibility to be informed and updated regarding the upcoming tour. Stars 'N Stripes is taking the player on tour, not the parent, so we stress that the player be responsible and accountable with all mailers, information, etc. Stars 'N Stripes is not only a soccer tour but an experience in which the player will mature and grow both as a player and as a person.

Passport process – Please start the process for applying for your passport. Contact the Post Office for more details. You will need 2 passport photos and a certified copy of a birth certificate. It may take several weeks to process your passport but you may also get it expedited for additional costs.

Remember your first step is to review the enclosed information carefully and **send in your deposit with player application** to reserve your space on tour. I am looking forward to a great experience. As always, if there are any questions from players or parents, please contact Stars 'N Stripes at the above information.

Yours in Soccer,  
Ed Puskarich  
Executive Director, Stars 'n Stripes International Soccer Tours

## STARS 'N STRIPES PLAYER APPLICATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION – please write/type clearly!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Player's cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Players Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mom's email \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred positions \_\_\_\_\_

### SOCCER INFORMATION

Current Club team \_\_\_\_\_

Club Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Coach Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current School team \_\_\_\_\_

School Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Coach Email \_\_\_\_\_

Previous teams \_\_\_\_\_

Team achievements (state champs, state cup, league winners, tournament winners, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Individual achievements (team captain, all conference, MVP, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of ODP (Olympic Development Program) or ID2? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what level? \_\_\_\_\_ Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous soccer information that may be useful in determining your acceptance status?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the support of your parents in pursuing international soccer travel? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

On a separate sheet, please write a statement of your soccer objectives. Please include why you want to travel on a Stars 'N Stripes international soccer tour. This essay should allow Stars 'N Stripes to know you better as a person and as a player. You may also include any additional information you might think important to your application. Also, please include who or what influenced you to apply to Stars 'N Stripes.

## REFERENCES

List 3 people, and their relationship to you, who may be contacted as personal character references.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## APPAREL INFO AND SIZES – (Indicate Youth or Adult – Ex. YL or AL)

Uniform size \_\_\_\_\_ Short size \_\_\_\_\_ Sweat suit size \_\_\_\_\_

Uniform preference number, \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>ST</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>ND</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>RD</sup>

T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Polo size \_\_\_\_\_ Fleece Pullover \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that an order form will be available for options to order additional merchandise!**

Do you understand what it takes to be successful, on and off the field; for example, no consumption of alcohol, no smoking or other tobacco products, self-discipline, and respect for others? Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to make the sacrifices required to play and travel for Stars 'N Stripes? Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the commitment level to play for Stars 'N Stripes? Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this application along with your non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 to Stars 'N Stripes to reserve your space on tour.

**STARS 'N STRIPES  
361 Cambridge Drive  
Fairview, TX 75069**

Thanks for your interest in Stars 'N Stripes and for taking the time to accurately complete this application. You will be notified as quickly as possible of your status and please contact Stars 'N Stripes if there are any questions or concerns.

Yours in Soccer,  
Ed Puskarich  
Executive Director  
Stars 'N Stripes International Soccer Tours

## STARS 'N STRIPES PHILOSOPHY

Stars 'N Stripes, founded in 1987, was established to provide young soccer players who have dedication, desire, and love for the game, the chance to become better soccer players and better people by exposing them to different players, styles, and cultures from around the world. Players who wear the Stars 'N Stripes uniform return to the States with a deeper understanding of soccer, a deeper appreciation of the unique differences of the world's cultures, and a deeper pride in their own heritage as Americans.

Stars 'N Stripes retains only the finest coaches, individuals who have not only excelled in soccer as players themselves, but who all have the unique talent of communicating with young people on a personal basis. Players and coaches develop a close relationship from living, eating, touring, training, and shopping and sightseeing together. Coaches at all times emphasize the importance of behaving with class, both on and off the field. A class which springs from both respect and pride: respect for oneself, one's opponents, and for the host culture; and pride in one's teammates and in America, which players and coaches represent with their every action.

Stars 'N Stripes has visited Italy, including 1990 World Cup games; France, including 1998 World Cup games; Germany, including 2006 World Cup games; Finland, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, England, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Iceland, Czech Republic, San Marino, and Australia. Stars 'N Stripes has always left these nations with the hosts' praise for the conduct, professionalism, and discipline of everyone associated with Stars 'N Stripes. Stars 'N Stripes teams are sought after by dozens of tournaments and have received invitations to compete all over the world.

### Stars 'N Stripes achievements since 1987

1990	FINALIST –	Toulouse cup, France - Boys U-19
1990	FINALIST –	Kanga cup, Australia - Girls U-19
1991	WINNER –	Dana Cup B-final, Denmark - Girls U-19
1993	FINALIST –	Dana Cup I, Denmark - Girls U-14
1994	WINNER –	Copenhagen Cup, Denmark - Girls U-16
1994	WINNER –	Hungary Kun Cup, Hungary - Girls U-14
1994	WINNER –	Hungary Kun Cup, Hungary - Boys U-19
1994	FINALIST –	Hungary Kun Cup, Hungary - Girls U-19
1994	FINALIST –	Hungary Kun Cup, Hungary - Boys open
1995	SEMI-FINALIST –	Upper Austria Cup, Austria - Boys U-19
1995	SEMI-FINALIST –	Gothia Cup, Sweden - Girls U-16
1995	FINALIST –	Gothia Cup, B-final, Sweden - Girls U-19
1995	QUARTER-FINALIST –	Gothia Cup, Sweden - Girls U-14
1999	FINALIST –	Dana Cup I, Denmark - Girls U-18
2000	FINALIST –	Gothia Cup, Sweden - Girls U-16
2000	FINALIST –	Watford and London festival, England - Boys U-16
2001	WINNER –	Denmark Soccer festival, Denmark - Girls U-14
2001	WINNER –	Denmark Soccer festival, Denmark - Girls U-18
2001	SEMI-FINALIST –	Denmark Soccer festival, Denmark - Boys U-16
2002	WINNER –	Dana Cup B-final, Denmark - Boys U-17
2004	FINALIST -	Denmark Soccer Festival - Boys U-16
2004	QUARTER-FINALIST	Gothia Cup, Sweden - Girls U-16
2005	QUARTER-FINALIST	Dana Cup 1, Denmark - Girls U-13
2005	QUARTER-FINALIST	Gothia Cup, Sweden – Girls U-14
2005	SEMI-FINALIST	Gothia Cup, Sweden – Girls U-13
2006	FINALIST	Dana Cup 1, Denmark - Girls U-13
2007	WINNER	Upper Austria Cup, Austria – Girls U-16
2007	FINALIST	Upper Austria Cup, Austria – Girls U-14
2007	SEMI-FINALIST	Upper Austria Cup, Austria – Boys U-16
2008	WINNER	Dana Cup 1, Denmark – Boys U-16
2009	WINNER	Cup Denmark, Denmark – Girls U-17
2009	SEMI-FINALIST	Cup Denmark, Denmark – Boys U-16
2010	FINALIST	Dana Cup 1, Denmark – Girls U14
2010	FINALIST	Dana Cup 1, Denmark – Boys U16
2011	FINALIST	San Marino Cup – San Marino – Boys U18
2011	FINALIST	San Marino Cup – San Marino – Boys U15
2013	QUARTER-FINALIST	Dana Cup 2, Denmark – Girls U15
2015	QUARTER-FINALIST	Dana Cup 2, Denmark – Boys U17
2015	SEMI-FINALIST	Dana Cup 2, Denmark – Girls U17
2017	FINALIST	Cup Number 1, Denmark – Boys U18

## Preliminary Itinerary and payment info for Europe 2018

### World Cup Itinerary

- June 11 Depart for Europe
- June 12 Arrive in Moscow
- June 12-23 training, sightseeing, friendly matches, World Cup Matches
- June 23 Return to USA  
**COSTS = \$tba** includes airfare from predetermined gateway (options should include Dallas, Houston, New York, etc.) transfers, most meals, custom made Stars 'n Stripes uniform, sweatsuit, team bag, merchandise package (package includes T-shirts, polos, fleece pullover, and more), and tour video upon return from tour.

### Europe Itinerary

- July 3 arrive in Dallas for Pre Tour Homestay Camp
- July 3-4 Homestay camp – training/team bonding
- July 5 Depart for Europe
- July 6 Arrive for training camp, Innsbruck, Austria
- July 6-8 training, sightseeing, friendly matches
- July 8 transfer to San Marino Cup, (near Italy)
- July 8-14 San Marino Cup – games, sightseeing, etc.
- July 15 transfer to Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden
- July 15-22 Gothia Cup – World Youth Cup – World's Largest youth tournament
- July 23 Return to USA  
**COSTS = \$4395.00** includes airfare from predetermined gateway (options should include Dallas, Houston, New York, etc.) transfers, most meals, custom made Stars 'n Stripes uniform, sweatsuit, team bag, merchandise package (package includes T-shirts, polos, fleece pullover, and more), and tour video upon return from tour.

NOTE: **Final itineraries will determine gateway of departure and price may be adjusted.** Stars 'N Stripes is neither a vacation tour nor a sightseeing tour. Stars 'N Stripes is for serious soccer players only.

**Parent Program** – A separate supporter's itinerary will be available for all parents, etc. Please note that parents and supporters will not be allowed to travel or stay at same accommodations as players. Please request more information regarding parent/supporter packages directly from Stars 'n Stripes.

### Payment Info

Several payment plans are available for Stars 'n Stripes including online payments. Online payments can be made at [www.starsnstripessoccer.com](http://www.starsnstripessoccer.com). Upon receiving the application, each family will be sent a payment plan and a financial commitment contract.

### References

**Below are players and parents who have experience Stars 'n Stripes**

Patti Winchester	972-322-5010	Paul and Kim Russ	972-307-7699
Daughter Cristelle		Daughter Kaitlin	
David and Anne Deery	214- 335-7392	Mike and Shirley Otto	214-929-0419
Sons Matthew and Nicholas		Son Jonathan	

## STARS 'N STRIPES STAFF INFORMATION

### Ed Puskarich – Executive Director

#### Coaching Experience

- USSF “A” license coach
- Director of Coaching for Texas Spurs FC, 2014-present
- Executive Director/Founder Stars 'N Stripes international soccer tours, 1987-present
- Head Coach WPSL Texas Spurs FC, 2016-present
- Director of Coaching for Texas Football Club, TFC, 2006-2013
- Inducted into Gothia Cup Hall of Fame - 2012
- Executive Director for Texas Spurs Soccer Club, 2000-05
- Head coach/owner Texas Spurs, PDL, 2001-2003, 2001 Division Champions
- MLS scout and professional player evaluator 1997-present
- Assistant coach Dallas Burn, MLS, 1997-2000
- Director of coaching Ed Puskarich Soccer Camps, 1979-present
- Head coach Texas Toros, USL, 1998, conference finalists
- Director of coaching Stars 'N Stripes soccer club, 1990-1996
- Head coach Aurora University 1994-1995, NIIC coach of the year 1995
- Head coach North Central College 1993-1994
- 11 years experience High School coaching
- 7 years experience College coaching
- Youth coach since 1979

#### Playing Experience

- Professional player Texas Spurs, PDL, 2000-2003
- Professional player Dallas Burn, MLS, 1996
- Professional player Rockford Raptors, USISL, 1995, team captain
- Professional player Milwaukee Wave, NPSL, 1995-1996
- **USA Men’s National Team Pool Player 1994 World Cup**
- Professional player Chicago Power, NPSL, 1989-1995, Champions 1991
- Professional player Memphis Storm, NPSL, 1987-1988
- Professional player Dayton Dynamo, NPSL, 1988
- Professional player Los Angeles Lazers, MISL, 1987
- Professional player Ft. Wayne Flames, MISL, 1987
- Professional player Columbus Capitals, NPSL, 1984-1986
- Professional player Houston Dynamos, USL, 1984
- Played in over 650 professional games spanning 19 years

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Dear soccer enthusiast,

As I am sure you noticed from our national team’s performances, there is no substitute for international experience. Stars 'N Stripes offers boys and girls the chance to reach their full potential as soccer players by competing against some of the world’s best athletes in their age groups. Additionally, they are given the opportunity to experience other cultures in a setting that allows them to represent their own country.

Stars 'N Stripes retains only the finest coaches, American and foreign. Individuals who have not only excelled as players themselves, but who possess the unique ability to communicate with young people, both on and off the field. Players and coaches develop a close relationship from living, eating, playing, training, and sightseeing together. The past tours have been a great success. I am very proud of what Stars 'N Stripes has accomplished, and I look forward to helping young soccer players chase their dreams. I hope Stars 'N Stripes can help you gain a deeper understanding of soccer, and a deeper appreciation of what it means to be an American.

**Isn’t it time you got serious about soccer!**

Yours in soccer,

Ed Puskarich  
Executive Director, Stars 'N Stripes International Soccer Tours

## STAFF INFORMATION CONTINUED

The following represent a sampling of Staff that coach with Stars 'n Stripes tours;

### **Amanda McMullan – Director and Coach**

- Coach Stars 'N Stripes international soccer tours 2011-present
- Coach – Texas Spurs FC – 2015-present
- Player – Texas Spurs FC – WPSL – 2015-present
- Professional player – Fortuna Hjørring, Denmark – 2013 - 2014
- USSF “C” license
- Coach – Texas Football Club – 2012-2013
- Asst. Coach – Texas Football Club – WPSL – 2013
- Asst. Coach – Univ. of Texas at Dallas – 2013
- Asst. Coach – Otero Junior College, La Junta, Co – 2012-2013
- Player – Colorado Rapids - 2012

### **Eddie Puskarich – Director and Coach**

- Staff Coach – Texas Spurs FC – 2017-present
- Coach Stars 'N Stripes international soccer tours 2012-present
- Professional Player – Brenes Balompie, Sevilla, Spain - 2015
- Professional Player – Odder IGF, Denmark – 2014
- Player SMU, Southern Methodist University, 2012-2014
- US National Youth Team Player Pool
- Member as Stars 'n Stripes 2003 - 2014

### **Matt Pitcock – Director and Coach**

- Assistant Coach Hardin Simmons University – 2016-present
- Coach Stars 'n Stripes International Soccer Tours 2013-present
- Professional Player – FC Bern, Switzerland – 2015-16
- Player Hardin Simmons University, 2010-2016
  - Conference player of the year 2014
  - Team Captain 2013-2014
- Member as Stars 'n Stripes 2010 - 2014

### **Mandy Brettingen - Coach**

- Head Coach – South Dakota University– 2010-present
- Assistant coach Minnesota State University, 2003-2007
- Assistant coach University of Utah 1999-2003
- Coach Stars 'N Stripes international soccer tours 2000-present
- Member as player of Stars 'N Stripes 1994
- Certified strength and conditioning specialist

### **Kenny Jones - Coach**

- USSF “A” license coach
- Head Men’s Coach – Univ. of Texas at Tyler, 2002-present
  - 2003 National Champions
  - 2003 ASC and USCAA Coach of the year
- Coach Stars 'n Stripes International Soccer Tours 2007-present

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### MEDICAL INFORMATION

Dear Parent and Guardian,

Stars 'n Stripes International Soccer Tours take the supervision and safety of players very seriously. Coaches and trainers are selected not only for their knowledge of the Sport but also for their abilities to use encouragement and discipline in constructive ways.

Stars 'n Stripes prepares for most medical situations on every tour. Often, a certified athletic trainer accompanies the tour or medical attention is available at each of our locations overseas. In the event a medical situation arises, Stars 'n Stripes carries proper medical forms such as; medical history, Dr. Statement of physical fitness, players medical insurance, and an authorization to travel with a minor form.

Proper preparation for the upcoming tour is essential for an injury free experience. Parents and players can do their part by following a sensible, nutritional diet for several months prior to the tour. Also, please encourage and oversee that your child is physically fit for the rigors of athletic competition. Countless illnesses and injuries may be avoided if athletes will only heed this advice.

Unfortunately, not all injuries are preventable. When they do occur, it is the athletic trainer and staff coach's duty to provide immediate first aid, make an assessment of the injury, and where there is a question as to a player's health due to the injury or illness, and accompany the athlete to local hospitals or Dr.'s offices for appropriate treatment.

In order to provide the best possible care for your child, it is necessary that ALL of the enclosed forms be Completed and Returned to Stars 'n Stripes by the due dates. This will allow the Stars 'n Stripes staff enough time to read over the forms and prepare for the tour.

Please complete medical pages 9, 10, and 11 and return to Stars 'n Stripes by the due date.

**Make a copy of your insurance card, front and back, and attach to the back of the medical history form, page 10.**

Sincerely,

The Stars 'n Stripes Staff



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**MEDICAL HISTORY FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name (Print)                      First Name                      Middle                      Date of Birth                      Sex (M or F)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address    City    State    Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name next of Kin/Guardian                      Home Address    Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
1. Name of Contact in case of Emergency                      Cell Phone    Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
2. Name of Contact in case of Emergency                      Cell Phone    Home Phone

Health Ins. Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

**(Note: Please ensure that this policy covers foreign travel.) Please copy front and back of Insurance Card and submit with the medical forms!**

Immunizations: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed/Last Booster \_\_\_\_\_

Tetanus \_\_\_\_\_

Polio \_\_\_\_\_

Measles/Mumps/Rubella \_\_\_\_\_

Haemophilus type B \_\_\_\_\_

Hepatitis B \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medical Problems/Illness being treated by a Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Past Medical Problems treated by a Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Medical information that staff should be made aware of: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL HISTORY FORM CONTINUED**

Hospitalizations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Surgeries: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yes	No	Have you ever had any of the following?
_____	_____	1. Concussion/lost consciousness/seizure/migraine headaches
_____	_____	2. asthma/bronchitis/shortness of breath/pneumonia
_____	_____	3. heart murmur/palpitations/rheumatic fever/high blood pressure
_____	_____	4. hepatitis/diabetes/ulcers/hernia/gallstones/mononucleosis
_____	_____	5. kidney stone/urinary tract infection/missing testicle
_____	_____	6. broken bone/dislocation/sprain/muscle pull
_____	_____	7. fainting/heat stroke/heat exhaustion
_____	_____	8. anemia/easy bruising/sickle cell/bleeding disorder
_____	_____	9. neck pain/"burner"/back pain/numbness
_____	_____	10. loss of vision/glasses/loss of hearing/hearing aid
_____	_____	11. blood transfusion/blood disorder

Please explain any "Yes" answers/giving dates of any injuries/disorders/situations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Emergency Authorization:**

During my child's/ward's participation in the Stars 'n Stripes program, I hereby authorize the coaches, trainers, or chaperones of Stars 'n Stripes to make decisions to proceed with any critical medical or surgical treatment required for my child's/ward's health and welfare, provided an attempt to notify me has first been made.

I hereby give authorization for; \_\_\_\_\_  
(Player's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

**Medication Administration Authorization:**

The Trainer/Coach/Staff for Stars 'n Stripes has my permission to give my child/ward over-the-counter medications stocked in the medical kit or prescribed medications by a physician specifically prescribed for my child/ward.

YES NO (Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Initials)

**Please attach a copy of your insurance card, front and back, to the back of this form, please!**

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**PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL FITNESS**

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is physically fit to  
(Player's Name)

participate in the Stars 'N Stripes International Soccer Tour. He/She is free of any present illness or condition which might prevent him/her from participating. Please note any exceptions below:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Physician Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone Emergency Phone Fax Number

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### SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

Stars 'N Stripes offers each and every athlete an opportunity to travel to Europe, South America, and Australia and chase their dreams regardless of their financial situation. Stars 'n Stripes has developed several ideas and ways to raise and earn money.

The first step is to submit your deposit to reserve your spot on tour. Do not wait too long. Spaces are on a first come first serve basis. Once you review the player packet, you will notice a fundraising section that details several avenues to collect funds for the tour. Please note a letter, that needs to be personalized, directed at potential sponsors. Feel free to copy these letters, and I suggest personal visits to potential sponsors are more beneficial. It is really easy to say no to a letter and much more difficult to refuse a young man/woman in person who demonstrates the passion of international travel to play soccer!

**What is Sponsorship?** Sponsorship means getting someone else to pay part or all of your tour expenses. It is not a loan. It does not have to be paid back. It is a gift, requiring nothing but gratitude.

**Why would anyone want to sponsor you?** All adults were young once, and most had dreams and goals; and most can remember at least one adult who helped them reach those goals, and the gratitude they felt. Now they are in a position to help another young person. You will do the same when you are older.

**Is Sponsorship money tax-deductible?** Gifts to individuals can not be deducted, but money donated to a great cause may be able to be deducted by the individual or the company. Please ask the potential sponsor to check with their accountants, etc.

**How much can you expect from a sponsor?** Every little bit helps, and it is easier to find ten people to give you \$10.00 than it is to find one person willing to give you \$100.00. Leave the amount up to them, but you might want to suggest what the total amount the trip will cost and how much you are trying to raise. Make a list of 100 people and businesses and write \$25.00 next to each name. This is your goal.

**What should I wear?** Dress nicely, in a fashion that will impress people your parent's age. Unless of course your friends may have money to give you!

### SOME GREAT WAYS TO RAISE MONEY!

**Merchants** – Go to all the local stores, shops, and restaurants in town and ask for sponsorship money; but start with a plan. Start at one end of the street and work systemically towards the other end. Keep accurate records; was the owner out? Did he ask you to call back later? If so, be sure to follow up. Also, whenever you receive money from a business, it is good policy to send a brief thank you note right away. Another good gesture is to send a photo of you in your Stars 'N Stripes uniform upon your return from tour.

**Benefit Nights** - Go to your favorite local restaurant and ask if they will hold a benefit night for you, where a certain % of each dinner's bill will go towards sponsoring your trip. If they agree, make sure you pack the place. Call everyone you know and advertise. Then be present at the restaurant on the benefit night and introduce yourself to people who come in. Also, place a donation box near the cash register with your name and photo on it for additional donations.

## **SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING INFORMATION CONTINUED**

**Coupons** – If a merchant or a restaurant cannot sponsor you, ask if they will allow you to distribute coupons advertising a discount at their establishment. Many will be willing; it costs them nothing. It is free advertising, and it brings in customers. Then put together a page or two of coupons, photocopy them, and give them away to anyone willing to sponsor you for a certain amount. For example: if you can get \$25 worth of coupons, go door to door in your neighborhood asking for a \$5 or \$10 donation, and explain that their donation will give them more that amount in coupons.

**Raffles** – As with coupons, go door to door selling raffle tickets. Prizes may be donations from local stores, or you can even raffle yourself – two hours of yard work or window washing, etc.

**Thons** – A tremendous amount of money is raised for walk-a-thons, swim-a-thons, etc. You might stage a juggle-a-thon in which you ask people to pledge a certain amount per touch on the ball. This could be a penny, dime, whatever. Then schedule a time to juggle publicly; at a school assembly, a winter carnival, halftime of a game, etc. Give yourself three chances, and count your best. Then be sure to collect your pledges.

**Other ideas include car washes, dances, and bake sales.**

Some helpful suggestions – Write a letter to your mayor or State Representative, asking for their help. If they can send you an endorsement letter or certificate of congratulations, it might help to show it to potential sponsors. Call the local newspapers, radio stations, cable TV stations, etc. A local soccer player going on an international soccer tour is news, and an article written about you might generate sponsorship money.

It is important to realize that you do not have to be wealthy to go on an international soccer tour. Stars ‘N Stripes is proud to offer a sponsorship program which enables any deserving player to participate on tour. Our players’ greatest tool over the years to raise money has been support from the community, local, and national businesses. You are representing them when you wear the Stars ‘N Stripes uniform, and many businesses are pleased to support you and your goals. Each year we have several players raise 100% of their costs and tour at no expense to them or their families. It is also important for you to realize that the burden is on each individual player to find their sponsors, to contact them, and then to represent them in a way which would make them proud.

All sponsor checks should be made payable to Stars ‘N Stripes. Sponsor checks will continue to be accepted until the conclusion of the tour. It may take some sponsors some time to properly cut the sponsor check and if any checks are received after full payment is made, a refund will be issued to the player directly.

Whatever you decide to do, try and take full responsibility for earning your way overseas. You have earned a spot on the team with your soccer ability. Now see if you can get the money raised on your own. Players who earn their funds for their trip gain far more from the experience than those who have it given to them. Remember, your first step is to submit your deposit to reserve your space. Good luck and please contact Stars ‘N Stripes if you have any questions.

## STARS 'N STRIPES INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURS

361 Cambridge Drive Fairview, TX 75069

Tel – 214-718-9963

Website – [WWW.STARSNSTRIPESOCCER.COM](http://WWW.STARSNSTRIPESOCCER.COM)

Email – [EPuskarich@gmail.com](mailto:EPuskarich@gmail.com)

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Player's name

Address

City/State/Zip

(Month) (Day), 2017

It will happen in Summer of 2018 whether you respond to this letter or not. . . . the Stars 'n Stripes soccer team will represent the United States with pride in the Gothia World Youth Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden ([www.gothiacup.se](http://www.gothiacup.se)), as well as the Paris Cup in Paris, France, and other countries. The members of the Stars 'n Stripes soccer team will exhibit the highest levels of conduct, professionalism, and discipline. I have been extended the opportunity to be a part of this incredible experience as I have been selected to be a member of the Stars 'n Stripes soccer team.

Stars 'n Stripes' mission statement and philosophy reflect the honor that has been bestowed upon me as a member of this prestigious team. Stars 'n Stripes, founded in 1987, was established to provide young soccer players who have dedication, desire and love for the game, the chance to become better soccer players and better people by exposing them to different players, styles, and cultures from around the world. Players who wear the Stars 'n Stripes uniform, return to the States with a deeper understanding of soccer, a deeper appreciation of the unique differences of the world's cultures, and a deeper pride in their own heritage as Americans.

Throughout the years, over 800,000 youths from 125 different nations have taken part in the Gothia World Youth Cup. Over 1500 teams participate yearly. The organizers of the Gothia Cup are particularly proud of preserving and developing the fundamental principle of the Gothia Cup, which is the idea that soccer, as a common denominator, helps to bring the youth of the world together. Encounters that contribute to knowledge, better understanding and respect for cultural diversity. Encounters where topics such as religious diversity and skin color are erased to allow for curiosity and friendship. Encounters that give hope for a better future.

I need your support in many ways in order to have success on this mission. **Most importantly, I need your prayers. Pray for our team and coaches' safety as we travel overseas. Pray that we represent the United States with pride, always emphasizing the importance of behaving with class, both on and off the field. . . a class which springs from both respect and pride; respect for oneself, one's opponents, and for the host culture, and pride in one's teammates and in America, which players and coaches represent with their every action. Pray for my family that I am leaving behind (especially my mother as I've never been away from her for this long, and she's extremely nervous about me traveling overseas).**

**In addition to your prayers, please consider the financial participation you can have in this trip. The total cost of my trip which includes my travel expenses, lodging, food, airfare, Stars 'n Stripes uniform, training and traveling to other countries in Europe and in the Gothia World Youth Soccer Cup in Sweden is \$4,395. I have personally committed to earning a good portion of this through various part-time jobs. Your gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated.**

**To make it easier for you to see exactly what you are sponsoring, I've broken down the cost into various levels of sponsorship. Based on the 19-21 days I will be abroad, please consider sponsoring me for a game, training camp, a half day or a full day.**

**When you send your sponsorship, please make all checks payable to Stars 'n Stripes Soccer, and then send it to us in the enclosed envelope by June 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope that you are as excited about sponsoring me as my teammates and I are about representing the USA in this prestigious soccer tour.**

**Thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support.**

**Sincerely,**

**Players Name –**

**STARS ‘N STRIPES INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURS**

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Fairview, TX 75069

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**Stars ‘N Stripes - International Soccer Tour**

**July 4 – 23, 2018**

**Yes, (Players name) count on me for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$39 Game Sponsor**–Sponsor one or more of the 15 potential soccer games I’ll play in 19 days of tournament and friendly matches.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$69 Training Camp Sponsor**–Training camp is 3 days of team practices and friendly matches with European teams with 3-4 sessions/scrimmages per day beginning at 5AM and ending at 10PM.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$99 Half Day Sponsor**–The half day YOU commit to sponsor could be the day we bring home the Gothia Cup title!

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$199 Full Day Sponsor** - Will it be the Opening Ceremonies of the World Youth Cup in Sweden, a day of training in Germany, or the finals of the Cup that you sponsor?

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$499 Week Sponsor** – Sponsor a week of training camp and tournament games in France, Germany, or Sweden.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$4395 Full Tour Sponsor** – Sponsor the entire tour, including training camp, tournament games in Germany, France, and Sweden.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$\_\_\_\_\_ Other amount of your choice**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support. Please make your check payable to Stars ‘N Stripes Soccer. Please mail your sponsorship in the enclosed envelope to:**

**Stars ‘N Stripes  
361 Cambridge Drive  
Fairview, TX 75069**

## STARS 'N STRIPES INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURS

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### STARS 'N STRIPES – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **How does Stars 'n Stripes differ from other tour companies?** SNS is a serious soccer tour company that is a soccer tour first. We train and coach our players as if there were professional players. Our level of discipline and structure separates us from all other tour companies. Although sightseeing and cultural exchanges are part of our tour, soccer is first with SNS.
2. **Where do players come from for Stars 'n Stripes?** SNS is comprised of dozens of staff coaches who are located all around the US, as well as Europe. This list includes college coaches, high school coaches, professional coaches, and top club coaches. These coaches constantly keep an eye out for those gifted and committed players who will benefit from our program. We also gather players from word of mouth, past player's experiences, and some local tryouts. All players must be a select level player or higher to attend a SNS tour.
3. **Are parents allowed on SNS tour?** Part of our successes of SNS has been our ability to have our players grow and mature without a parent to guide them. Parents are welcome to attend with one of our supporters package, but parents will not stay at same accommodations, travel same flights, etc. as the tour.
4. **How much success have the fundraisers been for those families who decide to fundraise?** On the average, every player who attempts to fundraise has earned half of their tour fees. Each year we have players who earn their entire tour fee plus spending money.
5. **How much spending money should players bring?** We recommend around \$300-\$400 for each family. Most of this will go towards snacks, soccer gear, souvenirs, etc. We will have all players bring certain denominations in the currencies of the country visited.
6. **How can parents and friends follow the tour from the states?** A daily journal will be posted on the Stars 'n Stripes website with details of each day's events, highlights and lowlights, and general information. Furthermore, a tour video will be given to each player that details their entire tour. Please review some past tours on [www.starsnstripessoccer.com](http://www.starsnstripessoccer.com).
7. **What is match analysis?** Match analysis is a method that the coaches will use to teach the players different ways to look at games, opponents, strategies, etc. We will teach the players to recognize different types of pressure, make adjustments, and add their own input. Match analysis helps the player improve by watching high level games. This will translate into their own game.
8. **How much discipline is there on tour?** The past successes of our tours can be directly related to our tour discipline. We don't allow swearing, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, body piercing, and general unprofessional misconduct. Generally, our rules are extensions of parent's rules. Punishments range from game suspensions to expulsion from tour. SNS has benefited players since 1987 because we offer an opportunity for those players who strive to improve. Selecting these quality individuals and working with them closely is what makes our tours so unique.
9. **How many players go on tour?** Sns will take anywhere from 2-8 teams per tour, depending on the level and commitment of the players involved as well as the tour itinerary. Players may play as many as 20 games in a three week period as well as training, sightseeing, etc. We try and maintain team rosters to be around 13 players so playing time is not a problem.
10. **What is the medical situation like on tour?** An attempt will be made to take a certified trainer that travels with us the entire program. The trainer will be in charge of all medical situations and monitors them closely. If a situation requires a trip to the hospital, the trainer and one of the coaches will accompany the player as well as contact their parent. The tournaments that SnS competes in are usually staffed with trainers and medical doctors and immediately medical care and treatment is usually provided for on site at these events.
11. **Can players recommend friends and players to the program?** Yes, sometimes our biggest asset is our existing players who have already been chosen for some of their special qualities. Good people attract good people and we will screen all players who apply on tour. Please keep in mind that Sns is for serious soccer players only.