



Everton Florida

Recreational or Academy Soccer: Which to Choose?

By Tony Paris
Everton Florida CEO

It's that time of the year when many parents ask, "What is the difference between Recreational and Academy Soccer?"

It's fair to say that both programs play an important part of the makeup of youth soccer in the USA. Academy Soccer is for the more serious player who has aspirations of playing at the next level. If your child is that player, then it's vital that they join the Academy ASAP, as a year lost at this age can cost the player two down the road.

Recreational Soccer is more fun-based and in an unpressured scenario. However, this is not meant to detract from the benefits of this form of soccer. Rec Soccer is hugely popular just because it is fun. It is also a much cheaper way to play as registration fees are normally less than Academy and there are no training fees.

So, what's your choice?

My advice is as follows: If your child shows an aptitude for soccer along with a love for the beautiful game, and he or she wants to play soccer 24/7, then Academy is the way to go. If it's just a pastime for your child, then you might want to consider Recreational Soccer unless you see a change in their interest level.

I hope this will help you decide where your child will play. Both programs are vital and important to the health of the association. If you have further questions, please feel free to email me at tonyparisdac@aol.com.

The Rec vs. the Academy Experience

Recreational Soccer

- All players may play, no matter their skill level
- Players are set into teams by a blind draw with coaches having two free picks
- Playing time is mandated at a minimum of 50%
- Games are at Puryear Park with travel a rarity
- Opposition comes from other in-house teams
- Teams train once per week with a game on either Friday night or Saturday mornings
- Training sessions last one hour
- Coaches are selected from willing parents
- No standings or scores are kept; everyone's a winner
- Season duration November— February

Academy Soccer

- Player selection is invitation-only
- Teams train a minimum of twice per week
- All coaches are licensed and have soccer backgrounds
- There are no playing time mandates in place
- Training sessions are 90 minutes long
- Training is a mandate
- Players train with like-minded players
- There is a strong emphasis on technical skills
- Teams train using an age-specific curriculum
- Games are both home and away and on Saturdays
- Travel time is no longer than 45 minutes from home
- Higher-level competition than Recreational
- Players get 2 written evaluations from Academy coaches
- Players spend two years in the Academy in preparation for Club soccer at U-11
- Season duration November —March
- Academy-format tournaments

Tryouts!

U9-U13 Girls & U9-U12 Boys

6-7:30 pm Tuesday 5/31,
Wednesday, 6/1, & Friday 6/3.
Check-in begins @ 5:30 pm.

10-11:30 am Saturday, 6/4.
Check-in begins @ 9:30 am.

Rain date: Sunday, 6/5,
upon coaches request.

U14-U19 Girls & U13-U19 Boys

7:30-9 pm Tuesday, 5/31,
Wednesday, 6/1, & Friday, 6/3.
Check-in begins @ 7 pm.

Noon-1:30 Saturday, 6/4.
Check-in begins @ 11:30 am.

Rain date: Sunday, 6/5,
upon coaches request.



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competitive soccer
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Leadership Changes Are a Win for Everton

From the desk of
Tony Paris
Everton FL CEO



"I truly believe that if we all work together to make soccer an enjoyable experience, ... then nothing will stop us from reaching our goals."

I trust this communication finds you well and looking forward to "Tryout Time." I cannot believe yet another year has passed. I have now been with the Club/League for more than 11 years. During this time I have seen so many changes, some good and some not so good. Establishing continuity within youth sports is always a challenge, as having volunteers for most of your personnel makes for a lot of turnover. In my tenure I have had no less than eight presidents. Every single one of them had different ideals and ways of going about business. This makes it difficult for a Director of Coaching to be successful due to the shifting paths that he must follow. So when the board decided to restructure the club's leadership roles, I stepped forward to take the CEO position. I am confident that we will now go in one direction, following a path that will lead to success for the club for many years to come.

Since my appointment I have been around the fields quite a bit, and I have met many of you face to face, not only as a DOC but as a CEO. Such contact is vital for community relationships to develop and flourish. It has been helpful to hear first-hand people's perceptions and concerns about what they see and also their ideas about how we can improve as a soccer club. We are your neighborhood club and want to be of service to the children in our locale!

We are only at the start of our plans to improve the club's infrastructure and administration, as well as the physical appearance of our facility. We have in place a solid leadership team that I am sure you will appreciate and be able to work with. I truly believe that if we all work together to make soccer an enjoyable experience, not only for the children, but for volunteers and parents alike, then nothing will stop us from reaching our goals. We can give all our players an opportunity to excel no matter what their aspirations might be.

As part of our recent changes, we assessed our volunteer needs, then reorganized to lighten the load for each

person. We broke down each job into various smaller tasks. That, of course, means we need more helpers, but each volunteer will have less to do. To keep the club running smoothly, we must take care of many things, and we are always looking for extra hands. Please feel free to contact me should you have an interest in making a difference, even if you have only a little time to give. Anything can make a difference. I am hoping to create a feeling of tremendous ownership amongst our members, so no better place to start than with you offering some of your time to this good cause.

Soccer News

Now, on to the fun stuff. We are in good shape for next season thus far with the introduction of new qualified coaches, both male and female, to our ranks, who will help bring some fresh and exciting ideas to the program. Experiencing different coaching methodology/styles is crucial for our youths' development as soccer players. I ask that you not be frightened of change, as change can be very beneficial when the coach is of good quality.

Instead of a mandated third night for training for competitive teams, we will move back to two nights per week with the third night as an option for those teams or individuals that want more soccer. Of course, the teams that want the third night can be accommodated.

School of Excellence: SOE

For many years now I have felt that there was no bridge between Recreational Soccer and Academy/Club Soccer. Often this leap can be massive for a young aspiring player, who is not used to the demands associated with Academy life, which includes mandated training nights, stiffer competition and in some cases limited playing time, along with more expense for the parents. Our School of Excellence program will identify promising players ages 6-8 during the traditional Recreational season and offer about 14 training sessions to them at a

minimal cost. These will take place from January through March. The players will be supplied with SOE uniforms and will also be invited out to Academy training at the end of their season. In this way, the players will be better equipped to handle the demands of Academy training.

In the past the door has been open for anyone to join the Academy; however, in September this will change. For the 2011/2012 season, the Academy will accept players by invitation only. The Academy is the lifeblood of the club. We must ensure we create a solid feeder program for those that aspire to be the best soccer players they can be.

Parental Education

Parents often get caught up in the exciting moments of the game, and that's great. But playing the game for the players is a definite no! We will be focusing on helping parents understand what they should and should not be saying to their youngsters. We must allow the players to make mistakes and express themselves, as this is how they will learn. We cannot "get into it" with opponents, other parents and, above all, referees or their assistants. Many of the officials are young and feel intimidated by comments from the sideline. Do our game referees make mistakes? Of course, they do from time to time, but so do their peers at the very highest level. In my experience the calls normally even themselves out by the end of the game and certainly by season end, so please think before you berate a referee. Consider how you would feel if your son or daughter were taking such abuse. Perhaps studying the rules would help you look at the game objectively and make the experience all the more enjoyable. For the FIFA Laws please go to <http://tinyurl.com/65cl4mw>. And for video footage of the laws, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/6j3bhom>. I am sure you will find both websites informative.

On a final note, I do look forward to seeing you on the fields during tryout week.

Volunteers, fundraisers keep the club going

How many e-mails have you received over the past year reminding you about volunteering or fundraising for the club?

Our soccer club lives or dies, based on how much our families care to participate. If you aren't ready for a long-term commitment, please set aside a few hours each year to help out. We need help in the concession stand, lining fields, parking cars,

registering players, patrolling fields, and many other areas. None of these jobs are difficult, but they are crucial to keeping things running. You might even find that you enjoy working alongside other soccer parents (giving you more opportunity to brag about your kid.) E-mail raidersfields@yahoo.com to find out what you can do to help.

The spring fundraiser was very successful, as the players sold 75% of the water bottles available. The club is still tallying the final amount raised, but it estimates that the sales will add over \$1,000 to the funds that pay for the club's upkeep and improvements.

If you didn't get a water bottle, there are some for sale at the clubhouse for \$5 apiece.



The St. Pete Raiders U14 Girls, winners of the Kohl's Cup

Rec teams end fall season with GYSA wins

Several St. Pete Raiders teams found success in the GYSA Cup, the annual season-end Rec tournament held at Everton in February:

- U10 Boys teams NER-041 & NER-045 coached by James Perkins, Jesse Harrod and Brian Dorr won their brackets.
- Three of the four U14 teams reached the quarterfinals. The

girls team, coached by Jiri Novak, tried to give us back-to-back U14G titles but finished second with a 1-2 penalty kick decision in the final game. The team then added some players from Coach Danna Klemmer's team and went out the next weekend to the Kohl's Cup and won that event.

"I would like to thank all those that responded to my begging

and pleading for volunteers," said Recreational Coordinator Ray Chassereau. "Without those that stepped up to help me and our kids, we could not have done it. I sincerely thank all of those that helped in concession and on the fields on game day. And a special thanks to all our volunteer coaches, as without you we don't have teams for the kids to play on."

Rec News



Fall Rec Soccer

Fall Rec Registration begins June 1. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/3vdc9p9>.

Everyone's a winner in spring soccer

The nine-week 3v3 spring soccer season flew by, as 350 rec and competitive players participated in a series of fun, fast-paced games.

The players were grouped in teams of six. Matches were 3-on-3 on small fields with small nets and no goalkeepers. Each game consisted of two 12-minute halves with no timeouts, and each team played two games back-to-back. The format allowed the players a lot of touches on the ball and practice passing with precision and speed. Spring soccer has no practices and is designed to be low pressure compared to the more competitive fall season.

Spring soccer ended in May with the annual Ray Chassereau tournament in which each team played four 10-minute games. A fifth mini-game sorted out the standings in each age group.

In addition to the recreational & competitive players in spring soccer, about 50 children from the Academy faced off in 3v3 matches after their spring training sessions.

New director to take on Academy

Everton's Academy program has a new director, Greg Zak, who has 39 years of experience coaching youth soccer in Ohio and Tampa Bay.

Coach Zak holds the USSF "B" License, the second-highest coaching license offered by the US Soccer Federation. He has also been a frequent visitor to the UK, working alongside top youth academy coaches. He has coached teams to numerous

tournament, state and regional titles, and many of his players have gone on to play at the college and professional level. He himself played soccer with club, high school, college and men's league teams.

At other clubs, Zak has worked as director of coaching, CEO, publicity chairman, marketing director and camp director. He is the proud parent of two accomplished soccer players.

"Coach Zak's years of playing, coaching and administration experience will be a welcome addition to our club," said Everton Florida's CEO Tony Paris.

In addition to his Academy duties, Zak will handle fundraising and be the general manager for Everton.

Read more about Coach Zak at <http://tinyurl.com/Suabble>.

The **Everton Pinellas US9 Boys** competed in the Disney President's Day Soccer Festival February 26-28 and took home second place in the silver division after losing the championship game in a penalty shootout. The team also provided two players to the Everton Pasco team that took home second place in the gold division of the tournament.



The **Everton Pinellas US9 Girls** had a very successful year winning all but one game during the regular season. They also did very well in their tournaments. In the Everton Fall Challenge in September 2010, they were finalists. In the Braden River Halloween Havoc in October 2010, they were the champions. In the Kelme Cup in Naples, Fla., in January 2011, they were finalists. They were ranked fifth in the state of Florida and 13th in the nation at the end of the regular season by the Soccer in College ranking service.

The **Everton Pinellas U10 Boys** competed in the Nike Champions Cup tournament May 14-15 in Apopka. The boys played four games against some of the top teams in the state and came away with second place in the gold division. In October, they won the Braden River Halloween Havoc tournament.





The **Everton Pinellas U15 Boys** divided into two teams, then proceeded to take first and second places in the 3v3 Live Soccer Tournament in St. Petersburg in May. They head to the 3v3 Live Regional Championship in July.

Six players from the **Everton U12 Boys** team competed in the 3v3 Live Soccer Tournament in St. Petersburg in May and won first place. The win qualified the boys to play in the 3v3 Live Regional Championship tournament in July.



Tips for tryouts

- Be prepared. Show up in good physical condition, well rested and with a positive attitude.
- Bring your ball and water/ sports drink.
- Wear your shin guards and comfortable cleats.
- Have a light nutritious snack about two hours before the tryout.
- Be on time. Get to the field with plenty of time to park, walk to the field, sign in and warm up. It's disrespectful to be late, and it adds stress. You need to focus your energy on your game.
- Warm up before the tryout.
- Be respectful, listen to your coach and follow instructions. Make eye contact. Don't complain.
- Do everything to the best of your ability.
- HAVE FUN!

The **Everton Pinellas U18/U19 Boys** finished the season second in their division. The team competed in the Region C Cup and made it to the semifinals (final four) in Davenport but lost to the team that went on to State Cup. They were invited to participate in the Bazooka Showcase in Orlando in February, where they received exposure to college coaches. (Everton wishes the best of luck to our graduating seniors!)

The **Everton Pinellas U14 Boys** placed second at Disney's President's Day Soccer Festival in February. The boys faced tough opponents in this very competitive tournament. They won the semifinal 3-0 vs Plant City but lost 1-2 vs Florida Rush in the final.

The **Everton Pinellas U11 Girls** were semifinalists in the RSL Junior Showcase 2011 in Tampa April 30-May 1.



EVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB WELCOMES BOTH OLD AND NEW TO TRYOUTS 2011

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the competitive arm of our Association and compliment you on your choice of club for your child, as all soccer clubs are not created equal. Our program spans U9s through U18s and offers soccer for both boys and girls. We boast a strong cast of coaches who strive to ensure success with vision and dedication. Our club coaches are licensed, with two of them holding the UEFA "A" License, which is the world's highest designation. Many of them also have backgrounds as professional soccer players and coaches.

Our philosophy is to develop the player to their highest potential, using tried and true training methods, thus preparing them for the next level. A great emphasis is put on the technical aspect of the game within the younger age groups. This will ensure that players do not get left behind as they progress. Tactical awareness is something that comes into play around 12 or 13 years of age. Basic tactics are instilled in our players for positional play. We constantly strive toward excellence in all areas of the child's development.

Our coaches and trainers are constantly evaluating your child. Recommendations are given to players on what areas they need to improve. Clinics and camps are always on offer to help in these areas. There are two written player evaluations per year. Coaches will normally meet with the player and parent and go over the critique, giving the player a better understanding of where they stand and need to improve.

Advice on college application and protocol is available all parents and players. A strong emphasis is placed on academics, as a combination of academics and soccer will give players the best chance of success at their college of choice. A college presentation evening is held for our older players annually, giving much guidance on the road to college.

Our tryout protocol is that if your child is selected, you will be asked to sign a letter of intent. This guarantees your child's spot on the team roster for season 2011-12. Along with the signed letter we require a non-refundable reservation fee of \$150. There will be a team meeting shortly after tryouts to acquaint you with the ways of our club. On a final note, I wish you good luck in your pursuits and hope you are successful in joining Everton Florida.

Sincerely,
Tony Paris
Executive Director of Coaching

Registration open for summer indoors soccer

This summer, players U6 through U16 can keep their skills sharp and beat the heat by playing soccer indoors.

Everton Florida and the St. Pete Raiders Soccer Club will offer indoors soccer with walls for U6, U8 and U10 players at After School Kicks. The first six-game session will run from June 10 through July 16, with July 4th weekend off, and the second session will be July 22 through August 20.

U8 and U10 games should be held mostly on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons; however, depending on scheduling, some games might be played on Sun-

days or other weeknights. The U6 age group will play at noon or 1 p.m. on Saturdays, based on facility availability.

U12 and older players may register for the club's new Futsal program, which will be at Roberts Youth Center. Futsal is played indoors but with lines instead of walls. The game emphasizes improvisation, creativity, technique, ball control and passing in small spaces. Futsal games will be on Thursdays and Fridays. First session is June 9 through July 8. The second is July 14 through August 12.

Space is limited in the summer programs, so early registration is encouraged. Teams will be co-ed,

and requests to play with friends will be honored where possible.

Cost for each five-game session is \$65 per player. (For U6, it's \$55.) Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/42xje2t> or in person from 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 27, at After School Kicks.

After School Kicks is located at 1804 62nd Ave N, and Roberts Youth Center is located at 1246 50th Ave N.

Read more about the summer indoors program at <http://tinyurl.com/4xxcnfg>. If you have additional questions, email Ray Chassereau at st.peteraiders@yahoo.com.



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More summer soccer ...

Can't fit the Everton/St Pete Raiders indoors camp into your schedule? Here are some other options.

Florida Premier Soccer will host a weeklong morning camp at Puryear Park June 20-24. This camp is sanctioned by Everton Florida.

See <http://tinyurl.com/3e6wakh> for details.

USL Major Beach Soccer will hold beach soccer tournaments in June, July and August. The July tourney is in Clearwater.

See <http://tinyurl.com/4x6xrje>.

Upcoming Events

May 29: Annual General Meeting, 1-2 p.m. All members are invited to come and vote for our Board of Directors for the 2011-12 year. On the ballot: Recreational Coordinator, Ray Chassereau; Ways and Means, Mike Winsor; Secretary, Karen Haraminac; Competitive Coordinator, Abby Rudderham; Treasurer, open; Registrar, open.

May 31-June 4: Academy and Club Tryouts

June 1: Registration opens for Fall Rec Soccer

June 9- July 8: First session, Futsal soccer for U12 & older at Roberts Youth Center

June 10-July 16: First session, U6, U8 & U10 indoor soccer at After School Kicks

July 14-August 12: Second session, Futsal soccer for U12 & older at Roberts Youth Center

July 22-August 20: Second session, U6, U8 & U10 indoor soccer at After School Kicks