



**SOCCER NEWS**



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Welcome, or welcome back, to Alachua Soccer League. Our independent volunteer driven organization works with the city of Alachua Recreation Department to promote and teach the sport of soccer. We support the concepts of good sportsmanship and respect, working with children ages 4 to 14 in the local area. Our league plays teams from High Springs, Williston,, Newberry, Hawthorne and Bronson. The season starts now, and ends with a tournament the weekends of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Practice schedule is up to the coach and usually runs twice per week (Tuesday and Thursday) for one to two hours. Open practices will begin August 15th. Don't wait for a phone call. Not all age groups may be ready to start on August 15. Information will be available at the rec center, but not before August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Children age 6 and under (6U) will practice at the Alachua Elementary for no more than 1 hour. Children ages 7 through 11 (8U and 11U) will practice at Alachua Elementary. Players ages 12 through 14 (14U) will practice at Mebane Middle School. These things can change with space demands, but go with this for now.

Games will begin in a few weeks (September 16), on Saturdays, at sites in towns mentioned above. A game schedule will be available in a couple weeks... and your coach will be the first to know. Fall season finishes up November 12<sup>th</sup>..

Since this is a non-profit volunteer organization, any help, whether physical or financial, is needed and greatly appreciated. Contact League President, John Salbert at 352-514-0861.

**Players are required to bring their own ball to practice. Ages 8 and under = Size 3, 9 to 11 = Size 4, 12 to 14 = Size 5**

**Players are required to wear shin guards to practice and games.**

**Skilled players may play up one age group. Players may only play on one roster, and play on one team. Players must be present at five (5) regular season games to play in the final tournament.**

**Players that request a particular coach will be placed on that team when possible. Some coaches have been with us so long it is impossible to accommodate everyone.**

We no longer have funds to provide scholarships for soccer.  
**Uniforms will not be ordered on unpaid registrations.**

The registration fee barely covers the cost of officiating the games and the uniforms. The team sponsorships help keep up with equipment (balls, goals, nets, paint and repairs) and other expenses.

We run a concession stand in Alachua when we host games. This is a fundraiser for the league. We always need help with this task.

As it should be in all sports, good sportsmanship and respect are at the foundation of this soccer program. It is becoming more of a problem lately that parents, spectators, and sometimes even coaches, fail to behave properly and set bad examples for the children. Please try not to be one of these people.

A few thoughts that may help:

- Don't help coach unless you are the assistant coach.
- Don't impress the referee with how much you know about soccer.
- Don't otherwise heckle the referee and distract them from their task.
- The younger the child, the shorter the attention span.
- If they lose...ice cream will usually fix it.
- If they lose and it's the referee's fault... well, that's just how life is sometimes.
- This is not tackle football; however...your baby could get knocked around some.

