



**FOSTERING EXCELLENCE THROUGH  
SOCCER**

**Player/Parent Handbook  
2024-2025**

**Ocala Premier Soccer**  
is a program of  
**Big Sun Youth Soccer League**  
2811 SE 36th Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

**[www.bigsunsoccer.com](http://www.bigsunsoccer.com)**

## **BSYSL/Ocala Premier Board Members**

### **Executive Board President**

Dana Parker

### **Executive Board Vice**

### **President Field Director**

Josh Scroggie

### **Executive Board Secretary**

### **Uniform Coordinator**

Scott Griffin

### **Recreational Board President**

Cherish Cavalla-McNamara

### **Competitive Board President**

Jay Fratello

[jay.fratello@wfafinet.com](mailto:jay.fratello@wfafinet.com)

### **Competitive Director of Coaching**

Peter Smith

[doc.ocalapremier@gmail.com](mailto:doc.ocalapremier@gmail.com)

### **Technical Director**

Owen McCarthy

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### **Treasurer**

Pauline Finlay

[bigsuntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bigsuntreasurer@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Alora Yancey

[brooke.yancey13@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.yancey13@gmail.com)

### **Registrar**

Kelly Ruiz

[registrar@bigsunsoccer.com](mailto:registrar@bigsunsoccer.com)

### **At-Large Members**

Andres Leon

Courtney

Karlie Giles

Loni Rahn

Courtney Bruno

### **Point of Contact (Games & Referees)**

Scott Griffin

## **Big Sun/Ocala Premier Goal:**

To Foster Excellence Through Soccer

## **Big Sun/Ocala Premier Vision:**

To positively impact a Culture of Excellence through soccer locally and around the world.

## **OPS Club Commitment:**

Ocala Premier recognizes that every player who walks onto the pitch aspires to take their game to the next level. Our commitment to those families and players is to provide quality training, promote teamwork, model sportsmanship, through perseverance and personal accountability. We pledge to be transparent with communication and will do so with integrity and excellence.

## **Ocala Premier Player Commitment:**

- Duration is for one competitive season which typically runs from August until May
- Tryouts for each upcoming season will take place late spring
- Once a position is offered and accepted, a player will remain with the team for the duration of the season\*\*
- If a player chooses to play a second sport, it is expected that the commitment to BSYSL/Ocala Premier takes precedence over the secondary commitment; however, arrangements with individual players can be made on a case by case basis.
- Ocala Premier Soccer Club Coaches and Technical Director will conduct ongoing informal evaluation of player performance; feedback will be provided and players will be expected to work on continued mastery of all skills

**\*\*As a club we are moving forward with a philosophy of sharing players- not only amongst our club teams, but, in the future with other clubs.**

## **Ocala Premier Parent/Guardian Commitment:**

Parents/Guardians/Families are integral to the success of their player and, in turn, their player's teammates. Ensuring that the player expectations outlined above are met is crucial. We understand that there may be circumstances beyond control such as school functions or illness that may prohibit meeting the expectations. In those instances parents/guardians are asked to communicate directly with the team manager and/or the coach. In the event that issues or concerns arise, parents can seek support by contacting the Team Manager, Coach, Technical Trainer, Director of Coaching, or a Board Member. Please understand that communication is the key to success- we cannot help if we do not know there is an issue.

Parents/Guardians and family members are reminded that Ocala Premier strives to promote fair play, good sportsmanship, and strength of character. The game belongs to the players on the field, the adults set the examples off. We expect that families adhere to the following:

- Let the Coaches coach
- Make only positive comments from the sideline
- Respect the referee's decision(s)
- Show good sportsmanship
- Enjoy cheering for your child and team

## **Building Our Community**

Community is defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. As we embark on our mission of fostering excellence through soccer it is important to emphasize that all of us- board members, families, players- must commit to working together to cultivate a successful soccer community.

Ocala Premier survives on community and family support both on and off the field. Each family is required to volunteer at Big Sun for 5 hours per season (fall and spring). This may include, but is not limited to, participating on committees, serving on the board, working in the concession stand, participating in Big Sun clean-up days, or in Big Sun set up days. We are all members of our Big Sun/Ocala Premier soccer community and are vital to its success. For those unable to volunteer in person, families will have the option of providing a financial contribution. To opt out the fee is \$100 per hour. You will be invoiced at the end of the season. You will not be able to register or play the next season until the debt is paid.

In addition to volunteering, Ocala Premier will conduct various fundraising events throughout the year. The monies raised will be used to enhance and maximize opportunities for our players.

Community outreach for families (adults and players) is also encouraged. Outreach opportunities are available within the Big Sun Youth Soccer League organization. This includes, but is not limited to, coaching a traditional rec team (assisting or training), helping with Sun Lights (Special Needs soccer program), or SuperStarters (3 year-5 year old soccer program).

## **Player Fees for 2024-25 (Based on playing group)**

### **2007-2011**

Full Year: \$1150 due upon registration on [gotsoccer.com](http://gotsoccer.com)  
Uniform Fee: ~\$175 purchased directly from [soccer.com](http://soccer.com)

### **2012-2013**

Full Year: \$1050 due upon registration on [gotsoccer.com](http://gotsoccer.com)  
Uniform Fee: ~\$175 purchased directly from [soccer.com](http://soccer.com)

### **2014-2018**

Full Year: \$950 due upon registration on [gotsoccer.com](http://gotsoccer.com)  
Uniform Fee: ~\$175 purchased directly from [soccer.com](http://soccer.com)

**Practice Player:** \$450 + practice jersey kit \$60 purchased directly from [soccer.com](http://soccer.com)

Ocala Premier is a non-profit organization, and we strive to make competitive soccer affordable for all. Fees include FYSA affiliation, club management software, field and equipment maintenance, facilities, training/coaching, games, referees. Fees do not include uniforms, cleats, shin guards or tournament play. All board members and team managers are volunteers.

Upon acceptance of your offer, a \$50 deposit will be charged. Payment plans are available. If you need financial assistance, please reach out to [registrar@bigunsoccer.com](mailto:registrar@bigunsoccer.com). Assistance is limited and needs based.

## **Ocala Premier Team Training:**

- Attendance is required by all players for all training sessions; *players should arrive 15 minutes prior to start time*
- Players \*earn\* playing time by participating in all sessions; failure to attend required training sessions may result in limited playing time. *(Per GCF rule, each player U12 or younger will play a minimum of 50% of total playing time so long as the player has attended 75% or practice sessions; U13 and older are not bound by this rule)*
- Communication regarding training sessions will be provided by the Team Manager; responses to communication is required to ensure information is being received
- Per FYSA, all players must wear shin guards for all training sessions
- 2 days per week of team practice (2 hours total; 30 mins with OPS Technical Trainer and 90 mins of practice)
- 1 day of strength and endurance training
- If a player is injured it is expected that they attend practice and games to support their teammates

## Ocala Premier Competitive Season Games

- Once published, each player/family will receive a game schedule
- Communication regarding games will be provided by the Team Manager via Teamsnap; responses to communication is required to ensure information is being received
- Game attendance is MANDATORY. If a player cannot attend, they must communicate with the coach and/or team manager.
- All players are expected to arrive ONE HOUR prior to kick-off (15 minutes to dress/prepare for warm-ups: 45 minute warm-up)
- Players are expected to bring both uniforms, extra socks, (Grey and Blue), cleats, shin guards (mandatory), and water
- Reminder: Players may not wear necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc...

## Ocala Premier Tournaments

- Each team will compete in a minimum of one Fall Tournament (i.e. Lakewood Ranch)
- Each team will compete in the FYSA State Cup Series OR another January or February tournament
- Individual teams may opt for additional tournaments

## Uniform

Ocala Premier has teamed up with Soccer.com to outfit your player with gear. Once an offer is made you will receive an email from Soccer.com to order your kit.

## Rules of Play

Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) rules can be found at [www.fysa.com](http://www.fysa.com).  
Greater Central Florida League (GCF) rules can be found at [www.gcfsoccer.com](http://www.gcfsoccer.com).  
Florida State Premier League (FSPL) rules can be found at [www.fysa.com](http://www.fysa.com).  
Tournament rules can be found at each tournament website.

## Code of Conduct

During this season you will be able to see your child experience some of the most memorable and tense situations this beautiful sport of Soccer can deliver. Speaking from experience, you will not be prepared for what you will see at the end of the season, humbling and rewarding are only a couple of the emotions that will run through your mind as the season progresses on. Our team's goal is not only to build a fundamentally sound and competitive team, but we also strive to demonstrate leading by example, doing the right thing even when nobody's looking, how to face tough challenges, and rising to the occasion to overcome those times. We will do our best to demonstrate these values and hold your child accountable for their own actions, but we also expect the same from the parents.

Please understand that we only have a limited time with your child, and we expect you to help them grow as well. Not just with Soccer but by being conscientious, respectable, honorable, and demonstrating high morals.

Parents are easily overcome with emotions as they watch their kids play in highly competitive situations. As the game evolves, gets tougher, faster, and more competitive, so will the emotions attached to the game. At that same time a coach's mind is going a thousand miles an hour and making sure each decision is what is best not only for the team, but for the individual player as well. It is not easy being a coach or a parent but the key takeaway from this is that our coaches need a clear mind to do their job, and so does your child.

Pressure from the sideline is the best way to ensure your child and other players **do not** do well, by putting extra stress, and conflicting messages to the players. Your presence is enough for your child to know his parents are there, and are supportive of his efforts. The parents' job is certainly not easy either, so together we need to work as a team so we can promote the right vision on the field while building a strong foundation for their future. We want to make sure we are representing our Club and team to the best of our abilities.

Relationships and reputations are important to our organization and it starts with all of us, players, parents, and coaches. Good parent chemistry on and off the field is a pivotal part of a positive team environment in order for the team to grow, compete and thrive.

Below is our Code of Conduct that we ask you to read in great detail.

## Parent Code of Conduct

1. As a parent, I will not speak anything negative about the team, coaching staff, program, club or most *importantly* any of our players or their family.
2. As a parent, I will NOT coach any of the players from the sidelines (especially during games).
3. As a parent, I will not argue with referees' decisions as unjust as they may seem. (That is the coach's responsibility if he feels it is necessary).
4. As a parent, I will not challenge any tactical coach's decisions to put players in positions he feels are better for the Team and/or the player's development.
5. As a parent, I will not approach the coach with "issues" immediately following a game. Any concern you could have needs to come their way 24 hours after the game.
6. As a parent, I will not interfere and/or interact with my child or any other players during practice time.
7. As a parent, I will make sure my child is available to come to all practices and games.
8. As a parent, I will positively encourage my child and other players from our Team to help them develop and grow in the sport in a positive atmosphere.

## What you should expect from the coaching staff

1. We will not use profanity to coach your child.
2. We will put your child's development in the sport as a priority. Winning games will take second place over our players having a strong foundation in Soccer.
3. We will play your child in the best position we think represents his current talent level and what's best for the team.
3. We will encourage your child to develop by means of intense practices, technical and tactical development, physical conditioning, and Soccer challenges.
4. We will support and encourage your child when times are challenging and encourage them to rise during the hard times. (Winners never lose they learn from defeat and use it as a learning and growing experience)
5. We will let your child know that they have a purpose and are an important part of our team.
6. We will do our best to ensure that our players stay inspired and want to play Soccer in order to reach their highest potential.
7. We will work with them with a Winners mentality and instill in them values that will not only benefit them in the sport but most importantly in life.

Within our programs our goal is to ensure your child has a memorable and successful experience playing Soccer at a highly competitive level. We will work to create a strong foundation in our players. What's best for the team is determined by the head coach, so it is imperative that the relationship between the players, coaches, and families is built on a solid foundation.

By signing this document, you agree to the above terms on how our Ocala Premier Teams are managed.  
Parent Acknowledgement for Parent Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent first and last name / Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's first and last name / Signature



## Player Code of Conduct

As a member of Ocala Premier Soccer, I have made a commitment to myself, my teammates, my coaches, my parents, and my club to represent them in a positive fashion at all times.

### ***I shall***

1. Train and play with passion to the best of my abilities.
2. Have a positive attitude and never quit.
3. Show great respect for my coach, teammates, parents, and opponents.
4. Respect the referees and accept their decisions even if it may feel unjust.
5. Keep a positive and supportive environment towards ALL of my teammates.
6. Arrive prepared for all my games and training sessions.
7. Notify my coach of any injuries and/or discomforts.
8. Learn to obey and respect the laws of the game, the team, and the club.
9. Notify my coach if I will be tardy and or unable to attend practice, games, or any other team activity.
10. Always keep a good encouraging attitude towards my teammates as it helps us grow stronger in the sport.

### ***I will not***

1. Allow my passion and enthusiasm for Soccer to override my responsibilities to my education, family, and community.
2. Use profane and/or vulgar language towards anyone; teammates, coaches, parents, referees, and opponents.
3. Forget that I represent our team and our club on and off the field.
4. Put down, make fun of any teammate and/or opponent during games or practices.

By signing this document, I agree to the above terms

Parent acknowledgement, and explanation for Player Code of Conduct

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Parent first and last name / Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Player's first and last name / Signature