

The Center's Mission

The mission of The Center of Anna Maria Island is to enhance the overall wellbeing of individuals of all ages, while preserving a sense of community through creative programs and partnerships

The Center's Promises to the Community

The Center's promises provide community team members with clarity and direction, support the fulfillment of The Center's mission and ultimately represent what The Center is known for to the members and community. Everything we do as a community center falls within one of these promises.

WE PROMISE TO

- Create a family friendly atmosphere that is fun, safe and social
- Offer healthy lifestyle programs and activities to all ages
- Provide experiences that are welcoming and stimulating
- Be a socially responsible member of the island community

Sports Program's Philosophy

The Center embraces a variety of sports for players of all ages. At this time, our sports programs include outdoor and indoor soccer, flag football, cheerleading, basketball and we are always willing to add more sporting opportunities. The Center's goal is to provide children a chance to practice teamwork, sportsmanship, and skills for each sport, while having fun and building friendships. The coach of a team is the key player in any child's motivation and learning, and that coach can provide a positive impact on a young person's life.

Volunteer Application

All first time coaches must fill out a Volunteer Form which ensures that The Center is able to provide a safe place for all families to participate in our programs. The form can be accessed and filled out under the Sports/Youth Sports tab on our website www.centerami.org. The Center reserves the right to access and rerun current and past coaches through the background check program at the beginning of each sports program and also terminate any volunteer coach.

Sports Program Staff

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Rules at a Glance

The below playing standards are to serve as guidelines for The Center of Anna Maria. Youth & Adult Soccer Leagues.

Our Youth Program are adapted from US youth Soccer Policies & Structure. Each age group will have its own set of rules along with equipment & court specifications. Our goal for youth soccer is to develop skills and knowledge, that they become more confident and comfortable as they grow while having as much fun as possible.

Our Adult program are adapted by the US soccer Policies & Guidelines. Our goal is to serve our community and provide adult recreation, exercise & fun.

Attire

Team sponsor provided jersey must be worn.

Cleats are allowed, **except for metal spikes**. Inspections may be made.

Youth players must wear shin guards. Shin guards are highly suggested for adult players.

No hats with a button on top and bill/brim. No sunglasses. **Youth Only**

Equipment & Field Specifications

Age Division	3-4	5-7	8-10	11-14	Adult
Ball Size	3	3	4	5	5
Goal Size	Pop-Up	Med Metal	Med Metal	Big Metal	Big Metal
Field Size	Half of Small Field	Half of Big Field	Small Field	Big Field	Big Field
Players	4	7	7	7	7
Game Length	Skills & Drills followed by organized scrimmages	Skills & Drills followed by game. 2 -15 Min Halves	2 – 20 Min Min Halves	2 – 20 Min Min Halves	2 – 20 Min Halves(Regular season) 2-22 Min Halves(Playoffs)
Half Time	N/A	3 min	3 min	3 min	3 min
Extra Time	N/A	No	See Below	See Below	See Below
Goal Keepers	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Officials	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scores Kept	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Throw-ins	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free Kicks	No	No	Yes – Always Direct	Yes – Always Direct	Yes – Always Direct
Penalty Kicks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Heading	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Substitutions	Whenever	Stoppage	Stoppage	Stoppage	Stoppage

*The Center soccer rules below

Age Division Breakdown

3-4 Year Old Division:

- Players on field TBD
- First 20 mins will be skills & drills with coach as a team followed by organized scrimmage for remainder of the time slot.
- Use a #3 ball
- No goalies allowed, must stay out of the goal area, unless they are attacking the ball.
- Will not keep score or be officiated. Run by coaches.
- Start game in the middle, and after each score.

5-7 Year Old Division:

- Play 7v7
- Will use a goalie.
- First 10 mins will be skills & drills with coach as a team followed by organized scrimmage.
- Play 2 15 min halves.
- Use a #3 ball
- Will not keep score or be officiated. Run by coaches.
- Start game in the middle, and after each goal.

8-10 Year Old Division:

- Play 7v7
- 20 min Halves
- Use a #4 ball
- Follow Center Soccer Rules

11-14 Year Old Division:

- Play 7v7
- 20 min Halves
- Use a #5 ball
- Follow Center Soccer Rules

Adult Division:

- Play 7v7
- Regular Season - 20 min halves no extra time
- Playoffs - 22 min halves with extra time
- Use a #5 ball
- Follow Center Soccer Rules

The Center of AMI Outdoor Soccer Rules

OFFSIDES: No offside for 3-4 and 5-7 year old age divisions. Blatant offside will be called in 8-10 year old age division. Offside will be called in 11-14 year old age division.

FREE KICKS: All free kicks will be direct.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS: Players may substitute on any dead ball or play stoppage.

TIE GAMES: End of regulation remains a tie in the standings. No overtime. Playoff games will go straight to a 5 player shootout. Championship will go to a 4 minute extra time and then to a 5 player shootout. Any player on team can shoot or play goalie. Every player must shoot once before rotation restarts.

SLIDE TACKLING: Not permitted.

FORFEIT TIME: 5 minutes after game start time. (Teams can play one player short)

GOALIE SCREENING: Offensive players cannot shield the goalie while a shot is taken.

HEADERS: Headers are illegal in the all players under 10 age groups.

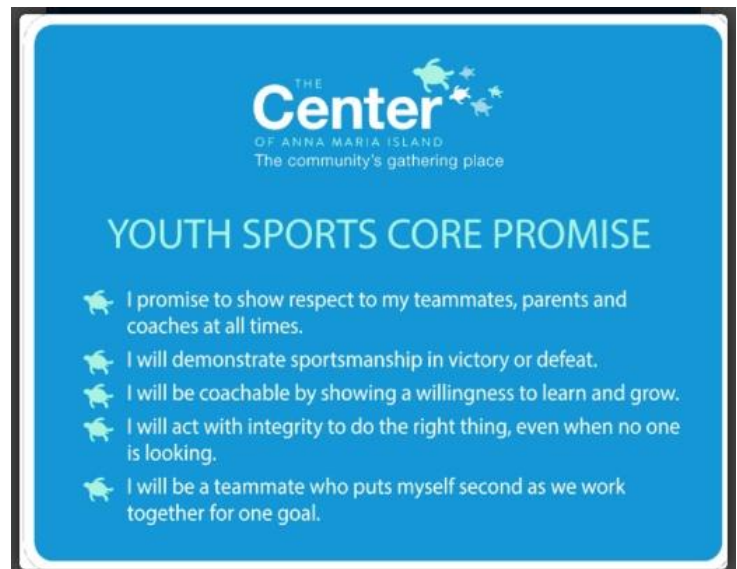
SPORTSMANSHIP/CARDS: If the field monitor or referee witnesses any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. Trash talking is illegal. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. (Trash talk is talk that may be offensive to officials, opposing players, teams or spectators.) If trash talking occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player(s), coach or parent involved will be ejected from the game or removed from The Center. Fighting/aggressive physical contact will warrant immediate ejection and suspension from current and future programs. **Any and all unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.**

- **CARDS:** ONE YELLOW CARD = CAUTION. 2 YELLOW CARDS = RED.

A red card (or 2 yellows) is an ejection. Which means that player will be ejected from the game, and their team will play a player down for the remainder of that game. You cannot substitute that player when there is an ejection. Severe red card cases could mean ejection from remaining games. Coaches are also subject to cards. Center staff reserves the right to make final decisions.

ALL OTHER F.I.F.A. RULES APPLY

WEATHER CANCELATION: When bad weather is looming, Center staff will make a cancelation decision by 4:30PM and communication will go out ASAP. In the result of a weather cancelation, games will be rescheduled to a later date and be communicated to all participants.



PLAYER ADDITION/REPLACEMENT: Player addition/replacement will always go through The Center staff and will follow the guidelines below.

- *Player Addition* – Player addition to set rosters will be done by The Center staff, at their discretion. These decisions will be only be made if fair situations and decision will reflect what’s best for the program as a whole with parity and program equity in mind.
- *Player Replacement* – In the event that a player is a situation where they can no longer participate in the league, The Center staff will work to find an appropriate and fair replacement. In divisions where a player draft has taken place, the player replacement must be an “even or lesser” skill level swap. The Center staff will first look to the Player Waitlist to find the replacement and then search other avenues if necessary. Once a player replacement is found, The Center staff will put the replacement up to a coach/captain vote where majority vote (1 more than half of the participants) will decide. The Center staff will have final say if necessary. Replacement players must be added prior to Playoffs beginning and must participate in one regular season game.
- *Temporary Subs (Adult division only)* – Because of program co-ed rules, teams are allowed to find temporary subs if all female players on their roster are unavailable. This sub can be from another team or outside of the league’s roster of players. This applies to the regular season and playoffs. However, in the playoffs, the player subbing must be of equal or lesser skill level and must be agreed upon by The Center staff and the opposing captain. Male roster players cannot be temporary subbed for another player in any situation.

PRACTICE TIMES (at The Center): Practice times are available on The Center fields. You must reserve your field time by either calling the front desk or contacting Tyler Bekkerus or Tuna McCracken directly.

SKILLS & DRILLS SESSIONS: More information at a later date.

SMALL TOWN CREAMERY SPIRIT WEEK: The idea behind the Spirit Week is to have a kickoff week to get everyone excited for the season ahead. The games **WILL** count towards standings (except for 11-14) and **WILL** be officiated (in the divisions that standing/officials would apply) which is a change from our 2024 Spring season. **This week is also a fun competition in its own.** The original basis behind Spirit Week, years ago, was to get everyone, parents included, involved in showing team spirit. Teams will know their team colors (can be found on rosters and schedules) and are encouraged to go “all out” with their team spirit displaying their team colors and sponsor name as much as possible by using clothing color, signs, hair color, noise makers etc. Center staff will count the team spirit from each team for each age division and the team with the most team spirit from each age division will win a prize from Small Town Creamery presented later in the season.

Coaching Responsibilities

As a volunteer, you have a variety of responsibilities you are obligated to while taking on the task of coaching. Sports coaches are extensions of The Center Recreation staff and therefore expected to conform under the same rules as The Center staff. As a coach, you are responsible for the following:

- Communicating with parents/players - Providing them with information of games and practices and also any news or noteworthy items communicated by Center staff.
- Help build character as well as skills- Being successful on and off the field/court.
- Teach the fundamentals of the sport.
- Encourage the involvement of the parents in the sport.
- Be enthusiastic.
- Communicate with Center staff about any issues you may have.
- Be a role model.
- Teach & implement The Center's Youth Sport's Core Promises.
- HAVE FUN!

PLAYING TIME: ALL PLAYERS should play the same amount of time, if possible (injury, player decision etc.). We are a recreational league and our number one goal, above all, is that every player enjoys their time in the program and wants to come back. A big component of that is the kids having an equal opportunity and that cannot take a back seat to winning. Even if a player cannot make it to a scheduled practice, they still get equal playing time.

SPORTSMANSHIP: *"I will demonstrate sportsmanship in victory or defeat"* is a core promise that all of our players agree to prior to each game. All coaches have the responsibility to maintain that promise before, throughout and after a game with their team and themselves, no matter the outcome.

COMMUNICATING TO PLAYERS/REFEREES/STAFF: As a coach, you need to be aware of how you are communicating with players. Games are exciting and emotional, without doubt, but at the same time we have to be conscious about how we interact with our players. There's a difference between being loud so our players can hear us with both positive and constructive feedback and just screaming at our players. Just keep in mind, every player is different and what works with some players is discouraging for others. You all have a HUGE impact on this program and these players. The same rules apply to referees, scorekeepers and staff. If you have questions/issues, please calmly approach referees/staff for understanding or resolution. Often times your players will reflect the same attitude that you carry throughout the game.

ASSISTANT COACHES/SIDELINES: We encourage you to find help for the duration of the season. Assistant coaches are invaluable. The more, the merrier. But please keep in mind that we have a limited amount of space on our sidelines and because of that, only the Head Coach and ONE assistant coach will be allowed in the designated player/coaches area of the sidelines during games.

"All a kid needs is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them."

-Magic Johnson