



2021-2025

***THE
FLORIDA ELITE SOCCER ACADEMY
Policy & Procedure
HANDBOOK***

Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

1.) Introduction

Florida Elite Soccer Academy is a Full Services Soccer Organization program that provides the game of soccer to players of all ages and abilities in Jacksonville, St. Johns, Oakleaf, Palm Coast, and Tallahassee Florida including their surrounding areas. We are a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization. We are grateful for the support and partnerships we have with the Parks and Recreation Departments, Municipality offices and the business associations of St. Johns County, Duval County, Clay County, Flagler County, and Leon County for providing soccer fields and parks for all of our kids. This manual contains the policies and procedures for Florida Elite Soccer Academy and descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the volunteers and staff who work together to make the program possible.

2.) Mission

Florida Elite Soccer Academy pledges to be a Full Service Soccer Organization dedicated to the growth and enrichment of its participating members within the game of soccer.

3.) Vision

We will strive for Total Player Development in an environment that fosters individual confidence along with team success. These goals will be achieved through hard work, sacrifice, dedication and the complete commitment to every level of player from Recreational to Elite. Florida Elite Soccer Academy teaches players a style of soccer emphasizing passing and possession of the ball. The overall style and philosophy is consistent throughout the club so every team and individual has the opportunity to learn a similar style of play. This leads to team success and promotes individual development and creativity.

Florida Elite provides development opportunities for players starting at a young age. A player-centric approach is used to develop and polish the crucial set of skills necessary for their future, with the club's focus on the continual growth and development of our players and our teams. The club instills a dedication to excellence and teamwork in all players. Players improve most by competing with players at similar levels, so teams are formed by grouping players of similar abilities. This shared vision encourages and promotes a feeling of "family" within the club. As players mature they have the opportunity to advance through the ranks and rise to the highest level. Coaches on different teams collaborate with each other, sharing ideas and experiences. Everyone in the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Club – family members included – can feel proud of each team in the club!

4.) Operations

Florida Elite Soccer Academy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

- The Board of Directors ("BOD") is the governing board for the Florida Elite Soccer Club. The BOD is responsible for the internal structure and policies of the Club.
- The BOD will oversee the progress and strategic goals of the Club through the leadership of our Executive Director.
- The Coaching Staff reports directly to the Director of Coaching for their age group, who reports directly to the Executive Director;
- The Administrative Staff reports to the COO and Executive Director

This manual contains the objectives, policies, rules, and procedures for Florida Elite Soccer Academy. It also describes the organizational structure and defines the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the administration of the Program.

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

Contact Information

- The mailing addresses are located at:
112 Bartram Oaks Walk #600585, St Johns Florida 32260 or
PO Box 57065, Jacksonville, FL 32241-7065 or
PO Box 600-585 St Johns, Florida 32260 or
PO Box 352741, Palm Coast Florida 32135
- The club administrators can assist you with general club questions. Email us at info@FloridaEliteSA.com
- The website is www.floridaelitesa.com. All contact information may also be found at our official website.
- For general registration, payment, or business related questions, please email us at info@FloridaEliteSA.com
- For any soccer specific related questions, please contact your respective coach or [Director of Coaching \(DoC\)](#).
- Official Social Media contact information:
 - o Facebook: @FloridaEliteSA
 - o Twitter: @TheFloridaElite
 - o Instagram: @FloridaEliteSA

5.) Safety

Safety is our first priority and everyone shares in the responsibility for ensuring the health and well-being of our children.

A. Risk Management

Florida Elite Soccer Academy is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting our participants and ensuring their safety and well-being while involved in sponsored activities. All Coaches and Staff who are directly involved in children's activity are required to complete and pass a FDLE level background check. We encourage parents to become as active as possible in sponsored activities, games, practices, and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop. To aid in providing a safe environment for our players, participants, and staff, we appoint all coaches, officials, and volunteers--and anyone else affiliated with our organization--as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting any case of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling, or spectator.

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

B. Personal Liability and Medical

Florida Elite Soccer Academy, through both the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) and US Club Soccer organizations, has purchased Accidental, Medical, and Liability Insurance program. A limited amount of personal liability insurance is provided as well as medical coverage for players. However, it is recommended that Florida Elite SA volunteer staff, coaching personnel, and parents/guardians review their own insurance requirements.

C. SafeSport Program

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent nonprofit committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together free of emotional, physical and sexual abuse and misconduct. Explore our site for training resources, help and best practices for coaches, parents, athletes, youth and amateur sports organizations in creating your SafeSport environment. All of our Coaches are required to complete the Safesport certification program. More information can be found here:

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/>

D. Animals

For the safety and health of all players, coaches, officials, and spectators, no animals are permitted on or around any field used for practices or games.

E. Appropriate Behavior Guidelines

All members of this organization, as well as parents, spectators, and other invitees, are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

- Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. This means we do not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, or spectators.
- Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical conduct, any form of sexual conduct or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within our organization.
- Adults and others in positions of authority must be aware that physical contact can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary to teach a skill, treat an injury, or console or congratulate a player. Physical intimidation, physical punishment, or threatening a player with physical harm are not appropriate behaviors and will not be tolerated. However, reasonably requiring players to do push-ups, running, or the like for misbehavior would not likely be considered inappropriate.
- To further protect our youth participants, as well as our coaches, officials, and volunteers, we strongly advise that no adult allow him/herself to be alone with a child or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, we recommend those coaches or other adult members of this organization:

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

- Do not drive alone in a vehicle with a child participant, other than his or her own child, without permission from the other child's parent or guardian, except when required by medical or other emergency.
- Do not take a child alone to a locker room, bathroom, or any other private room.
- Do not provide one-on-one training or individual coaching unless another adult is present.
- Have all conversations with youth participants within view of others, on the field, not in a private location or office.
- Do not socialize individually with youth participants outside of team or league- sponsored or parent-approved activities.
- Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, such forms of abuse as: Insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or age.
- Offensive or vulgar language, to include name-calling or harassment of a player, coach, official, or spectator, by adults or children, is unacceptable. Florida Elite SA events, including games and practices, should be family oriented events. Adults should model positive communication skills.
- Language that is denigrating in nature, content, or tone or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or religion in a denigrating or negative manner is not acceptable.
- Inappropriate language or threatening language used toward an official, coach, player, parent, or spectator may be grounds for removal from a game or the premises or both.
- No player, coach, official, parent, or any spectator will use alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products at any field during any event in which Florida Elite SA is a participant.

F. Misconduct Discovered While Affiliated with Florida Elite Soccer Academy

The Club will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse or misconduct within this organization. In the event that any member learns of an allegation that could potentially disqualify a currently serving coach, trainer, administrator, or other volunteer from further participation in Florida Elite SA activities, that allegation must be reported immediately to the Florida Elite SA staff or Board of Directors who will consult with the Rules and Discipline Committee. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly. Any person accused of misconduct that would result in disqualification from participation in Florida SA activities, or who engages in inappropriate behavior, will be suspended by the Club until the matter is resolved.

G. Rules and Discipline Committee

The Rules and Discipline (R&D) Committee operates under the guiding principle that the safety, welfare, and moral development of the youth participating in activities sponsored by Florida Elite Soccer Academy depend to a great extent on the ethics, integrity, and trustworthiness of the officers, managers, coaches and other Florida Elite Soccer Academy volunteers and affiliates.

- One of the purposes of the Committee is to conduct hearings to determine and enforce

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

sanctions, beyond those issued by referees, for violations of the Laws of the Game or for violations of Florida Elite Soccer Academy rules and policies.

- The R&D Committee has the right to impose sanctions on players, coaches, parents, spectators, and teams in Florida Elite Soccer Academy who engage in misconduct.
- The decisions of the R&D Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- Any team (coach, assistant coach, players, parents, or spectators) showing continuous disregard for the spirit of fair play and conduct may be instructed to appear before the R&D Committee. The purpose of this hearing would be to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident(s) in question, the corrective measures the team proposes to take, and whether penalties against the team are in the best interest of the Club. For continued significant misconduct, and when no resolution for acceptable conduct can be achieved, the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the R&D chair, will not allow the team to continue playing Florida Elite Soccer Academy games.

H. Appeal

Persons who are barred, disqualified, or suspended from Florida Elite SA activities may appeal to the Board of Directors. After considering all of the evidence, to include recommendations of the Executive Director and Rules and Discipline Committee, the Board of Directors may, upon unanimous vote, grant the appeal and allow full participation in Florida Elite SA activities. The Board of Directors decision will be binding.

I. Reinstatement

A person who is accused but later cleared of charges may apply to be reinstated. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position. In the event reinstatement is denied by the Rules and Discipline Committee, the affected party may appeal to the Board of Directors for reinstatement. A unanimous vote of the Board of Directors is required for reinstatement. The Board of Directors decision will be final.

J. Lightning

If lightning strikes within 10 miles, all training sessions and/or games are to be stopped immediately and all players, coaches, and spectators are to take shelter in their vehicles or another safe place.

6.) Conduct

A. General

All participants in Florida Elite Soccer Academy (players, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, and spectators) are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles of good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior and will comply with the Club's Code of Conduct

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

B. Role of Player

Players will refrain from using profanity during games and practices.

Players will not engage in disparaging dialogue with referees, teammates, coaches, opponents, or spectators.

Players will not, under any circumstances, participate in physical violence or threats thereof during any game or practice.

Players are prohibited from the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products while on the active roster of a Club team.

Property damage during road trips will result in suspension from the team and full restitution to the property owner by players and/or parents.

Players will make every attempt to notify the coach prior to missing a practice or game in order to receive an excused absence.

Parents must read and abide by the policies set forth in this Club handbook.

C. Role of Parent/Spectator

Parents agree to support the club in requiring players to abide by the Players Code of Conduct.

Parents will refrain from verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, opponents, and spectators.

Parents will agree to pay for any property damages which can be attributed to their child.

Parents will discuss constructive concerns regarding coach, players or Club policy with the coach first, Director of Coaching, and finally, through the Executive Director or BOD.

Parents must understand that coaches, managers and directors are dedicated to quality soccer and will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Club policies and objectives.

Parents agree to fully reimburse the Club for any monetary sanction or fine imposed as a result of improper conduct of the parents or their child.

Parents must read and abide by the policies set forth in this Club handbook.

No parent/guardian is permitted on the training/playing fields without authorization from Florida Elite Soccer Academy while Florida Elite players/coaches are present.

Florida Elite Soccer Academy reserves the right to remove the right for any player, parent or guardian from participating in Florida Elite programs based on any interpretation of our Code of Conduct violations.

D. Role of Coach

Soccer belongs to the players. The Coach will always put the welfare of the game and the players above their own.

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

The Coach will never engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, and will never tolerate it in their players. The Coach is responsible for the conduct of their players and parents.

The Coach will faithfully abide by the Club's rules and procedures, and execute the Club's policies.

The Coach will know and teach the Laws of the Game, and strive to see their players live up to both the letter and intent of them.

The Coach will refrain from criticizing the officials, especially in front of players, parents, and spectators. The Coach will treat officials with respect, and demand the same from their players, parents, and spectators.

The Coach will not make derogatory comments about opponents or other coaches.

The Coach will not make public references to unethical conduct or possible rules violations by opposing coaches. The Coach will report such abuses through appropriate club channels.

After a loss or bad performance, the Coach will avoid blaming individual players.

The Coach will not permit the use of alcoholic beverages at any games, practices, or scrimmages.

The Coach will remember that, at Florida Elite Soccer Academy, soccer is a learning experience for all involved - players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

The Coach understands that any coach who encourages a team or individual member of a team to play in an unfair manner or to intentionally injure or physically or verbally abuse a member of another team or a referee is guilty of a serious breach of fair play as well as Florida Elite Soccer Academy goals and objectives. With regard to these violations, referees have been instructed to take immediate steps to curtail such behavior and take immediate action to report such to the Rules and Discipline Committee.

The Coach will not engage in activities that may bring discredit to the Florida Elite Soccer Academy.

Coaches are required to wear the assigned Coach shirts and/or jerseys at all times while training and on the sideline during games. This is beneficial for all Players and Parents to be identified as "certified" Florida Elite Coaches while out there with the players. Please note, Coaches who have not been certified and have not completed all requirements, should not be running team training sessions or games with the players.

E. Role of Team Manager

The team manager is the main contact for all relevant team information. The manager's main source of communication is via the Florida Elite Soccer Academy TEAMSNAPE account.

The team manager is responsible for team coordination of activities at the direction of the team coach.

The team manager will direct parent or player concerns regarding training, development or any soccer related issues to the team coach.

Any player account financial related issues should be directed to the Florida Elite Soccer Academy office's email address of AccountServices@FloridaEliteSA.com.

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

Team managers are not debt collectors. Note that failure to pay team fees including but not limited to tournament fees, travel expenses, team tournament expenses, coach travel reimbursement, college profile brochures, referee costs for scrimmages, etc., may lead to player pass revocation. Players not in good standing with passes revoked will not be permitted to participate in training, league games or other Florida Elite Soccer Academy events/activities.

F. Discipline and Sanctions.

- **Players' Discipline:** If a player is unruly or presents persistent problems for a coach and will not respond to the coach's request to behave in an appropriate manner, the coach may insist that the player's parent/guardian attend practices and games. If the problem is severe, the coach can restrict the player from practicing or playing in a game. Coaches taking such action must inform the Executive Director, the Director of Coaching, and the player's parent/guardian before taking the action, or when that is not possible, within 24 hours of taking action. Any incidents of violent conduct, serious foul play, cautions, sending-offs, or other violations of the Code of Conduct will be reviewed to determine if additional penalties should be imposed, to include suspension or dismissal from the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program.
- **Coaches' Sanctions:** Coaches, as representatives of the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program, are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct in such areas as comportment, behavior, speech, and action, as well as to follow all the rules and regulations of the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program as outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual. If coaches do not conform to these expectations, then the Club has the right and duty to impose sanctions. Such sanctions may include but are not limited to forfeiture of game(s), suspension, or dismissal from the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program.
- **Spectator Sanctions:** Parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct, the standards for Players, Parents/Guardians, and Spectators, and adhere to the rules and regulations of the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program as outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual. If parents, guardians, and spectators do not conform to these requirements and expectations, the Club has the right and duty to impose sanctions. Such sanctions may include but are not limited to forfeiture of attendance at game(s) and practices, suspension, or dismissal of the parent's or guardian's child(ren) from the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program.
- **Conduct During Team Travel:** While on any club-sponsored trip away, a player is subject to immediate suspension from the team for the remainder of the trip if the player's misconduct or misbehavior, at the sole discretion of the club or club representative, warrants such action. The player, parents and/or guardian understand that they shall be responsible for making arrangements for the player's immediate return, in the event of suspension, and shall be responsible for all costs associated with the suspension, including the possible forfeiture of all costs and fees relative to the balance of the trip for the player.

7.) Uniform Policy

Players at Florida Elite Soccer Academy, through our uniform and logo, project a professional image

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

ensuring that at all times, the soccer heritage that has become Florida Elite Soccer Academy remains at the highest standard, instilling personal, Team and Club pride.

All teams participating (Recreational, Junior Academy, Competitive) at Florida Elite Soccer Academy may only wear uniforms and accessories that have been previously approved by the Board of Directors.

The Florida Elite Soccer Academy Board of Directors has selected **New Balance** uniforms and accessories as the standard uniform kit for ALL Teams. No other kits or alternate packages will be allowed. The Board may change/adjust the approved uniform kit as it deems necessary, however due to the need for long-term consistency, the Board should only approve changes due to New Balance style changes or major failure on the part of New Balance.

It is the goal of the Board to have a two year cycle before changing Premier uniform styles. All players shall buy uniform kits the first year of a new uniform cycle.

Player and Coaches are expected to take pride in their appearance when representing Florida Elite Soccer Academy.

No Florida Elite SA team will be allowed to self-produce Florida Elite Soccer Academy branded apparel at any time without the approval of the Executive Director.

Any Reproduction of the Florida Elite SA logo is strictly prohibited, unless consent has been given by the Executive Board.

NO other club, school or name branded coach's wear should be worn, other than Florida Elite Soccer Academy and/or New Balance.

8. Prohibited Articles

Any item which may constitute a potential danger to the player(s) will not be worn.

- Watches, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, unzipped jackets, hats, hoods, barrettes, any metal or hard objects worn in hair, or other items that constitute a potential danger to the player and/or any other player shall not be worn. Taping over ear studs is specifically not permitted. Medical alert and religious jewelry may be worn if made sufficiently safe to the satisfaction of the referee, such as by taping to the body.
- Except for that approved for the goalkeeper (hat with bill made of slow recovery foam), headgear shall not be worn on the playing field. EXCEPTION: Headwear worn in accordance with religious beliefs and customs is exempted.
- If a player is wearing a cast, splint, or other hard material, he/she may not participate in games without appropriate padding or covering as determined at game time by the referee. Padding should be one or two layers of slow-recovery foam taped over the cast. Players with a soft cast, cloth brace, or similar item wrapped with soft material may play at the discretion of the referee.
- In judging the suitability or safety of a player's uniform and equipment, the referee has the final decision.

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

9. Scholarship Program

Florida Elite Soccer Academy, a non-profit organization, offers need-based financial assistance to players based on eligibility to the extent possible with the funds available. Because the number of players whose families qualify for a scholarship usually exceeds the budget, Florida Elite Soccer Academy does not guarantee funding for, nor is able to fund, all players who meet eligibility.

Scholarships are designed to pay a portion of the registration fee. The parent(s)/guardian(s) is expected to pay the remaining portion. Scholarships are paid out each season to ensure all players/families have equal opportunity to apply. Scholarships will not be applied toward team or tournament fees. Scholarship award in one season does not guarantee approval in subsequent seasons. Players must reapply each year or season, whichever is applicable.

All families who receive a scholarship award will be required to complete service hours. The number of service hours required are in direct correlation to the scholarship award. For our competitive families, please note that these service hours are in addition to the 8 hours required annually for the Club Service Program. Failure to complete the required service hours will terminate the scholarship award and/or the opportunity to apply for a future scholarship.

All information provided shall remain confidential to Florida Elite Soccer Academy (the Club). However, since the purpose of this information is to obtain financial aid from the Club, the information will be subject to review by the Executive Director and the officers of the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Board of Directors Scholarship Committee.

Required documentation:

1. Request and Complete our online scholarship application. Please email us at AccountServices@FloridaEliteSA.com
2. A copy of your 201 federal income tax return. If you do not file federal income taxes, please call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800- 829-3676) for a verification letter.
3. Two most recent paycheck stubs or letter from your employer verifying your employment and stating your annual salary. If you are unemployed, draw social security or a full-time student, please provide a summary of your unemployment benefits, SSI paperwork, or student financial aid benefits.

10. Refund Policy

No fee payment or parts thereof will be refunded or forgiven because of player injuries, absences, withdrawals, or early release from a team. The only exceptions to this policy would be if the player provides documented proof of an injury that prevents them from playing for a full season or due to a parent's job relocation. After proof of injury or relocation is established, board of Directors will give final approval and award a specific dollar value of the refund, excluding the commitment fee for the Competitive Program and an administrative fee for the Recreational Program. Please see below, section 13, for program specific details.

11. Weather

Florida Elite SA will provide a safe training environment based on current and/or forecasted weather

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

conditions. The proximity of lightning will be a contributing factor to training being postponed or canceled, all players and parents must go to their cars immediately and wait for Florida Elite SA notification.

Every effort is made to hold practices and games as scheduled. In the event of inclement weather, the following procedures will be used:

Florida Elite SA will update teams and players within our club about possible cancellations via one of the following three methods. A decision to close the practice fields is made by 4pm daily; weather at 4pm may not be the same at 5pm, or 8pm, sometimes resulting in a later notification. Check the websites for updates accordingly.

If lightning strikes within 10 miles, all training sessions and/or games are to be stopped immediately and all players, coaches, and spectators are to take shelter in their vehicles or another safe place.

League game rainouts are determined by the respective fields or leagues that teams participate in or at. Florida Elite SA will not always update field status on our website for league games but will always do its best to inform its members of field closures at Florida Elite facilities. Respective league websites and rainout procedures should be monitored for league games. Rained out or canceled games due to weather, may or may not be rescheduled if there isn't an available option for rescheduling.

12. Insurance and Medical Claims Policy

Excess accident coverage is automatically provided to registered members of FYSA(US Youth), Florida Premiership (US Club), and ECNL (US Club) as a part of the registration fees. These policies provide coverage for registered players, coaches, and other officials, during sanctioned events including regularly scheduled practices and games. This coverage is secondary coverage following the player's own family health insurance. For players or members that do not have any health insurance, this will be considered a primary insurance.

FYSA players (NFY, Region B Premier League, FSPL, US Youth National League:

[CLICK HERE](#) for US Youth Insurance Claim Information

US CLUB players (ECNL RL, FCL 2, FCL DEVELOPMENTAL and ECNL)

[CLICK HERE](#) for US CLUB Insurance Claim Information

13. Programs

The Florida Elite Soccer Academy Program is designed to provide a positive soccer experience to children of all ages and abilities. Leagues are structured and teams are formed to afford the most age-appropriate experience possible with the emphasis on enjoyment while maximizing each child's potential.

A. RECREATIONAL

OVERVIEW

Recreational programs are typically the first exposure for children to the game of soccer. At Florida Elite Soccer Academy, we look to instill a love of the game for each and every player we have in our

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

program. Our Recreation Program is targeted towards children from the Under 5 age group all the way through the Under 19 age group. Any child of any ability level is welcome to play.

There are no tryouts and players are placed on teams in a random fashion in an attempt to balance the competition level, as best we can. Our program is designed to allow all players the opportunity to play at least 50% of the game so that they can learn to both play, and enjoy the game.

The Recreational Program has two seasons per Calendar year: Fall (September – November) and Spring (March – May). The Florida Elite Soccer Academy Recreational program has both a Girls Division and a Boys Division. Florida Elite Soccer Academy does not typically encourage co-ed teams. Teams are grouped by age in single years from Under 5 to Under 8 and in two-year age groups from Under 10(U9 & U10), Under 12 (U11 & U12), Under 14 (U13 & U14), Under 16 (U15 & U16), and a triple-age group for Under 19 (U17, U18, & U19). We must abide by age guidelines as determined by birth dates. While we do our best to get as many games scheduled as possible, due to potential weather cancellations we cannot guarantee a certain number of games.

Registered Recreational players in either the Fall or Spring programs are not eligible to register and compete in any sanctioned Competitive program simultaneously.

REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

So be sure to register early to secure your spot!

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM REFUNDS

- Refunds requested before Regular Registration ends is subject to a \$35 administration fee
- Refunds requested during the Late Registration period will be 50% of the registration fees paid
- There will be no refunds granted once the late registration period ends.
- Specific dates will be provided and updated each season on the Recreational Program Registration page that reflect the registration and refund availability dates.

Team Assignments U5-U19 – Team assignment is based on a seasonal year that starts with the Fall Season. Fall teams are formed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Players may request a particular coach or friend to play with on the registration form, if and only if you register prior to the Fall Registration deadline. Coaches in all age groups are volunteers; please be sure to indicate on your child's form if you are willing to volunteer to coach. Players returning in the Spring who played in the Fall will be placed on their Fall team, unless otherwise requested. Florida Elite attempts to honor as many requests as possible but **absolutely no guarantees can be made**.

Practice Times and Locations U5-U19 – The volunteer coach sets the practice location and times for the team, subject to availability. Please note – since our coaches are volunteers, there is no way for Florida Elite to know your child's practice schedule until **AFTER** the season kick-off meeting. The season kick-off meeting is held approximately 10-14 days prior to the beginning of the season. In the fall, practices do not officially begin until after September 1st. During team assignments, Florida Elite does their best to place players on teams who practice near their requested field choice. There are however, no guarantees. Practices can start as early as 5 pm and end as late as 9:30 pm (for some of the older age groups). Parents, guardians or any other unauthorized persons are not permitted on the playing fields during training. Only Florida Elite authorized persons are permitted to interact with the players during training or games. All spectators must be off of the fields where the teams are training. These

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

persons must have current and completed Background check, Concussion awareness training and SafeSport online certificate.

Game Times and Locations U5-U10 - Depending on whether you register for the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Central or Florida Elite Soccer Academy South Recreational Programs, games will be played at different fields. Games could be scheduled on Saturdays from 8 am until 7 pm and occasionally on Sundays from 1 pm until 5 pm.

U7 and up age group games without Referees.

If Referees are not present or Referees have issued a forfeit to either team, the teams are NOT allowed to compete during that time slot unless they are both Florida Elite teams and both teams have agreed to have a “friendly” match. The results will not be counted towards league play and the score will not be recorded.

Florida Elite Soccer Academy St Johns:

Veterans Park 1332 Veterans Pkwy, St Johns, FL 32259
Aberdeen Park 1401 Shetland Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259
Plantation Park 3060 Racetrack Road, St. Johns, FL 32259
Durbin Crossing Fields, 318 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259

Florida Elite Soccer Academy Duval:

Chuck Rogers Park located at 11950 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32223
Losco Regional Park located at 10852 Hood Road South, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Earl Johnson Park located at 5390 St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Florida Elite Soccer Academy Oakleaf:

Oakleaf Plantation Park, 370 Oakleaf Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32206

Florida Elite Soccer Academy Palm Coast:

Indian Trails Park, 5455 Belle Terre Parkway, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Florida Elite Soccer Academy W.G.V

World Golf Village Neighborhood Park, 3500 International Golf Parkway, St. Augustine, FL 32092

Game Times and Locations U12-U19 - Games can be played at any of the Parks listed above. Games could be scheduled on Saturdays from 8 am until 7 pm and occasionally on Sundays from 1 pm until 6:30 pm.

Uniforms

All Recreational players are required to purchase the assigned uniforms yearly from [WeGotSoccer](#) to ensure receipt of the uniform prior to the Season's first game.

All players MUST wear Florida Elite required uniforms which include jerseys, shorts and socks. If a player or team is not in a Florida Elite required uniform they will not be allowed to play their game.

Scheduling U5-U19 - The goal is for every team to have a schedule of at least eight games, with a maximum of ten, during the season. Although the schedule may initially be eight to ten games, Florida

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

Elite cannot guarantee that the team will actually play any particular number of games. Circumstances sometimes arise during a season, over which the Club has no control, that may prohibit a team from playing a scheduled game. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to, weather, a team folding, or a team canceling and failing to reschedule a game due to unforeseen circumstances.

Games are scheduled between teams of the same age and sex. There may be an odd number of teams in each age group or there may be an even number of teams. If there is an even number of teams, generally speaking, each team will be scheduled for a Saturday game day. If there is an odd number in the rotation, generally, each team will have a “bye” week on the schedule.

Playing Time - Youth recreational soccer focuses on the development of the player. It is an opportunity for each child to learn individual skills and teamwork skills. Youth recreational soccer is not focused on winning or losing; it is about each child playing to the best of his or her ability while having fun. It is about rewarding effort. Therefore, regardless of ability, each recreational player is guaranteed playing time during one half of each game. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that every child plays an appropriate amount of time. Florida Elite does not keep standings in the recreational division.

League Play - In accordance with the sanctioned league organizations (US Youth, US Club), Recreational and Competitive program players cannot play in both a Competitive and Recreational league during the same program season. Players are registered as either a “Competitive” or “Recreational” player during program and league registration.

B. JUNIOR ACADEMY (U6-U8)

- The Junior Academy program serves as a transition for players who are ready for more competitive play. Players typically transition to the Competitive program from Junior Academy.
- Games are played on Saturdays and some Sundays, additionally some travel is required.
- Age groups are: U7/U8. The child's age as of August 1st will determine which age group the child will play for that year.
- Players are required to wear the Academy uniform.
- Two weekday training sessions each week are required.
- Coaches and trainers are paid resources.

C. COMPETITIVE (U9-U19)

- The goal of the Select program is to provide an increased level of competition and enhanced player development opportunities. The Select program will provide an environment in which the level of competition, commitment, and player development is appropriate for those who wish to play at a higher level of competition. The Select program will ensure that the players and coaches learn age- specific aspects of the game appropriate to the physical, emotional and psychological readiness of the players. The Select program is open to any player that desires a greater challenge and agrees to fully commit to the program.
- The Select program costs more than the Recreational league, in order to cover the cost of the professionally-led, paid licensed coaches and tournament/referee fees.
- The Refund policy is stated and signed during the Program Registration process. No player is allowed to compete without a Parent or Guardian electronically signing this policy.

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2021/2025 Seasonal Years

D. TOPSoccer

Vision

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based soccer program that is designed to meet the needs of children with physical and/or mental disabilities. Player participation and development are key elements of the program as players are placed on teams according to ability and NOT by age. TOPSoccer is designed to improve the overall fitness, self-esteem and social skills of your child.

Mission

TOPSoccer furthers US Youth Soccer's mission of fostering the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels. In short, TOPSoccer takes kids from the sidelines to participating in the game. Just talk with the parents or participants of TOPSoccer and you'll understand why TOPSoccer

Benefits

- The child will develop a sense of belonging to a community.
- Learn the value of being part of a team.
- Improved self-esteem, fitness and social skills.

Player Guidelines

Players must be at least U5 age (4 on August 1st of the appropriate year). There is no upper limit on age.

Players should register with the club.

We will provide each registered player with a full uniform (shorts, shirt, and socks). Players should wear the uniform or similar gear. Additionally, players will need:

- Shin guards
- Sneakers or soccer cleats

Players should arrive at least 5 minutes before the session's start time. Players should sign in prior to each session attended.

Players will be provided with a buddy with whom to work for the session. Every attempt will be made to pair the player with the same buddy each week.

Free pictures are provided (note that this is a basic package. If the parents/guardians want additional items such as magnets or other items, charges may apply)

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2021/2025 Seasonal Years

Guidelines for Buddies

The key to the program is our buddies. We pair a buddy with a player and have them assist the player and coaches on the field with activities and games. Every year, we hear from parents about what a difference the buddies make in their child's life. The confidence and acceptance the players gain through TOPS translates into a better school and social life. This is a great opportunity for a volunteer, a youth group (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc), or a whole soccer team to make a difference in a child's life.

- Buddies must be at least 12 years of age.
- Buddies must be registered with the club.
- Buddies will be supplied with a TOPS Buddy t-shirt. They should wear appropriate gear as well:
 - Shorts
 - Socks
 - Sneakers or cleats

Buddies should sign in prior to each session. Florida Elite Soccer Academy will sign off on 1.5 hours of volunteer hours for each session attended.

Buddies should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of sessions to assist with set-up and to ensure proper player assignment. Note that every attempt will be made to pair the buddy with the same player each week.

Buddies should expect to remain for approximately 15 minutes after each session to assist with clean-up of the fields and equipment.

TOPSoccer Coaches

The coach role is that of an organizer and cheerleader. Our coaches plan out the activities and games for the players and their buddies. All it takes to be a coach is a willingness to learn and a little soccer knowledge.

- Coaches must be over 18 years old.
- Coaches must be registered with the club.
- Coaches must have a volunteer badge.
- Coaches will be provided with a TOPS Coaches shirt.
- Coaches should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of sessions to assist with set-up and to ensure proper player assignment. Note that every attempt will be made to pair the buddy with the same player each week.
- Coaches should expect to remain for approximately 15 minutes after each session to assist with clean-up of the fields and equipment.
- Coaches are responsible for:
 - Running all on-field activities

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Florida Elite Soccer Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021/2025 Seasonal Years

- o Coordinating buddies
- o Ensuring that players are participating
- o Ensuring that buddies are working with players appropriately

14. Tobacco Free Policy

The Florida Elite Soccer Academy board in conjunction with Tobacco Free St Johns and Tobacco Free Duval recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for youth, parents, spectators, visitors, and coaches; therefore, the Florida Elite Soccer Academy Board prohibits the use of any form of tobacco or nicotine products in any area utilized by or designated for Florida Elite Soccer Academy activities.

For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco product" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff; Any electronic smoking device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah; "tobacco product" includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product. "Tobacco use" means smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices.

This policy shall be established to:

1. Promote health and encourage players to adopt healthy lifestyles;
2. Further the goal of consistency among ongoing school and community programs to discourage children from using tobacco and nicotine products;
3. Reflect and emphasize the hazard of tobacco and nicotine use;
4. Protect the health and safety of players, coaches and the general public;
5. Eliminate the mixed messages that youth receive through tobacco advertising and its association with sporting events; and
6. This policy will be in effect at all recreation sponsored youth programs regardless of location and includes (but not limited to) schools, county parks, municipal parks and private locations

Return to Play Protocols & Best Practices

Florida Elite Soccer Academy would like to provide all members with important guidelines related to the Covid19 situation. These Return-to-Play Protocols and Best Practices (these "Protocols") are not intended to serve as (and are not) a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Similarly, it is also possible that, in some cases, these Protocols will be less strict than the guidance, recommendations or requirements of applicable state and local health authorities ("Health Authority Guidance"). In these cases, teams and players must comply with the Health Authority Guidance. Put

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2021/2025 Seasonal Years

differently, these Protocols are intended to supplement (and not replace) Health Authority Guidance. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training or competition.

Although no activity can ever be completely risk free, the intention of these Protocols is to put in place certain recommendations and requirements such that the risk of contracting Covid-19 is limited to a medically acceptable level and, by providing additional information and resources, to help ensure the health and safety of players, coaches, parents, administrators, and others.

Much of the information included in these Protocols has been collected from publicly available sources, including federal agencies, government entities, USSF Play On Guidelines and other sport organizations, while many of the requirements and recommendations will relate back to the Health Authority Guidance specific to our locations. However, the knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, Florida Elite Soccer Academy makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for (a) the accuracy or completeness of any information included in these Protocols or (b) the sufficiency of these Protocols to prevent the contraction of the virus.

Florida Elite Soccer Academy expressly reserves the right to modify these Protocols from time to time in its Discretion.