



2023 – 2024 Season

**PLAYER & PARENT
HANDBOOK**

www.fclakecounty.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

F.C. Lake County (FCLC) is a soccer club with a rich history of developing kids of all ages to play the game of soccer. The club originated by combining the Warren United and Grayslake Galaxy soccer clubs in 2014. Both the Warren and Grayslake organizations successfully provided soccer development to local area players for many years. FCLC has grown into one of the largest soccer clubs in the northern suburbs of Lake County, Illinois and provides a broad base of soccer development opportunities and competitive levels for our kids.

The organization is built around a philosophy that matches player's skills with effective soccer development at the appropriate competitive level.

We employ highly qualified full time Directors and licensed coaching staff to ensure that the soccer development goals we set for our kids are carried out each and every time they are on the field.

We welcome all local children that are interested in competitive soccer to give us a try. Contact one of our Directors if you are interested in a work out with one of the FCLC teams.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FCLC (the "Club") is to provide age and skill appropriate instruction to all soccer players through a tiered curriculum that addresses a variety of learning styles presented by highly qualified trainers to advance both technical and tactical skills.

FCLC will help players develop a passion for soccer while cultivating positive relationships between players, trainers, and the greater soccer community.

PHILOSOPHIES

CLUB

- Believe in a learning environment, where players are the first priority.
- Believe in the necessity for a structured age and ability specific development plan for each team and player within our club.
- Believe training philosophies and methodologies are designed to help each and every player reach a level beyond their own expectations.
- Believe soccer education must be fostered in a FUN and CHALLENGING environment!
- Believe in building mutual respect across players, trainers, referees, and parents.

PLAYERS

When children play soccer, we recognize they are primarily interested in four components:

- Action
- Personal involvement within Action
- Close scores and competitive opportunities
- Opportunities to reaffirm their relationships with friends.

Through our “Reality Based” training methods, our goal is to develop creative, free-thinking players, who have an understanding of the game to recognize when, where, why and how to take each action and have the technical ability (and confidence) to execute these actions.

To this end, training sessions will be designed around the NEW 2020 “Six Key Qualities of a US Youth National Team Player”: Optimal Technical, Game Understanding & Decision Making, Initiative, Focus, Optimal Physical, Responsible (On & Off field).

TEAMS

Teams are categorized into packages by using levels of play: **ECNL-RL**, **Elite** and **Select**

You can find the exact breakdown of each package in our club website's "**Programs**" page.

ALL players are REQUIRED to participate in all seasons in which the team will be competing.

Any player who wishes NOT to participate in a season (for any reason other than injury), must request approval in advance from the Club's Technical Director and Executive Board.

Parents and players should understand that a request of this nature will require the player to still pay the full amount for the 2023 - 24 season and to possibly be moved to a lower competitive level team because of any prolonged absence.

COACHING STAFF

All FCLC teams are led by our professional coaching staff, licensed through US Soccer.

Each staff coach is managed by one of our two Age group Directors **Matt Bohmann** (2018 to 2012) & **Steve Mason** (2011 to 2005). Each coach works with their age group Director to provide continual player/team evaluations and game day performance updates.

Our club's Technical Director (Jamie Martin) oversees the age group Directors and coaching staff as a body of coaches.

All coaches must complete a US Soccer sanctioned Background checks, hold valid Heads Up concussion and SafeSport Training courses, as well as commit to furthering their education. (Biographies of each trainer can be found on our website under the "**Coaching Staff**" menu within the "**About Us**" page).

CURRICULUM

FCLC believes that players should receive training and playing time in more than one position during their development of both individual skills and knowledge of strategies. This will help to ensure that each player becomes more versatile and better prepared to compliment the needs of the team and have a longer standing appreciation for the game as a whole. (Teams with versatile players are capable of remaining competitive in spite of unavoidable injuries, illnesses, and absences as they occur during the season).

FCLC proudly boasts FIVE age specific curriculums:

- U6 to U8 Academy (2016 to 2018)
- U9 & U10 (2014 & 2015)
- U11 & U12 (2012 & 2013)
- U13 to U15 (2011 to 2009)
- U16 to U19 (2008 to 2005)

Each curriculum offers a comprehensive overview of training topics, learning outcomes and tactical setups within the **“Six Key Qualities of a Player”** framework. Each season, our coaching staff and Directors review the training and game day performance of each age group to help create a seasonal development plan from which all practice themes are mapped out.

All ECNL-RL, Elite & High school teams will train THREE times per week within each outdoor season and Select teams will be offered a third training session per week in the fall and spring for an additional fee. These sessions will be run by our partner P2 Soccer.

The objectives within these sessions are to enhance each player's technical capabilities and tactical decision making, by surrounding themselves with players from different age levels and varying skill sets.

Specialized goalkeeping training will be offered through our partner [“Drive Goalkeeping”](#) to players once a week during the fall and spring seasons. The primary focus will be on areas such as: handling, shot stopping, diving, positioning, distribution and organization.

The goalkeeping training dates and times are posted on the Club website under “Programs” - “Drive Goalkeeping”.

PLAYING TIME

A primary goal of FCLC is to prepare each player to the best of their ability to contribute significantly towards a team role. A key step in meeting this goal is to give every player a chance to play in the game day environment.

For all age groups, differences in playing time are determined by relative player commitment, work ethic/attitude, and skill. Players at the youngest age groups may expect more equal playing time to focus on building a foundation, while playing time for the older age groups will be geared more closely to player ability, team and opposition tactics, attendance at practices and the score-line.

PLAYER FEE BREAKDOWN

When an offer is accepted, a financial commitment to the club must accompany the offer response at the time of the acceptance. An offer is not considered to be fully accepted until the financial commitment has been made.

Age Group/Team Package Overview

U8 Academy Team - \$850.00

U9 (Select) - \$1,225.00

U10 to U15 (Select) Year Round - \$1,625.00

U12 to U15 (Elite) Year Round - \$1,875.00

U15 (High School) to U19 (Select) - \$1,300.00.

U15 (High School) to U19 (Elite) - \$1,475.00

****Players 2010 and above who participate within the ECNL-RL program will pay for the uniform and additional expenses to Crystal Lake Force**

Pay the annual club fee in full.

1. Commit to a club payment plan.
2. Submit a financial aid application (see below) and commit to a club payment plan.

Please note that payments received after the above stated dates may be subject to late fees.

A sibling discount for families with three or more players in the club is available and will be refunded after your last payment is made. Please contact our Club Treasurers for more information.

A more complete overview of our [Payment Policy](#) can be found on our website.

TEAM MANAGERS

Each team will have an assigned “volunteer” Team Manager (“T.M”) to support the team's coach. The T.M's role is an administrative only position to help manage game schedules and communicate any logistical information (i.e. tournament play, field directions, player availability etc.).

All our T.M's undergo a background check along with all Safe Sport Training Modules and should promote the clubs philosophies, teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play, and communicate effectively with parents, players, trainers, and the club.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts are held each year to determine the teams for the subsequent soccer season.

A travel soccer seasons within our program runs:

- Fall – 13 Weeks (11 weeks for U8)
- Winter – 10 Weeks (13 weeks for Elite teams)
- Spring – 10 Weeks.

FCLC training staff determine player selection based on a set tryout rationale/methodology, in conjunction with a specific age/ability rating system.

Consideration will be given to various factors in evaluating player abilities, including existing player's performance/progression, commitment, attitude and attendance during the most recent season along with performance at tryouts.

We host TWO open tryout dates where all players in an age group tryout at the same time and place, and may also invite new players to attend an additional tryout with a specific team the following week. (This allows us to assess a players ability in a smaller group setting with players which may be a similar ability level, prior to making a final decision)

Tryouts and player selection are run by the clubs professional training staff and overseen by the club's age group Technical Director & Age group Directors Of Coaching.

COMMITMENT

A youth player and respective family is committed to FC Lake County for the entire soccer-playing year (August 1 through July 31) from the time the Club receives a player's acceptance of a roster space as outlined upon the completion of the players registration. Notwithstanding the previous information, it is every player's right to be released from the Club at any time except where the player owes debts and/or dues to the Club and/or has equipment belonging to the Club.

In order for a player to be released with regards to the aforementioned scenarios, a player must have paid to the Club the entire amount of dues/debts for the current soccer-playing year as outlined prior to the player's roster acceptance, as well as return to the Club any equipment that they may be using. All fees must be paid before initiating the release of the player and their associated player pass.

The only exceptions to the above are:

- (a) Where a player is injured at an FCLC sponsored game or training session that causes the player to miss 75% or more of the training sessions and games for the remainder of that season (Fall, Winter or Spring), or
- (b) Where a player's home address has changed, and is at least **40** miles further from the Club's primary practice location and home game field, or
- (c) When the club has made the decision that the player's team will not play.

All refund requests should be made in writing to the Club President, Treasurer, and Technical Directors.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

FCLC stands for creative, competitive soccer and good sportsmanship. Your behavior during a training session, in victory or defeat in a game will be "sporting" and dignified.

- You represent FCLC first and foremost and your team second.
- Your language toward referees and officials will always be respectful. You will also recognize that the referee is the sole and final authority on the field.
- You will strive to be a team player and must be willing to contribute where the team needs your talent and skill.
- You will work hard and strive to improve your technical skills and athletic ability.

- Any fees associated with players receiving yellow or red cards will be passed onto the family for payment.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

- You represent FCLC during a training session and at each game, and you will respect and abide by the decisions and requests of the coach, trainer and referee.
- You will not coach your child or any other child during a training session or in any game situations.
- You will not address the referee or linesman, before, during or after the game.
- While at training sessions or during a game, your comments will be positive and encouraging. You will not publicly criticize trainers, coaches or players, even if the player is your child.
- If you have concerns about training, coaching tactics, or ethics, take the concerns up with your coach. Schedule a conference with the coach, giving yourself at least 24-hours to think about your concerns. If the coach and you cannot resolve the differences, follow the grievance procedure.
- Any fees associated with parents receiving yellow or red cards will be passed onto the individual family or team for payment.

IMPORTANT DATES

Many of our teams play in tournaments at various stages of the season, including many holiday weekends such as Labor Day, Memorial Day and Columbus Day.

At the start of each season, your team coach will send you the specific tournaments your team has been assigned so that you can plan accordingly. Please check with your Team Manager (T.M) throughout the year regarding upcoming events/tournaments, as well as changes to the team's training schedule and game days.

For the fall season, training begins the week of August 8 and runs until the week of November 6. Teams play an 8-game fall league schedule (6 to 8 games in State Premiership) and usually participate in one or two tournaments depending on your package.

Winter indoor training and game play runs from January through mid-March.

Our U8 to U12 Select teams will participate in our **"Winter Development League"**. For the 2023-24 season, players will be grouped by age and ability level to create balanced teams using players from each team for the first 5-week session.

Groups will be assigned a team name (still using our regular club uniforms) and will play in a FIVE week mini-season (50 min games) the normal 7v7 format. A league table will be kept with a league winner announced at the end of the season. During the second 5-week session, players will move back onto their normal teams and play against teams at a similar age and ability level. (This will help them prepare as a team for the spring outdoor season)

U9 to U15 Select & Elite level teams will have the “option” of entering an “additional” league at the Canlan/Libertyville Sports Complex. (Similar to a second tournament in the fall or spring, a team’s entry and coaching fees must be paid for by the parents. (A team must have a min. of 10 rostered players and entry must be approved by the age group & Technical Directors prior to registration)

Please note: There are at times exceptions to the typical indoor schedule based on the skill level of the team and the best interest of the players.

Spring training begins in April and the 8-game league play (6 to 8 game State Premiership) begins in Early-April through mid-June. Teams will participate in one or two tournaments during the spring session depending on their package.

U12 & above Elite teams participate in the Illinois Jr Cup, Presidents Cup or State Cup competitions. Teams who win their age group final, go onto play at Regionals in June. (The competition culminates at a National event for all U13 to U18 age groups)

Fall and spring season games can be played on either a Saturday or Sunday but may also be played any day of the week if they are rescheduled. Team managers will actively work with both the trainer and parents to try and avoid as many conflicts as possible.

COMMUNICATION

Our primary method of communication for all club matters is via our online notification system "Team App".

All parents, guardians of players who need to know info on inclement weather affecting practices or games, changes of practice locations or games, and/or various club matters should be registered in the system. (Real time updates are generated via text and emails).

Regular emails are sent out from time to time depending on the nature of the subject matter and specific documents that may need to be attached.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding your child, the team, coaching staff or club programming,, please use the following lines of communications:

Individual Player & Teams Questions:

1. Head coach
2. Age Group Director of Coaching
3. Technical Director

Coaching Staff or Club Programming

1. Age Group Director of Coaching
2. Technical Director
3. Club President

FC Lake County volunteers are as follows:

- President – Richie Armour – president@fclakecounty.com
- Treasurer – Dan Sackman – treasurer@fclakecounty.com
- Club Administrator – Jen Peyrot – adminclub@fclakecounty.com
- Boys Administrator – Rob Erickson – adminboys@fclakecounty.com
- Girls Administrator – Anne Sopiars – admingirls@fclakecounty.com
- Technical Director – Jamie Martin – jmartin@fclakecounty.com
- Director of Coaching (2018 to 2012) – Mat Bohmann – mbohmann@fclakcounty.com
- Director of Coaching (2011 to 2015) – Steve Mason – smason@fclakecounty.com
- Scheduling - Rachel Goodale – scheduler@fclakecounty.com
- A/R Assigner – Christina Hopkins – assignor@fclakecounty.com
- Referee Assignor – Carrie Schinkowsky – csocref2@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERING

FC Lake County is a 501(c)3 organization that relies on volunteers to fill a number of roles on teams or for the club. The following are the volunteer positions available within the Club:

Club Board Member Positions:

- President
- Treasurer
- Club Administrator
- Girls Administrator
- Boys Administrator

Coordinator Positions

- Fundraising & Social Event
- Promotion / Marketing
- Assistant Referee Assignor
- Parent Committee

Field Operations / Crew / Equipment

- Woodland and Grayslake fields

Team Positions

- Team Manager: Team Communications and scheduling (with Technical Director & age group Director of Coaching approval)

Please contact any FCLC Board member if you are interested in a volunteer position with the club. (Contact details can be found on our club website under the "Contact Us" menu.

FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP

FCLC has various fundraising efforts throughout the year. The club is currently attempting to obtain sponsorships to keep player fees from increasing. We are looking for volunteers to help spearhead this effort with creative ideas (i.e. golf outings, 3 v 3 tournaments, end of season team parties, etc.). Please contact a Board member or our Technical Director if you are interested.

CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET

FC LAKE COUNTY

PO Box 523
Grayslake, IL 60030
www.fclakecounty.com

I.Y.S.A. (Illinois Youth Soccer Association)

1655 S. Arlington Heights Rd. Suite 201
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-290-1577 / <http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org>

Y.S.S.L. (Youth Sportsmen's Soccer League)

PO Box 724
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0724
(847) 818-1440 / info@yssl.org / www.yssl.org

I.W.S.L. (Illinois Women's Soccer League)

PO Box 68907
Schaumburg, IL 60168
847-985-4975 / office@iwsll.com / www.iwsll.com

European Sports (Uniform Vendor)

830a E. Golf Road Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-490-9000 / customerservice@europeansports.com
europeansports.com/soccer_clubs/fclake

American Outfitters (Spiritwear Vendor)

3700 Sunset Ave, Gurnee, IL.

Artrageous Apparel (Spiritwear Vendor)

1860 N Illinois 83 #123, Grayslake, IL 60030