



FORT LAUDERDALE F.C. TRYOUT PACKAGE 2018/19 SEASON

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1. **Fort Lauderdale F.C.- Mission Statement:** Fort Lauderdale FC is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to fostering the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of Fort Lauderdale's youth through the sport of soccer at all age levels. Our job is to make it fun and instill a lifelong passion for the sport in young players and create positive environments that allow for individual player development from the competitive to professional level.
2. **About the Club:** Fort Lauderdale F.C. is the official youth competitive soccer program for the City of Fort Lauderdale. The program is a non-profit organization run by a board of directors consisting of club parents and volunteers, in conjunction with the City of Fort Lauderdale. Since 2007, the program has conducted programs for over 600 boys and girls annually and has become one of the most recognized youth soccer clubs in South Florida..

The program is designed to provide opportunities for "advanced" players to transition from the city's recreational program into a professionally run soccer training academy. Teams are organized by a team manager and a team administrator. All Fort Lauderdale FC coaches are trained by the club and all of our head coaches are experienced, licensed, and are committed to providing a safe and positive environment for the player's physical and emotional development.

3. **The Competition:** Fort Lauderdale F.C. is an official affiliate with US Youth Soccer through the FYSA (Florida Youth Soccer Association).

Teams in the club participate in age and level appropriate league competitions which ranges from National Leagues (Regional Premier 3 League) to State Wide Leagues (Florida State Premier League) to Regional Tri-County Area Leagues (South Florida United Youth Soccer Association). Each team plays between 12-22 league games during the season.

In addition, teams also represent the club and various tournaments. This ranges from National Showcase Tournaments (Disney Showcase, CASL, WAGS, Jefferson Cup, Surf Cup, New York Cup) to local Tournaments (Weston Cup, West Pines Shootout, Wellington Shootout etc). The tournaments that our younger academy teams play, are chosen for their proximity to the club.

While the majority of the games and tournaments are within a 60-minute drive from Fort Lauderdale, due to the higher level of competition travel requirements for our older premier teams are more extensive.

We seek the best available competitive opportunities within reasonable travel distances for the younger groups.

In addition to league and tournament play, our teams also participate in the State Association (FYSA) run competitions such as the State Cup, Presidents Cup and Commissioners Cup.

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4. **The Season**

Our club season runs from August through May.

The U9 – U14 age groups are typically starting at the same week school starts and end with the Memorial Day weekend.

The U15 and above teams (high school age groups) have two option to choose from when they register.

Option 1 includes the high school soccer season and consists of:

- an Early Season (beginning of August through the end of October)
- a Regular Season (November – January)
- a Late Season (February – May)

Option 2 excludes the high school season and consists of:

- an Early Season (beginning of August through the end of October)
- a Late Season (February – May)

5. **The Teams:** The Boys Program serves boys ages 4-18 and includes U9 – U18/19 competitive teams plus a Future Stars program for 4-8-year-old players.

The Girls Program serves girls ages 4-18 and includes U9 – U18/19 competitive teams plus a Future Stars program for 4-8-year-old players.

The US Soccer Federation through US Youth Soccer creates age groups based on the age of children as of January 1st of each year. Thus, the individual teams are based on ages as follows:

Team Age Groups / Birthdates

- U9 - 1/01/10 – 12/31/10
- U10 - 1/01/09 – 12/31/09
- U11 - 1/01/08 – 12/31/08
- U12 - 1/01/07 – 12/31/07
- U13 - 1/01/06 – 12/31/06
- U14 - 1/01/05 – 12/31/05
- U15 - 1/01/04 – 12/31/04
- U16 - 1/01/03 – 12/31/03
- U17 - 1/01/02 – 12/31/02
- U18 - 1/01/01 – 12/31/01
- U19 - 1/01/00 – 12/31/00

Depending on the number of qualified children who try out we may have two or more teams in an age group. If there are two teams the players will be divided into a blue team (more advanced players) and a white team (the developmental team). Coaches will decide on which players play on each team, and not guarantee a roster spot on any particular team. It is common for coaches to shuffle players between the top team and their developmental team to give players experience at different levels of play. It is also

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common to have advanced players occasionally play in an older age group (“play up”) based upon their skills and the needs of the team. Because young players’ skills change so rapidly it is not uncommon for a player who starts with the developmental team to move up to the advanced team or vice versa.

Each team is also managed by a TEAM MANAGER(S). This is a critical position and an important role for parents who want to be more active in the management of the club. The team manager handles team communication, scheduling and parental interactions. This frees up the coaches to focus on the children, to use their talents to teach and inspire without the added burden of managing the other requirements. In addition, the team manager is asked to coordinate team sponsorships to help defray additional costs associated with the program.

6. **Practices:** Practices are two – four times a week depending on the age group. We are currently using the following field locations: Mills Pond Park Soccer Complex, Hardy Park. Field locations and practice times are finalized in July. **Mills Pond Park Soccer Complex boosts 3 state of the art LED lid turf fields and is hosts all of the clubs home games.** Before the regular league season begins most teams may practice on Saturday’s up until the season starts and the Saturday practices are replaced by games.
7. **Annual Cost:** Fort Lauderdale FC is a non-profit organization and uses the fees from parents to offset the operating costs of the club. This includes the costs for fields, coaching, referees, league play and the administrative operation. In addition, we employ professional paid coaches, each of whom is licensed and certified as soccer trainers. There are some types of costs associated with the program, which is spread out throughout the year to make the overall financial obligation more manageable.

Registration fee of \$295 – the fee is due at the time of registration and covers the player registration with US Youth Soccer, liability insurance and the uniform package for the season. The registration fee is non-refundable.

Annual fees - FTLS offers its members a full payment or installment payment option for the annual dues - these charges are automatically collected from a credit card or checking account. Installment payments allow families to spread the overall expense over an extended period of time. The fees vary by age group and are outlined on the following page. Our soccer season runs parallel to the school year from August through to May and has to be planned accordingly. **The player’s/parent’s commitment is for the entire season. Annual fees are only suspended or refunded if a player moves out of the area (more than 50 Miles) or due to a season ending injury.** If a player decides to stop playing in the middle of the season, he/she will still be responsible for any balance of the annual fees.



Early Release from the Club - If a player requests to be released for any other reason other than a relocation or a season ending injury an additional ‘Early Release Fee’ of \$300 of administrative costs will due after the annual fees have been paid.

Tournament Fees: Players who are chosen and who participate in tournaments will pay a tournament fee. These fees vary but are typically between \$40 and \$60 per player for a local tournament and will be drafted automatically from your checking account or credit card.

For out of town tournaments the cost for the coaches’ accommodation and transportation plus a set per diem rate will be distributed amongst the players who are chosen and participate in the event.



Age Group	Installments	Season	Annual Dues
Under 5-8: birth date after 1/1/2010	2 installments	Fall 4v4 Season (Aug – Nov) Winter Season (Nov – Feb) Spring 4v4 Season (Mar – May)	\$TBD per season
U9: birth date between 1/1/2010 and 12/31/2010	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1070
U10: birth date between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2009	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1070
U11: birth date between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1160
U12: birth date between 1/1/2007 and 12/31/2007	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1160
U13: birth date between 1/1/2006 and 12/31/2006	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1400
U14: birth date between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2005	Full or installments (6)	August 20 th – May 26 th	\$1400
U15 – U19 excluding high school season birth date between 1/1/2000 and 12/31/2004	Full or installments (6)	July 23 th – October 21 st February 4 th – May 26 th	\$1110
U15 – U19 including high school season birth date between 1/1/2000 and 12/31/2004	Full or installments (6)	July 23 th – May 26 th	\$1520

Financial aid is available and is evaluated on a per case basis for families meeting our eligibility requirements. Information are on our website www.ftlselect.com

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8. **Season Length:**

Competitive Teams: The primary season for age groups U9 - U14 begins on August 20th and ends May 26th. There are at least 12 regular season games that begin at the end of October and end in the beginning of February. They are followed by league playoff games and State and Region Cup and a Spring League Season. The season for our U15-18 age groups begins at the end of July due to participation in the Early League Season. During the high school season, players can still participate in club practices and league or tournament events. From February through May teams will participate in League Playoffs, National and State Competition Series as well as a Spring League and selected tournaments.

Fort Lauderdale FC teams participate in a number of tournaments throughout the season (depending on age group). For the U12 and below age group teams, coaches will select rosters for tournaments like the West Pines Shootout in October, the Plantation Thanksgiving Tournament, the Wellington Shootout in January, the Weston Cup on Presidents weekend and the Disney Memorial Day Tournament. For the U13 and older age-groups State wide tournaments as well as National tournaments such as CASL, WAGS, Disney Showcase, Jefferson Cup, PDA, New York Cup etc. to provide showcase opportunities for players striving to continue their development path in College or higher levels.

Future Stars Development Academy: The season for our younger kids U5 – U8 is separated into 3 mini seasons. The Fall Season runs from August – November, the Winter Season from November – February and the Spring Season from March – May. The format is a small sided (4v4) in-house League with 2 practices during the week and mini games on Sunday afternoons. Throughout the year some of our youngest players might also participate in some local developmental tournaments or competitions with similar programs in small sided formats. All 3 seasons are solely geared towards individual player development. Teams are formed by age group, gender and level of play.



9. Frequently asked questions:

Q. Do all players make the team?

A. No. Players are chosen based on the number of available roster spots and whether the coaches believe that the competitive league is the appropriate level for the player. On the younger teams every effort is made to find roster spots for players, however, there are cases where roster spots are available, but coaches do not believe that a player's skill set is appropriate for the competitive leagues. Creating the best environment for the player is the priority, and if we do not feel that a child would be able to compete at the competitive level, for the child's benefit, we'll recommend recreational league play.

Q. Are there opportunities for players to tryout after the club's official tryouts?

A. Yes based on roster availability. Once rosters are filled players who are interested in the program might be invited to practice with the club on a non-roster status on hopes of making a team the following season.

Q. Are parents required to attend team practices?

A. No. You do not need to attend practice. You are welcome to leave your child at practice providing you are back to pick them up no later than fifteen minutes before the end of practice. It is required that your coach has a phone number where you can be reached in case of emergency. If you stay and watch practice you are encouraged to do so at a distance. Parents are not allowed to disturb or interrupt practice, nor are they allowed to give directions to players. Please understand that training sessions are learning situations and players need to concentrate and listen to their coach to improve. We will more fully discuss this at your parent team meeting.

Q. How much travel is involved?

A. At the younger ages as little as possible. No player ever improved by riding in a car. The majority of the away competitive league games and tournaments are within 60 minutes of Fort Lauderdale. As the teams approach the high school level (U13-U14), they will begin to travel more in an effort to play in tournaments where top talent would be recognized. For the oldest age groups, the travel can be more extensive depending on the competition which might include State wide and National events.

Q. How does a player make the team?

A. All players must compete for roster positions. Having played for Fort Lauderdale FC in previous years does not guarantee a spot on the team. Roster decisions are made solely by the coaches based on the player's level of play, on and off the field commitment and behavior as well as practice attendance.



Q. What do the coaches look for in players?

A. While tryouts vary from team to team, all coaches look for players who have the potential of becoming high-level, competitive players. Throughout the tryout, coaches assess several player qualities, including but not limited to:

1. Technical skill
2. Tactical awareness.
3. Physical abilities.
4. Psychological dimension.
5. Commitment
6. On and off the field attitude

Q. Is there a minimum or maximum amount of minutes your child will play each game?

A. No. Your coach will determine playing time depending on several factors, including but not limited to their technical and tactical ability, their physical condition, game performance, practice performance, attitude, game tactics, and strategy. A player's development takes place over the course of many months of training and games –not in any one particular game. Coaches are instructed to manage the playing time of each player over the course of an entire season of games. Every effort will be made to balance the good of an individual player verses the good of the entire team. In the 5-8 year old developmental age groups the goal of every coach is to have each player play an average of one half of each game. Your coach should not be confronted over player personnel matters relating to playing time or other team issues. Such communication should be between the coach and player. This area will be more fully discussed in your initial group parent meeting.

Q. Does the coach have any help during tryouts?

Coaches are required to use multiple evaluators at the tryouts. Generally, other coaches in the program assist the team's coach during tryouts.

Q. What happens after the last tryout?

At the conclusion of the tryouts all coaches and trainers involved in the tryout process will meet to discuss the roster choices and then the teams are given a final approval by the Club Director.

Q. How long before we know what the outcome is?

A. Usually 7 - 10 days after the last tryout, all players will receive emails with the tryout results.

Q. What if a player does not get selected?

A. If a player is not selected due to an unavailability of roster spots, a player may be offered the opportunity for a non-game roster position on the team. This would give the player an opportunity to practice with the competitive team and accelerate their skill development. This might allow a player who had a great enthusiasm for the game to get professional training and potentially earn a roster spot at a later date. Effort will also be made to contact each player by phone. Non selection in no way suggests that they are not quality players, or that they should



give up their hopes of playing competitive soccer. It simply means that the coach feels there were other players better suited for this team's level of play.

Q. What if a player is selected?

A. If a player has been selected, they will be contacted by e-mail within 7 – 10 days after tryouts and given 72 hours to register and accept their roster spot. If players are not registered within 72 hours, the roster spot will be offered to another player.

Q. Are tryouts open to all boys & girls?

A. Yes, tryouts for each team are open to all boys & girls of the correct age. Tryouts are only held for the competitive age groups (rising U9 and above).

Q. Will there be opportunities to play in the summer?

A. All club members are frequently updated on camps, pick-up games and other opportunities for off season training.

Q. How many teams are selected in each age group?

A. Depending on the number of players trying out, usually two – three teams are selected in each age group. A level (Blue) teams and B level (White & Red) teams. In some age groups, there may be minimal differences between the two levels. In certain instances, White teams may even play in A leagues or tournaments also.

Q. Are tryouts the only forum where Fort Lauderdale FC staff determines which players are play on which Fort Lauderdale FC teams?

A. No, the evaluation process continues over the course of the season. Players are in essence trying out for Fort Lauderdale FC teams every time they take the field. Tryouts are merely an additional opportunity to show our staff how much a player has progressed throughout the year, as well as give them an opportunity to evaluate new players together with other players.

Q: How are the teams grouped?

A. The numeric designation with each team indicates year of birth not school graduation.

Q: Can a player play up in an age group?

A. It is the intent of the Fort Lauderdale FC Technical Staff to define the process of the "playing up" guideline to avoid any misinterpretation of its intent:

Determining Factors for Play ups:

The individual player must be identified as one of the exceptional players in the birth year by the technical staff and the age group coach. It will be deemed at this time that the indicated player will have secured a place with the team in his/her birth year. Next, the identified player will be invited to the older age group tryout, where he/she MUST demonstrate that they are in the top third (one of the best five players) on that team. Based on this assessment by the technical staff and input from the older age group coach, a determination will be made on the individual playing up a birth year. The coaches also look at the physical readiness and emotional disposition of



players when evaluating decisions to move a player to an older age group. Players are rarely moved full time to an older age group, but rather are given occasional opportunities to play in games with the older players to challenge them and augment their development.

Team and Club Considerations:

We want to be sure that in this process, we create a fair opportunity for everyone involved. A major concern is that we place a player in an environment in which they are challenged, have an impact on players with whom they are playing and are having the success necessary to enhance their development. A club and team consideration is the displacement of players whose roster spot will be filled by a younger player. Here lies the reason that the technical staff must be certain a younger player will have the impact necessary to justify displacement of an individual who is birth year eligible for a team.

Q: Are there opportunities for Fort Lauderdale FC players outside the club?

A. The Club provides and promotes multiple opportunities for the most talented and most committed players to showcase themselves at the highest level and in front of professional and college level coaches.

Olympic Development Program (ODP)

The purpose of the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program is to identify a pool of players in every age group from which a National Team will be selected for international competition and to provide high level training to benefit and enhance the development of players of all levels.

Fort Lauderdale FC supports the ODP and encourages players at the appropriate level to challenge themselves and participate in the ODP process.