



SOCCER NEWS



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Welcome, or welcome back, to Alachua Soccer League. Our independent volunteer 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. (if you really think your 3 year old is sturdy enough, it's OK with us) Our league plays teams from, and travels to, High Springs, Williston, Newberry, and Bronson,. The season starts now, and ends with a two weekend tournament in Williston on May 11th and May 18 and 19.

Practice schedule is up to the coach and usually runs twice per week, for one to two hours, on Tuesdays and Thursdays: **OPEN PRACTICE STARTS FEBRUARY 19; and is run by returning coaches. This will probably not be your coach. Open Practice runs Tuesday and Thursday for 1 to 1.5 hours at the Rec Center starting at about 6:00.**

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

Games will begin in a few weeks, on Saturdays, at sites in towns mentioned above. (First Game March 23rd in TBA) A game schedule will be available shortly before we start games... and your coach will be the first to know. Spring season finishes up a week before Memorial Day Weekend.

Since this is a non-profit volunteer organization, any help, whether physical or financial, is needed and greatly appreciated. Contact League Director, Jennifer Applebee at 352-727-2795.

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 four (3) regular season games to play in the final tournament.

Players that request a particular coach will be placed, if possible, on that team in the order which the league receives their PAID REGISTRATION. This DOES NOT guarantee a spot on this coach's team. We try to accommodate everyone, but there can only be so many players on each team.

If you have a car pooling situation, you will want to use this system to insure your players are on the same team. Note the other player's name instead of the coach's name on the top of the registration form.

We no longer have funds to provide scholarships for soccer.

Uniforms will not be ordered on unpaid registrations. If last season's dues are uncollected, those need to be paid also.

The registration fee barely covers the cost of officiating the games and the uniforms. The team sponsorships help keep up with equipment (goals, nets, paint and repairs) and other expenses. If you, or your employer, can offer a \$300 team sponsorship, please note the registration form.

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.

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.

This activity is neither sponsored nor endorsed by Alachua Public Schools