

Parents,

Welcome to the Alexandria Soccer Association's recreational season! I am coach [name] and will be guiding the [grade group and team name] team this season.

Club and Coaching Philosophy

This is recreational soccer. It's supposed to be fun for all of the kids. Alexandria Soccer Programs create a child friendly environment where friendly but fierce competition is the basis – not winning at all costs. A perfect game is one in which every player has fun and doesn't get injured or dehydrated. Practice sessions are supposed to be fun too. Never criticize your player after a practice session or a game. Ask them if they had fun. Note, too, that USSF believes that there is too much emphasis on playing and winning games and not enough on fun practices and individual player development.tttf

Practice Sessions

Our practices will be on [day of the week] from [start time] to [end time], at [location] park/school. You can find directions and addresses to fields here: [Field Information](#). Please make sure the players are not wearing jewelry at practice or games.

Items to bring each practice:

- Water
- Ball
- Shin guards/shoes/cleats
- Appropriate athletic wear

Game Days

The games will generally be on Saturday mornings or early afternoons, with potential make up dates being on Sunday's if a game gets cancelled. The season will run from [insert dates]. We will have off the major holiday weekends. The club will publish the schedule about 7 days before the first game.

Schedule link can be found here: [insert link to team specific schedule]

Items to bring each game:

- Water
- Ball
- Shin guards/shoes/cleats
- *Both red and blue jerseys - Home is red, Away is blue*

Parent Sideline Behavior

During games, parents and other spectators are encouraged to clap and shout non-specific encouraging words (e.g., “Go team!” or “Yea!”) when there is a break in play (e.g., before a kickoff, after a goal, during substitutions, and at the end of the game). Please do not criticize or shout coaching instructions at any players. Please also tell Gramps, Grammy, the parent who inevitably won’t read this message, et al, about this guideline before the game.

Concussions

USSF recently banned headers during practice sessions and games for players 10 and under. The likelihood of sustaining a head injury also can be limited by avoiding rough physical play and not horsing around in, around, or on goals, as well as by uninjured players who fall or get knocked down during play returning to their feet as quickly as possible. If you see your child bump her/his head or display any unusual behavior, please don’t hesitate to step in and alert the ref and/or coaches. We can and should stop a game or practice at any time to deal with any injury. More concussion information here: [ASA No Heading Information](#) | [CDC Concussion Symptoms](#)

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to myself at [\[coach contact info\]](#).

I look forward to a great season.

Thanks,

[\[coach name\]](#)

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