



Recreational Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an age requirement for the Recreation Academy Soccer?

Players must be between the birth years of 2010 and 2000.

What if my child never played soccer before?

Perfect, this is the program for them as it's for all players of all skill levels.

How are the teams formed?

How we determine the age groups is dictated by the numbers. For the development of the players, the bestcase scenario is to have single age groups, however, if we don't have the numbers of registered players in a particular age group then we need to combine two age groups.

For the Recreational Program, teams are formed as per the players birth year follows:

Junior Teams; 9U/10U boys 9U/10U girls, 11U/12U boys, 11U/12U girls, 13U/14U coed
Senior Teams*; 15U/16U coed, 17U/18U coed

*depending on registration numbers

Teams will be formed so that there is an equal number of players within an age group on the team. The reason for doing this is for fair balanced teams.

Can my child play up an age group?

All players must register in their true age group. Once the season has commenced and teams are formed if the Recreational Director receives a request from a coach that one of his/her players needs to be moved up, then the Director will evaluate that player. The criteria is not based on the player's size and the player must be not only technically the best player in his/her age group but it must be determined that development is restricted in their true age group.

Can my child be on a team with my friend?

During the registration process, you will be asked if you have a friend request. We do our best to accommodate the friend requests, however, there are other considerations taken into account when forming the teams such practice days and balancing of team within age groups. Practice night requests take precedence over friend request.

What does the U? For example the 9 in 9U?

9U refers to the age group being 9-and-under. Check the website for the birth chart.

Who are the coaches?

While we have Recreational Director that oversees the entire program, we rely on parent volunteers to be the coaches for the teams.

How many players are on a team?

There is some flexibility with numbers on teams as we can modify game formats based on the numbers but typically the roster numbers are as follows:

9/10U - 10 - 12 players
11/12U - 12 - 14 players
13/14U - 16 to 18 players
15/16U - 16 to 18 players
17/18U - 16 to 18 players

What is the game format?

There are different game format depending on the age brackets. Also, as mentioned in the previous answer, game formats are flexible as we can modify based on other the registration numbers.

9/10U Play 7v7 For Boys & Girls
11/12U Play 9v9 For Boys & Girls
14, 16, 18U Play 11v11 Coed

How big is the field?

Again, there are different field sizes depending on the age brackets. i.e.

10U Play 35y x 55y
12U Play 45/50y x 75/80y
14, 16, 18U Play Full Size

What is the cost?

\$150 for each season. This includes a \$25 reimbursable volunteer fee. For parents that coach their child's team, the player fee is refunded (provided they meet the requirements). If interested in learning more about volunteering to coach, contact Steve Gent at sgent@fcsarasota.com.

Can I get are refund?

Yes, refunds are granted up until teams are formed. After teams are formed, there are no refunds.

What is the volunteer fee?

Volunteers are an integral part of the operation of our soccer club. Each player's payment included a volunteer service fee that is refunded once 2 hours per player of time is satisfied. There are many options for volunteering such as, concession stand, field set up, uniforms, etc. There is a sign up for volunteering on the club's website along with a form that must be filled out and submitted to be reimbursed.

What is the soccer season?

There are two seasons, Fall and Winter/Spring. The fall program typically starts mid-September/October and ends in early November. The Winter/Spring program typically starts in February and ends in April.

When are practices?

Practice day options are either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and are chosen by the coach. When players register they are prompted to select two practice nights options that best fits their schedule.

Where are the practice and games?

All practices and games are at Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road.

How long does practice last?

Practices start anytime between 5:30 and 6 p.m. and last one hour.

What are the game times?

Game times will not be released until after the teams are formed. Game times vary but will not start before 8:30 a.m. and all game are usually finished up by 3 p.m. All games are on Saturdays.

What equipment do I need?

Shin guards are mandatory for all practices and games; Cleated shoes (no medal studs); #5 Soccer ball.

What does my child wear to practice/games?

Players are provided with a complete game kit which includes a navy game jersey, a white game jersey, navy shorts, navy socks and a sac pack. They will wear the white jersey for home games and the navy jersey for away games. Players are to bring both jerseys to every game. For practices, they will receive a practice shirt. They can wear any color shorts and socks.

Can I wear a cast (or earrings, religious medals, eyeglasses)?

The FIFA Laws of the Game prohibit anything which is dangerous to a player or other players. Referees determine if an item can be worn without being dangerous.

Why can't players wear helmets?

Helmets are not included in the Laws of the Game under Players Equipment. Although the player wearing the headgear is protected, he may play in a physically more aggressive manner than others not protected, thereby becoming a danger to others.

Are mouth guards needed?

Injuries to the teeth are so few that insurers do not require them. Many dentists however recommend them.

Why does our league not post standings?

We place a priority on participation/ development and deemphasize results.

Why do I need to upload my child's birth certificate?

This is a requirement from US Soccer and our state organization FYSA. We are not allowed to roster a player until the birth certificate is uploaded into the player's account.

What if my child was born outside the USA?

Per FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the international clearance process is required when any foreign-born player is attempting to register with an affiliated club in the United States, regardless of that player's ability, age or citizenship. U.S. Soccer is responsible for properly obtaining that clearance on behalf of these players before they can register and participate in an affiliated league. Instructions are provided on the website for uploading documents.