

OPEN PLAY



The session will be held for 6-8 weeks during the summer and winter for 60 minutes at designated locations. Open Play would consist of small-sided games where players are assigned to team during sessions. Teams will play 2v2, 3v3, 4v4 with no goalkeepers or 5v5 with goalkeepers. Teams will be formed by the Director of Coaching at the time of each session prior to each game starting. Players attending the session will report their scores to FC America coaching staff in attendance and based on their results will be giving points.

This is an opportunity for our FC American players to return to the pick-up game (free play) environment where players learn how to play the game from each other. Past generations learned to play the game on their own, with other children in the neighborhood or at school in these children-organized games. Today youth sports are overly adult controlled and influenced. It's difficult today for youngsters to have a pick-up game since the streets have too many cars, the sandlot now has a mini-mall on it and parents are reluctant, with good cause, to let their child go blocks away from home on Saturday to play in a game on his/her own. Open Play is a way for us to give the game back to the players in our club. Once or twice a week, we can give the players an opportunity to play in "organized-spontaneity." The adults should NOT coach, cheer, criticize, referee or in any other way involve themselves in the game. If adults want to play, we can also start an adult open play. The best bet for parents is to drop off their child, go run some errands, and then come back to pick up your child, or watch from a distance. Any parent who would like to stay and help with these events contact the Director of Coaching. Your help is always needed to ensure the programs run smoothly.

The coaches are on site NOT to coach, but to supervise, to be on hand for any serious injuries and severe discipline problems. Additionally the coaches are there to provide the game equipment and let the players know when each game starts and stops.

This is a great way to assist player development. Mostly it is a chance for players to play the game for the FUN of the game. Open Play brings together children, parents, coaches and volunteers to a soccer celebration, regardless of ethnic or cultural backgrounds. Soccer is the common language and the soccer ground is the arena for social inclusion. Referees are not needed, since the rules are meant to teach self-responsibility and fair play, with the implied agenda for improving the player's competencies.