



## **PDA-Florida Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **How was the first year of being PDA, what is the relationship and what are some benefits?**

We found in PDA a club that believes in the same ideals and has the same mission statement in regards to players' development and already has been through the challenges faced as a landscape changing entity. As we have become even more engaged with the PDA staff and coaches in travels by both groups between New Jersey and Florida, we have found ourselves in perfect alignment in regards to the important aspects of the game. We also found that PDA had been through all of the club growth processes and will provide invaluable experience and guidance as we seek to attain the same goals for players in the area. PDA (NJ) has invested directly into our players, coaches and staff and been very instrumental in growing the game already in the North/Central Florida area.

Contributions include:

- Teams coming to Florida and conducting festival events and training camps in which PDA Florida players/teams train & play against PDA NJ teams.
- Players from Florida traveling to New Jersey to train and even play with teams
- Coaches from NJ have visited several times and engaged with staff and w/ teams
- Providing conduit to expand programs including:
  - Sunshine State Premier League: U8-12 (Expanding to older years in the future)
  - Hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NPL Girls Showcase
- Projected to add a new President's Day Tournament of International and Academy teams

### **How are players in Florida directly affected by PDA coming to the area?**

The game and therefore the players are growing! There has been both player and coach exchanges between the two organizations for growth of coaches as well as the players. This includes having PDA Directors and coaches from New Jersey attending tryouts in Florida as well as traveling to Florida regularly to support growing further initiatives in the area. The relationship between the two is genuine and committed to bringing the best soccer opportunities and development for players in the area. Additionally, the levels of play for leagues and tournaments will continue to grow significantly and faster through this PDA structure.

### **Why do you think you can transform the landscape in the area?**

Quite simply, we believe that we have the correct vision and ability to drive towards achieving our core mission statement of developing players. We have made a large impact in changing the area in our short existence as an organization (since 2009) in regards to building technically skilled players. We will only continue to impact the area even further as we expand our expectations on where we move forward. Providing greater competitive opportunities will be key in this growth and PDA has a proven history in this

regards which will greatly reduce the timelines to influence and bring greater programs to the area. We also are outside of the large cities and the associated club politics associated with these areas and able to work with others in regards to growing opportunities for players.

### **What is your registration process? Is it really important to register for tryouts in advance?**

Yes, it is imperative that all players register in advance for the tryouts as our entire registration and communications process revolves around our online system. As a matter of fact, players that are not pre-registered for tryouts will be held up at the check-in and forced to register for the tryouts prior to stepping on the field, which may cause them to miss some of their tryout.

This is critical to all that we do in PDA & ensures that we have the appropriate number of evaluators for each age, lets us directly communicate with players/families as to any changes during tryouts and becomes the central registration point for accepting a position on a team and setting up a player's online payment plan (several options). The system is also key to the formation of contact rosters for each of the teams in the club. For those with existing accounts, be sure to ensure all contact information is updated.

### **Is it true that a player must tryout at age, even if they have played up for many years?**

Yes, this is true. It does not mean that a player will not play "up" as we are always about challenging players. However, tryouts are the one time of year where players are expected to attend the tryout on age. It gives a good baseline for the player at least once per year to see where they are at against their age. This standard is for ALL players, boys & girls. If a player's on age tryout date is different from the older age they have played at in the past, the player **MUST** attend the on age date, but can attend the separate older tryout date as well with approval from the appropriate Boys/Girls Director. Players may even be moved between ages during the tryouts themselves as the coaches see fit, but every player must begin the tryouts on age.

### **When will be notified whether or not we are on a team? It always seems to take longer than expected?**

There will be a very significant difference in how we conduct the onsite pre and post tryout procedures to more fairly communicate to players and families. This will allow immediate feedback which is key to a better experience whether it is at our club or in moving to another if it is not the right fit here. This process is also listed on the Tryout Tab of our website.

### **PRE-TRYOUT PROCEDURE**

1. Players must Pre-Register for tryouts. To pre-register [click here](#)
2. Player Check-In will start one hour before your tryout session:
  - You will verify all player and parent contact information is correct
  - You will receive your tryout number
  - You will have a photo taken for your player pass
  - PDA Staff will then send you to the correct field
3. **One Parent/Guardian is required to attend tryouts. If your son/daughter is selected for a team, you will need to be present to accept their position on the team.**

### **POST-TRYOUT PROCEDURE**

1. At the end of each night of tryouts, players will be grouped into 3 distinct groups:
  - Selected – You have been selected for the team this year.
  - Need 2<sup>nd</sup> Evaluation – Coaching staff would like to see you again before making a decision.
  - Not-Selected – You were not selected for the team this year.

2. Upon being selected for a PDA competitive team, you will be directed by your coach to the on-site registration area to complete your team acceptance and player commitment form.
3. You will then receive an email with further instructions and details to complete your registration for the 2014-2015 season.

### **Will the price to play go up?**

Yes, but very minimally though to meet some unforecasted costs in our first year as PDA. This is a VERY critical point of emphasis for the club as it is very intensely focused on investing all of the resources into the organization towards developing better players and growing the game.

Costs for the 2014-15 Year are the following:

U13-18 Boys & Girls- \$1195.00

U11-12 Boys & Girls- \$875.00

U9/10 Boys & Girls- \$680.00

U8/10 Academy- \$380.00

Each of these will have multiple options of payment plans available through our online registration system.

### **You mention a payment plan what are the different options & how do you access them?**

Upon selection for a team, each player will be sent an Acceptance email or they can simply log directly into their account and accept their position on the team. After they accept the position, they will then go through the registration process of our online system and complete payment. The payment is the last page of the registration process and includes a drop down menu to select your payment plan (several options).

### **Some of us are in bad situations and can't afford to pay this much and are scared to get involved in competitive soccer? Are there opportunities for financial assistance?**

We have always been much lower than competitive clubs in the greater Orlando & Jacksonville areas. We are still below the average of these markets in our area which is amazing considering the highly licensed and experienced coaching staff we have assembled. However, we realize this will be tough on some and much like PDA- NJ, we are extremely committed to growing our scholarship program to ensure that committed and qualified players never lack the opportunity to grow in the game in our area. We will continue to put an intense focus on these through sponsorships and in utilizing PDA's current methodologies as it is very important to the organization. This will include modeling their highly successful 24 Hour Soccer Marathon fundraiser, which was a great success in its first year for us as well. There is a Financial Assistance Application posted on our homepage: [www.pdaflorida.org](http://www.pdaflorida.org) Under the "Links" menu click the item that says "View All Links" and the Financial Assistance Application can be found here.

### **Are the uniforms staying the same this year?**

Yes, the uniform kits will remain the same for this year and will be ordered directly by players through our provider, Ewing Sports. Information will be provided to everyone once this is operational and ready for ordering. Everyone must have the mandatory kits for the season. If you already have parts or all of the mandatory kits, you do not need to re-purchase these items. Ewing sports will also sell Spirit Wear online as well.

### **Are players really supposed to wear their official gear all the time?**

Players are required to wear official Nike training gear to all training, matches and any PDA official events. We are part of the Nike Premier program and as part of the extensive benefits of the program; we are required to wear these items. This will be strictly enforced by staff, directors & coaches.

### **What are the commitments for the program? We have other things at times?**

This is a year long commitment to the program and to your specific team. The projected leagues, tournaments, showcases and other events are reviewed with by each team by the coach and players/parents right after tryouts at a team meeting. All of the hard work in training is built towards performance at these events and simply missing them is not an option. We understand there are illnesses and emergencies and family vacations. However, make it a priority to actually put these events in your calendar and plan around them. For any challenges, be sure to communicate well in advance.

### **What about the partnership with Ancient City Soccer (ACS)?**

The relationship will be stronger than ever! The relationship between the two organizations is key to growing opportunities for players in the immediate area; especially at the youngest ages. The U8 & U10 in house academies will be coordinated and committed to growing the Academy programs in both St. Augustine and Palm Coast and building the proper base through consistent curriculum that maps to and directly supports the development process of the older players. Our youngest players will continue to thrive in this environment. Additionally, we are looking to incorporate Recreational festival dates in the fall and spring to bring players within both organizations together for a new & enhanced experience.

### **What are the U8 & U10 Academy Programs?**

These programs are “In-house” programs in which players that show commitment as well as promise as players are brought together into an environment to really foster technical growth. They will be based out of St. Augustine and Palm Coast and play festival events and an in-house schedule that fosters the building of an extremely technical foundation for later in their development cycle. This program has been highly successful to date in building solid technically sound young players.

### **Where will training take place for the PDA teams, is it true that you will no longer use Gamble Rogers MS fields?**

Indian Trails Sports Complex and Middle School Fields will become our location for training and matches. Unfortunately, St. John’s County wanted to charge an extreme amount to rent the fields at Gamble Rogers and we just were not willing to pass on these additional costs to the players/families. This was simply not an option given the exceptional quality of current fields at Indian Trails at little to no cost and the very short commute distance (13 minutes) between both parks.

### **Is there an update on the new facility that is being built?**

Unfortunately there have been some issues due to unforeseen and challenging construction delays. However, building the new complex is still a priority for the organization. The great news is that there will now also be a near term expansion at the Middle School for an additional two fields, bringing 10 full sided pitches to Indian Trails. This will meet our demand for the new showcase/tournaments being added this year and alleviate any concerns in this regards.