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# FLORIDA WEST FC

SWFL's only ECNL Club

"Success is a Choice"



Parent and Player Handbook



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*If you have any questions about the program, this handbook or other Florida West F.C. programming, please contact Robert Peltram at [rpeltram@floridawestfc.com](mailto:rpeltram@floridawestfc.com) or Danny Fahey at [dfahey@floridawestfc.com](mailto:dfahey@floridawestfc.com)*



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Welcome to Florida West F.C.**

Florida West Football Club (FWFC) is the result of the SWFL community finally coming together to create a product that is poised to compete with the very best teams across Florida and beyond. Over the past four seasons of its existence, Florida West F.C. has clearly demonstrated its superiority in SWFL by combining the talent pools and coaching resources from likeminded professionals into one program. This has culminated in Florida West F.C. being awarded ECNL Status for both the Girls and Boys Programs, something no other Club within 100 miles can provide. Our platform has allowed and will continue to allow all players within our community the opportunity to train and play with the most talented players in SWFL, while also catering to local soccer development at the grassroots level.

### **Our Program**

Our main emphasis aside of providing the most comprehensive soccer program in SWFL, is to concentrate on the standard of our coaching. Florida West F.C. staff coaches are held to the highest standards and teach the game at the highest level. Everybody at Florida West F.C. is striving towards the same goal; total player development - both on and off the field of play. Success is not only determined by the end result of a Game, a Tournament or a League Championship, it is so much more than that. Success for us, is creating an environment that allows our players to discover various methods and styles in order to reach their ultimate potential – becoming the complete package only achieved through hard work, commitment and professionalism. This has been proven by our College Commitment numbers that have been nothing short of excellent for each and every year so far.

### **Mission Statement**

An unrelenting pursuit of professionalism and success for our Players and Coaches, both on and off the field. To continue to lead the way in SWFL by providing the optimal environment for Youth Athletes of all levels in order to ensure them the opportunity to be the best that they can be. To provide a Club structure that is one of cohesion and alignment in respect to achieving our collective goals.

### **Soccer Philosophy**

Our defined style of play and coaching sets us apart from most other Soccer Clubs. FWFC is known for our modern style of play as well as the attention to detail when it comes to our approach regarding the development of our players. Many Clubs advertise their style of play as “possession based”. However, FWFC believes in possession with a purpose and educating our players in great depth in regard to what that purpose might be, in keeping with the specific situations they might face.



## PLAYER DEVELOPEMENT PATHWAY



We take a “from the bottom up” approach to our player development pathway. We understand that the top player will only be as strong as the foundation that has been laid many years prior. We want to continue to develop our top talent and not just recruit it.

There will be connectivity between each tier/team within our Program. FWFC Staff reserves the right to move players at any stage throughout the year to ensure we are maximizing each players/teams developmental potential.

FWFC is THE PREMIER club in SWFL. We pride ourselves on maintaining extremely high quality within our program. We are also the only Club in SWFL that has been accepted into the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL), guaranteeing that our Premier teams are able to



compete against the very best teams in the State/Region year after year. FWFC also places teams in various other Elite Leagues in the State of Florida.

Our teams compete at Nationally recognized tournaments and showcases across the country including: The ECNL National College Showcases, ECNL-R National College Showcases, Disney Soccer Qualifiers and Showcases, The Dallas Cup, The Jefferson Cup, The IMG College Showcase and the VisitRaleigh Showcase (formerly CASL) amongst many others.

### **PROGRAMMING**

With an unmatched professionalism and player centric programming structure, we are truly taking youth soccer development to another level and proudly call ourselves the # 1 destination for all, but especially for the Elite Player in SWFL. Everything below is included in your Registration Fee ...

- Access to various training sessions all week long
  - **NEW\*\* 3 Team Sessions per week for all ECNL Teams**
  - 2 Team Sessions per week for all other teams
  - Weekly Access to ECNL sessions for Top ECNL-R Players
  - 3 Team Sessions per week for Pre-ECNL Teams from November-March
  - 2 Nights specialized Goalkeeping Training / Fort Myers & Naples
  - 4 Nights specialized soccer specific Strength/Conditioning, Technique Training as well as Coordination sessions / Fort Myers & Naples during HS Off-Season Fort Myers Redline Facility during HS Season.
- Primary League Registration paid in Full
- Primary League Referee Fees paid in Full
- Field Surcharge for Field Rentals Included
- US Club Soccer Registration Fees paid in Full / when applicable
- FYSA Registration Fees paid in full / when applicable
- Full Access to the best and highest qualified Coaches in all of Southwest Florida
- Elite Identification opportunities
- Game Analysis Sessions
- Player and Parent Education for the College Bound Player
- Complementary SportsRecruits Membership for U 15s and older (MSRP \$399)
- Mid and End of Season Player Evaluations
- Adidas Premier Club



## LEAGUES, TOURNAMENTS AND POLICIES

### League Play

Florida West FC prides itself as the elite provider for youth soccer in SWFL. Below graphics illustrate the various levels within the US Club Soccer platform which all our teams U 11 and older are a part of. Teams will be entered into various leagues appropriate for the team's developmental level. This will be determined after tryouts between the DOC and your team coach. When the league schedules are finalized, your coach will inform you of your child's league schedule for the season. Some leagues, such as ECNL span the full year (fall through spring with break for High School Season) while others may have separate Fall and Spring seasons. We will have home and away games as well as neutral site games to save both teams on travel time for league play.



Florida West F.C First Teams play in the ECNL and are the ONLY Club within 100 Miles to do so



Florida West F.C Second Teams play in the ECNL-R and are the ONLY Club SWFL to do so



Florida West F.C U11/U12 and Third Teams play in the FCL League structure



Florida West F.C U10 and younger play in the EDP Florida League



### **Tournament Play**

All Florida West F.C. Teams will compete in various tournaments including ECNL & ECNL-R National Events and Showcases (exclusive to ECNL Clubs) throughout the year. Our teams will generally compete in 3-5 tournaments over the course of a season. Tournaments are determined by the Team Coach in conjunction with the DOC and families (in regards to their availability) Once the team's tournament calendar has been set and all families have agreed to it, it will be the team's responsibility to cover all costs associated with those events.

### **Florida West F.C. Payment Policies**

- 1<sup>st</sup> payment must be paid within 3 days of receiving your child's acceptance email following tryouts in order to secure a roster spot for the season.
- You may choose to pay the seasonal tuition in Full (receive a \$50 discount U12s and below and \$100 discount U13s and above) or follow a payment plan. Payments are set by default to be completed by December of the year the season kicks off. Please contact our Registrar if you need more time and we will make every effort to accommodate your needs.
- Florida West F.C. operates a strict No Refund Policy, except in the case of a season-ending injury.
- Financial Aid is provided on a demonstrated-need basis. Financial Aid requests must be submitted and agreed upon in advance of payment deadlines. All families receiving Financial Aid will be required to provide community service hours to Florida West F.C.
- If you are provided with Financial Aid, families will be automatically placed on a monthly payment plan to be charged on the 1st of each month. All Financial Aid applications should be sent to Robert Peltram at [rpeltram@floridawestfc.com](mailto:rpeltram@floridawestfc.com) by May 31st.
- All players asking to be released mid-season, will be required to pay the full season tuition for that particular age group prior to a release being granted. This also applies to players who are receiving financial aid.
- Team fees (tournaments, coaches' expenses etc...) aren't part of the season fees and families and players will be responsible for their portion of the team fees.



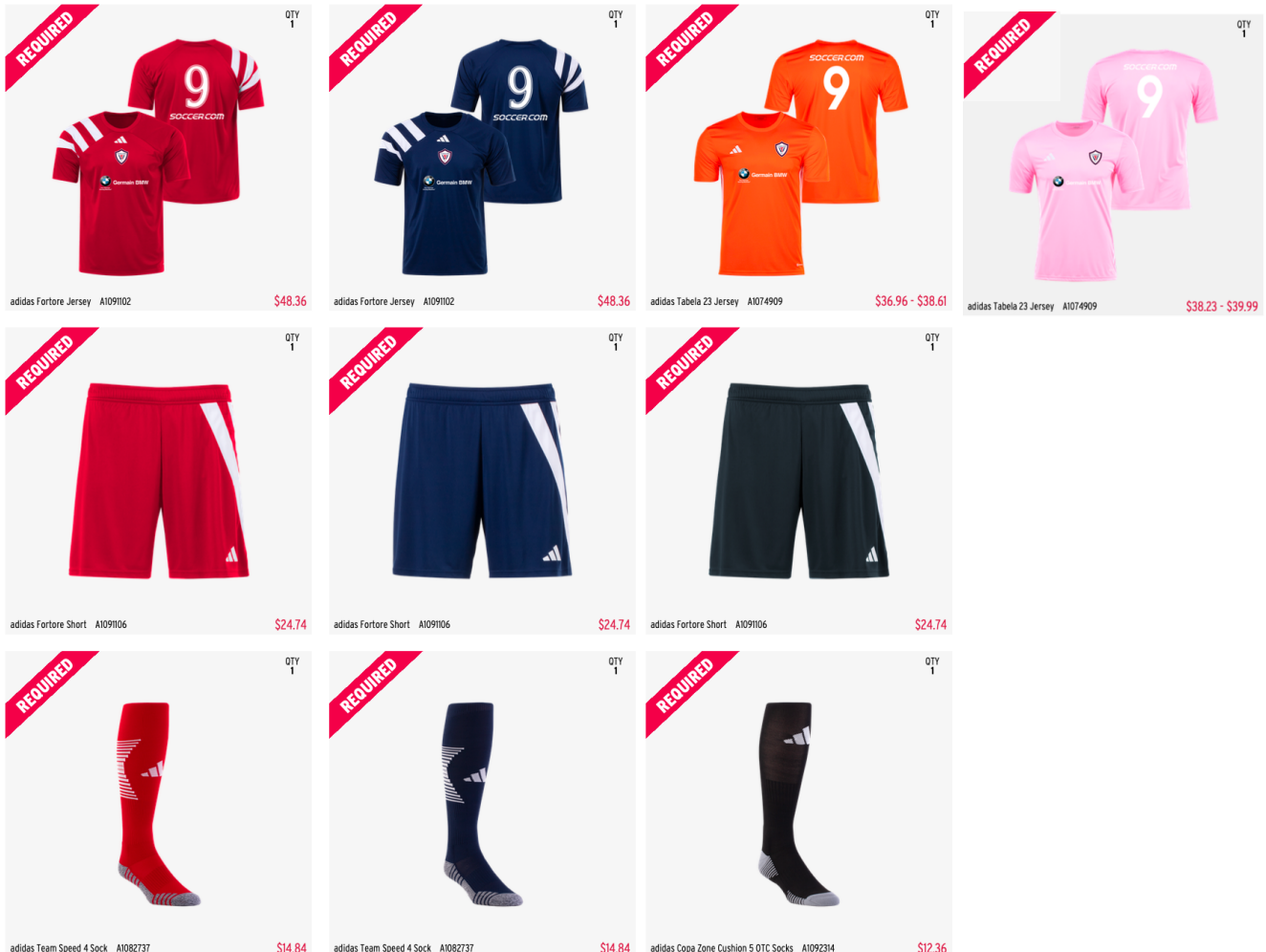
## UNIFORM PACKAGE

### Florida West F.C. Uniform Package

Florida West F.C. is an Adidas Partner Club and we are very proud to inform you that you will no longer be asked to pay a premium for uniforms every year. This is a promise to our customers; If you take care of your uniform and you don't outgrow it during our two-year cycle, you will not have to buy a new set each year. We will utilize an online ordering process for player uniforms; one that we believe will further enhance the player experience at Florida West F.C.. Individuals will be able to order and pay for their player's customized uniform directly through SOCCER.COM.

Below is a preview of our exceptional Uniform Package for the 2024 through 2026 Season.

### Uniform Package



FLORIDA WEST F.C.

[www.floridawestfc.com](http://www.floridawestfc.com)





## GK Uniform Package

Training Uniform Boys or Girls **plus** any of the below (based on preference)...



Also, every player and/or GK has to purchase an adidas ball which is required at practice



*\*As always, you'll be able to order the essentials, but you are also free to add on items that fit your child's needs with lots of spirit wear to choose from*



## **TRYOUT INFORMATION**

### **Tryout Procedures**

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time slot
- Make sure you wear the proper attire for soccer. Bring shin guards and cleats as well as a ball (size 4 for players U12s and younger and size 5 for players U13s and older)
- Check in your child at the check-in table the day and time indicated on our Schedule
  - It is an absolute must that your child initially attends the session for the birth year he/she was born in – No Exceptions !!! See below for more information.
- Your child will receive a number and 4 pins. Please make sure to attach that number on the front of your child's shorts and **to retain that number for the remainder of the two weeks of Tryouts** (No replacement numbers will be issued).
- Our check-in administrator will tell your child where to go:
  - Please make sure your child has his/her water bottle etc... as the tryout/practice fields will be off limits to parents. There will be designated viewing areas for parents during the tryouts

### **Tryouts FAQ's**

#### **FAQ's**

#### **Q: Where will tryouts be held ?**

**A:** Tryouts will be held in Fort Myers, Naples & Cape Coral

- **Jet Blue Park:** 11500 Fenway South Drive, Fort Myers, FL, 33913 (**ECNL, ECNL-R, Pre-ECNL, Local**)
- **Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park:** 810 39th Ave NE, Naples, FL 34120 (**ECNL, ECNL-R, Pre-ECNL, Local**)
- **Jim Jeffers Soccer Complex:** 2817 SW 3rd Ln, Cape Coral, FL 33991 (**Local only**)

#### **Q: When will tryouts be held ?**

**A:** Please [CLICK HERE](#) for our tryout schedule

#### **Q: What do I have to bring to tryouts ?**

**A:** Please make sure to bring

- Dark Shirt, dark shorts
- a ball (size 4 for U 12s and below and size 5 for U 13s and up)
- Shin guards
- Water



**Q: *There are 2 or more Tryout dates posted - do we have to attend all of them ?***

**A:** Preferably yes, as we do anticipate large numbers. However, we do understand that this is easier said than done. Therefore, we do encourage families to attend as many tryout dates as possible to allow players to showcase their talent.

**Q: *What if my child will be out of town during the ECNL Tryouts ?***

**A:** Please email Danny Fahey at [dfahey@floridawestfc.com](mailto:dfahey@floridawestfc.com) as well as the respective coach with that information. There are no guarantees that a spot will be available but we usually grant the player an opportunity to tryout for our ECNL team upon his/her return.

**Q: *What if my child can only attend one of the Tryout dates (i.e. ill or injured)?***

**A:** Please email Danny Fahey at [dfahey@floridawestfc.com](mailto:dfahey@floridawestfc.com) as well as the respective coach with that information. Danny will then touch base with the Head Coach of that particular age group to determine whether an additional tryout is required for that particular player.

**Q: *What if my child wants to play up an age group ?***

**A:** Please email Danny Fahey [dfahey@floridawestfc.com](mailto:dfahey@floridawestfc.com) as well as the respective coach with that information prior to the Tryouts. We will grant or decline that request after due consideration.

- General Rule of Thumb here is: No playing up unless ...
  - there is no team in the players birth year age group
  - the player is projected to dominate his/her own age group
  - other criteria to be discussed and considered by club leadership

**Q: *What if I have a question during the ECNL Tryouts ?***

**A:** Please leave your inquiries for after the ECNL Tryouts have ended that evening. Please email Danny Fahey at [dfahey@floridawestfc.com](mailto:dfahey@floridawestfc.com) and/or the respective coach with your question.

**Q: *How do I know whether my child made the ECNL team (or any other team for that matter) or not ?***

**A:** Players, who have been selected for a particular team, will be contacted by the Head Coach.



**Q: How many players will you pick for my child's team ?**

**A:** That will depend on your child's age group and whether we will have two teams, three teams or only one. The roster limits for 7v7 teams (U10s and younger) is 12 players, for 9v9 teams (U11s & U12s) 15 players and 11v11 teams (U13s and up) 18 – 22 players.

**Q: When will the season start ?**

**A:** Official Practice Start will be August 5<sup>th</sup>/ High School teams may start earlier

**Q: When will my child's team practice ?**

**A:** We won't know this until all teams are finalized. We have multiple Coaches coaching more than one team and therefore will need to coordinate their schedules first. General rule of thumb though...Players U12 and younger will practice at 6pm – 7.30 pm. With U13s and older eligible to practice 7.30 pm to 9 pm.

**Q: Where will my child's team practice ?**

**A:** General rule of thumb ....U 11s Pre-ECNL and older teams will practice twice once in Fort Myers and once in Naples. U 11s & U 12s Pre-ECNL-R as well as our U10s and below teams will stay in their respective local areas to minimize the travel.

**Q: Where will my child's team practice ?**

**A:** General rule of thumb ....

ECNL Teams will practice twice in Fort Myers and once in Naples one week, then twice in Naples and once in Fort Myers the following week. For U 11/12 Pre-ECNL and ECNL-R Teams, they will practice once in Fort Myers and once in Naples each week. U 11s & U 12s Pre-ECNL-R teams as well as our U10s and below will stay in their respective local areas to minimize the travel.

**Q: Which league will my child's team compete in ?**

**A:** Either the ECNL (Elite Club National League), ECNL-R (Elite Club National League – Regional League), FCL (Florida Club League), EDP SWFL (SWFL League) or any other league the club leadership feels is appropriate.



**Q: *How many tournaments will my child's team participate in ?***

**A:** We are aiming for three to five tournaments per season. Age groups U 15 and above seek out high profile tournaments where players can be showcased to college coaches. These tournaments include: The ECNL National College Showcases, ECNL-R National College Showcases, The Disney Showcase Qualifier, The VisitRaleigh Showcase, The Disney Jr. Showcase, The Jefferson Cup, The Disney College Showcase, The Las Vegas (PDA) Showcase, The IMG College Showcase, The Dallas Cup, WAGS, etc.

**Q: *Can my child participate in Middle School or High School soccer ?***

**A:** Although we believe that our training is more conducive to a players development, we do not stand in the way of Middle or High School participation. In either case, our top tier teams generally don't break for the High School soccer season. Instead, our Coaches are making every effort to schedule practices around High School games.

**Q: *Are payment plans available ?***

**A:** Yes, please contact our Registrar at [registrar@floridawestfc.com](mailto:registrar@floridawestfc.com) to set up a payment plan

**Q: *When is my initial payment due ?***

**A:** 1<sup>st</sup> payment must be paid within 3 days of receiving your child's acceptance email following tryouts in order to secure a roster spot for the season.



### TRYOUTS/PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOTES

- Please make up your mind whether you are serious about joining the #1 Program in SWFL prior to attending tryouts. Past experiences have shown that families procrastinating on their decision has inevitably delayed the formation of teams, which in return has frustrated many families who were then left in limbo. Please do your due diligence and ask all the questions, that you would like to know the answer to, in advance. If at that time you are selected for one of our teams, make sure to register within 3 days of receiving your child's invitation. We are expecting a large number of players trying out and are not afforded the luxury of time for those players that are unsure of their decision. Our goal is to field 3 teams for boys and girls in each age group.



- Be advised, that you may receive an invite to join one of our teams after your first tryout or you may not receive an invite until after your third or fourth tryout. Please do not be alarmed. Here is some insight on our tryout period thought process. It is true, there will be a few players who are exceptional in their abilities, and those players are obvious choices for us. The reality though is that 75 % of the players fall into the other categories and we want to do our due diligence and evaluate them thoroughly. Some players may display a sense of nervousness, but will start excelling in tryout days three and four for example. Remember, a lot of thought is needed when formulating a roster, whether this is consideration of positions, availability, siblings or even place of residence. Our Coaches will make every effort to communicate to families accordingly throughout the tryout process.
- Our general rule of thumb is, that we will be trying to provide a home for every child trying out for our club. If we feel that we will not be able to fulfill this endeavor, then we will communicate that in advance to those families in question. This should give the player plenty of time to tryout for one of the other organizations in the area.

***See you on the pitch and always remember .... "Success is a Choice" .....***

