

2009 - 2010 Recreational Soccer - Parents' Information

Fusion Futbol Club of Tampa Bay (FFC)

Fusion Futbol Club of Tampa Bay would like to welcome you and your young player(s) to another exciting season of recreational soccer.

“Evidence shows that the involvement of young people in sports produces multiple benefits for them. At their best, sports programs promote responsible social behaviors and greater academic success, confidence in one's physical abilities, an appreciation of personal health and fitness, and strong social bonds with individuals and institutions. Teachers attribute these results to the discipline and work ethic that sports require. Our children are not miniature adults. Though able to mimic adult skills, they do not readily understand many sports concepts, such as fair play... sports can provide a venue for helping young people work toward ethical understanding.

While sports can stimulate good study habits and the expression of ethical behaviors such as fair play, sportsmanship, integrity, and compassion, if these values are not modeled by parents and coaches, the results can be counterproductive. Children are very eager to please adults, which makes them vulnerable to adult manipulation and coercion.”

With this in mind, we all need to remember that, above all else, soccer is for the youth who play the games. It is for them that we exist and operate. This simple principle should direct all of our considerations, decisions and most importantly our actions. Therefore, we have developed this document to assist you in maximizing your young player(s) experience.

Philosophy

The primary goal of the FFC recreational soccer program is to offer every player the opportunity to enjoy participating in the game of soccer within a learning/teaching environment. Our recreational program is not about winning, it is about teaching, so that the young players have fun, learn to love the game of soccer and become as skilled a player as possible.

Organization

Our recreational soccer program is for children between the ages of 4 and 18 to be able to play soccer in a fun and organized format. Our recreational soccer program is divided into two areas: In-House Rec. and Traveling Rec.

In our In-House Rec. soccer program, all of the participating teams are from FFC. Games are played at Benito Middle School. The program is for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 12.

Traveling Rec. soccer is for older boys and girls. Boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18 participate in this program. These teams play against other recreational soccer teams from the surrounding areas in the [TARSA league](#).

Team Assignments

One of the identifying factors of recreational soccer is the distribution of talent across the teams in each age division. This is done in order to ensure more equitable competitions. FFC attempts to accomplish this by distributing the current talent pool to each of our teams based on each player's age, level of experience and a subjective evaluation of the player's skill level by coaching staff familiar with that player's abilities. As such, requests for a particular coach cannot be entertained, though coaches and their assistants will be allowed to coach their own children. Special requests for car pools and/or medical necessities may be considered, however the FFC does not promise or guarantee that request will be honored. **No coach requests.** Only a request **not** to have certain coach will be considered.

Sportsmanship/Conduct

The foundation of which we expect individuals to conduct themselves while participating in Fusion FC activities is good sportsmanship. Specific expectations are found in the FYSA Code of Conduct (click on "Code of Conduct" link in the left margin of the Fusion FC Recreational and Developmental Academy web pages) which govern our programs. Each participant, including spectators, coaches, referees and players, are encouraged to accept the result of each game and to be gracious in victory and defeat. The overall purpose of each and every practice and game is to teach the youth about soccer while having fun. Please remember that kids take their cue from the actions of the adults around them. Your example of good sportsmanship will do far more for the kids' ethical development than all of the lectures in the world. Parents/spectators are required to remain on the opposite side of the field from the teams. No one is allowed behind the goal lines or goal area. All comments from the sidelines should be of a positive and encouraging nature. Let the players play, the coaches' coach and the referee call the game. Verbal abuse or harassment of the referees and players is unacceptable in our program.

Coaches/Volunteers

Whether you realize it or not, coaching a youth sports team is very time consuming and a tremendous responsibility. Remember that all of our coaching staff are volunteers who have graciously given of their time in order to assist your child in their development. Although each head coach is ultimately responsible for their team, they are not the only individuals allowed to serve the team. Assistance with the vast amount of paperwork and other administrative tasks required to manage the team will free more of the coach's time to actually train the players. Please offer your services to your child's coach. The more everyone pitches in, the more that can be accomplished.

Equipment/Uniforms/Awards

Each player will receive a uniform as part of their registration fee. We expect all players to bring their ball with them to all practices and games. The majority of activities we will be doing during practice will require that every player has a ball.

Players will need to supply their own shin guards. Shin guards are mandatory for all practices and games. This is for your safety and that of the other players. Cleats are not mandatory, but are highly recommended. If you choose to wear cleats, they may not be made of metal or have any sharp edges. They also may not have a single cleat on the toe (baseball cleat).

At the end of the season, each player will receive a participation medal during the closing ceremonies.

Practices/Games

Practice times will be determined by the head coach in consultation with the team's parents. Practices should start between the middle and end of October. Games are played on Saturday's beginning in November going through the middle of February with breaks for the holidays.

Regardless of their level of soccer skills, each player will be given the opportunity to play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time, with equal playing time for all players being the intended goal of the program. Players arriving late to a game can expect to participate in 50% of the remaining playing time. Coaches and/or parents have the option of reducing playing time for health or disciplinary reasons as long as proper procedure has been followed according to league rules.

Fields/Equipment/Facilities

FFC does not own the soccer fields on which we play. We use and help maintain fields that belong to the City of Tampa/Hillsborough County School Board and are managed by FFC. In order to maintain good working relationships with the field owners, we ask that all players, parents, and spectators treat each field with care and respect and follow all county and city ordinances in effect. This includes the prohibition of alcoholic beverages and animals on the park grounds and smoking inside the playing field fence.

The soccer goals and other related equipment are the property of FFC and were obtained at considerable expense. We can do a lot more with the limited funds we receive from registration fees and local sponsorships if we don't have to continuously replace this equipment. Please, stay off of the goals and out of the nets.

Not only is this damaging to the equipment, but can also be very dangerous. Though very heavy, goals can be tipped over. More than one young player has been seriously hurt when a goal has fallen on them. If you witness an individual using our equipment in an inappropriate manner, please either say something to the offending individual or bring it to the attention of a league official.

Inclement Weather

Rain does not automatically cancel soccer games. Games are only cancelled due to unplayable field conditions. Prior to the start of the match, the designated league official or assigned referee has the authority to cancel games. After the start of play, the referee has the sole authority to cancel the match. The league will do its best to provide field status information via the league's website.

Referees

The referees used for FFC matches are contracted for their services are not employees or under the control of FYSA. They operate under the guidelines of the Florida State Referees, Inc. (FSR). They follow FIFA Laws of the Game including their interpretation of these Laws. Bear in mind that the seven most important words in the Laws of the Game are "If in the opinion of the referee..." The referee assigned to a match is the sole judge on the field of play and their decisions connected with the play are final. The referee is not obligated to, and may or may not, accept the calls of the assistant referees, including the decision as to whether or not a goal has been scored. Referees are assigned to each match by a USSF certified referee assignor who is also under the control of the Florida State Referees, Inc. Board members/league officials have no special authority during the playing of any soccer match. They may not remove, reprimand or correct any referee assigned to the match. The bottom line remains that refereeing a soccer match is a daunting task at any level. Beyond the referee's primary responsibility of protecting the safety and well-being of the participants, they are required to interfere with the flow of the game as little as possible. Therefore, many fouls may be let go as trifling and not affecting the game. This is done to keep the game moving and interesting to both player and spectator.

U5/U6/U7/U8 Arc

An arc, eight feet from the center of the goal will be used in the U5 to U8 (non-goal keeper) age groups. This is done to prevent placing a player directly in front of the goal, which violates the intent of short-sided games while providing the maximum participation and touches.

The rule is as follow: The ball must be inside of the arc before any player (attacker or defender) can enter the arc area. A player may dribble the ball into the arc to shoot, to follow-up a shot or to clear a loose ball. The field marshal will remind players and coaches of this rule and will report any abuses of the rule to the FFC Coaching Director.

Refunds

Requests for refunds made in writing to the FFC registrar prior to the beginning of the season will be made upon approval of the Board of Directors minus any expenses already incurred.

Contacts

President.....Lloyd Marriott
Director of Administration Jose Torres
Director of Soccer OperationsJim DiNoble
Director of Coaching, Boys.....Mauricio Pesaresi

Assistant Director of Coaching, Boys.....Daniel Greco
Recreational Director.....Kyle McLeish

2009-10 Calendar (all dates are tentative, check website)

Coaches Meeting (Rosters/schedules).....October 3
Practices may beginOctober 12
Games BeginNovember 7
Fusion FC Golf Tournament.....October 16

Picture Day.....November 21

Closing CeremoniesFebruary 13

Website

Additional information including detailed contact information can always be obtained from our website at <http://www.fusionfutbol.com/> or call 813-273-8187

¹ *The Role of Sports in Youth Development*, By Alex Poinsett – A Report of a Meeting Convened by Carnegie Corporation of New York, March 18, 1996 – a presentation by Martha E. Ewing and Vern D. Seefeldt.