



Soccer Season 2026/27

Coach Emy Mazzola -- Coaching Philosophy

Dear Players/Families,

I am very excited to join Stetson FA in my new role as Programming Director and Coach.

I hold a USSF B license and am a full time Educator and as such I am always looking for ways to learn, share and connect.

I have coached and directed at Orlando City over the years in the NAL, ECNL and MLSNext Academy Programs. Coming back to the community, my goal is to support the club in creating a lasting path for our young generations of soccer players in our soccer community by partnering with other local clubs and passionate coaches. Ask me about the OPD path (U12 and above) and the UPSL path (U16 and above).

As a passionate coach and soccer educator, my main objective is to provide players with a safe, positive, organized, stimulating, and challenging environment where boys can have fun while nurturing a passion and love for the game of soccer.

All players will continue developing individual technical, tactical, physical, and psycho-social skills in a player-centered environment in which their individual differences are welcome and embraced as the starting point for improvement. My ultimate mission is to develop in players a passion for the game and support their growth to become the best they can.

I will adopt the U.S.Soccer Player Development Framework, our team style of play, and [the Player Key Characteristics and the Player Profile](#) (PRINT IT NOW--this document is very valuable) to guide and assess their improvement.

Players will practice and develop technical skills like dribbling, passing, receiving, and finishing in a game-like environment, and will receive immediate feedback.

Players will also develop tactically by learning the defensive, attacking and transitional team tactical principles. They will learn how to solve problems and make smart decisions as players and as a team. They will be asked questions to guide their learning.

Players will continue developing physical skills like balance, coordination, speed and agility with and without the ball. These skills must also be practiced daily at home.

Players will develop psycho-social skills in a positive environment in which respect is reciprocal among all, and self-confidence and motivation are the main goals with the support of all adults.*

In a competitive soccer environment, some believe that winning is fundamental. My players are expected to give all they have and show good sportsmanship with their teammates, their opponents, and the game officials. My goal is to compete successfully and embrace a loss as a learning opportunity. Winning or losing can be the result of many factors. We will DEVELOP as a team, and as individuals when we analyze those factors and work to improve.

All players selected can expect to be rostered and earn playing time provided they contribute to the success of the team by attending all weekly TEAM practices; being on time; always giving 110%; showing respect for all teammates and staff as well as the opponent and the refs; being prepared on all levels (rest, nutrition, fitness); showing a positive attitude. Players are also expected to show level-appropriate improvement.

Adding a little bit of practice time every day at home, and watching professional games at the stadium, on TV or YouTube will help improve the passion and love for the game.

As a coach, I recognize that families trust me with their most important people, and that during my time with them I serve as a role model, and a mentor. I also recognize the important role you play in our team's success and welcome you to be a positive component of our team.

Be encouraging and supporting! Please do not coach from the sidelines (it distracts, frustrates, and confuses players). Respect referees and parents of both sides. Respect and support the club's and the coach's decisions. It is a game and the boys are watching, listening and learning from our behavior.

Please also understand that I have several factors to consider when deciding who starts, how long, and in which position players will play. I am always open to discuss individual goals with players, and will work with them so they may reach them. I am working to develop players able to play in at least two positions with the same enthusiasm. I expect a healthy competition among the players that will benefit all. The harder we all work, the better we become as a team and individually.

Finally, please let me know if you would like to contribute in any other ways to the team's success. We could all benefit from team fundraising and sponsors to keep costs low and help some of our families in need. Share your ideas or experience!!! Get involved.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Emyano Mazzola
Stetson FA
Programming Director & Head Coach
917-589-4531

[Player Key Characteristics and the Player Profile](#) (PRINT IT NOW–this document is very valuable) to guide and assess their improvement.

U.S. SOCCER GRASSROOTS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



GAME MODEL: 11v11

AGES: 13+

11v11

DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS	DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS	KEY QUALITIES	ATTACKING PLAYER ACTIONS	DEFENDING PLAYER ACTIONS	PLAYER BEHAVIORS	COACH BEHAVIORS
"Being the best player that I can be for my role and position in the team." Learning the alignment of the roles, positions, and designated tasks in the 11v11 team.	Gaining understanding of the meaning of role, position and designated task in a team Experiences of the alignment of position specific task execution during defending and attacking	All key qualities at U13+	All Player Actions - Shoot - Pass or dribble forward - Spread out - Create passing options - Support the attack - Create a 2v1 or 1v1 - Change the point of attack - Change the pace/ rhythm - Switch positions	All Player Actions - Protect the goal - Steal the ball - Make it compact - Keep it compact - Pressure, cover, balance - Outnumber the opponent - Stay involved - Mark the player/ mark the area	Engage in problem solving activities Challenge ideas Demonstrate mood shifts Differences between genders Do not always play fairly	Use guided questions to support their thinking/decision making Listen first and consider their perspective Be patient and consistent in your treatment Give each player individual attention and care Encourage self-regulation, e.g. refereeing own games at training

↑
A>D Defend as quickly as possible (transition is always a part of attacking and defending but is not a focus for the Grassroots Coach).

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D>A Attack as quickly as possible (transition is always a part of attacking and defending but is not a focus for the Grassroots Coach).

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TEAM STYLE OF PLAY.

Outnumber the opponent in each game situation. Aggressive pressing to win the ball when out of possession. We try to build from the back by circulating the ball when in possession. We strive to use our strenghts to create goal scoring opportunities from wide areas, by combining and by shooting from outside the box.

GAME MODEL				
	ATTACKING	ATTACKING TO DEFENDING	DEFENDING	DEFENDING TO ATTACKING
Def. half	When we have the ball, we spread out and strive to play it forward by circulating the ball diagonally and vertically. We move up quickly into the middle and attacking thirds.	When we lose the ball in the defensive half, we press with very high intensity to regain the ball as soon as possible and we prevent shooting or crossing.	When we are out of possession in our defensive third, we stay compact and close spaces and passing lanes so that the opponent is forced to move back. We mark our area and follow closely any player outside the box preventing them from shooting and delaying all actions. We outnumber the opponent to have superiority.	When we regain the ball in our defensive third, we look for an opportunity to play forward to find open spaces in the opposing defense. If we are far from the goal, or if that is not possible, we look for one of our players with space and time to reorganize our attacking efforts.
Att. half	We create goal scoring opportunities by looking for our wide players to find the end of the field and crossing it back; with combination play; by finding our central players and attempt shots on goal from outside the box; by serving through balls in the box.	When we lose the ball in the attacking third, we press with very high intensity to regain the ball asap preventing a long ball that could find us disorganized. If unable to gain the ball within a few seconds, we compact and organize in our defensive shape.	In the attacking half, we look for the best moment to press with high intensity, close all passes lanes and force the opponent to make a mistake and to regain the ball.	When we regain the ball in the attacking <u>third</u> we can try to shoot, take advantage of a numerical advantage or engage in a 1 v1 to score. If that is not <u>possible</u> we maintain possession and organize our attacking shape.