

CITY OF FORT MYERS



SUCCESS THROUGH ACADEMIC & RECREATIONAL SUPPORT

PARENT MANUAL



● **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of STARS athletics is to improve the quality of life for all participants by meeting the need of the community through the provision of safe, excellent, recreational and leisure-time activities.

● **SPORTSMANSHIP**

We promote good sportsmanship, which is a combination of fair play, respect and consideration for opponents, spectators, teammates, coaches and officials.

● **HEALTHY RECREATION**

We promote good sportsmanship, which is a combination of fair play, respect and consideration for opponents, spectators, teammates, coaches and officials.

● **RESPONSIVENESS**

STARS athletics regularly evaluates community needs and responds by offering programs that are desired.

● **EQUAL ACCESS**

All citizens are encouraged to participate in our affordable programs regardless of their skill levels, gender, race, socio-economic status, or any other factor that is not in conflict with our mission.

● **REFUND POLICY**

A refund application form must be filled out and submitted to stars@cityftmyers.com in order to receive consideration for a refund. We cannot accept telephone Refund Application Requests for ANY Parks & Recreation activity. All requests must be made by email or in person during regular office hours.

- NO refunds on "league" programs once teams are set up and posted on our website.
- NO refunds will be given after the start of the program.
- NO refunds for certain special events. (i.e.; recreation trips, camps, clinics, etc.)

All refunds are subject to a \$15 Admin. fee (per registration) except under the following circumstances: Refund is initiated by the Park & Recreation Department



• Coach's Responsibility Code

Goals and Objectives:

The S.T.A.R.S. Youth sports program is a group-oriented program involving social and physical development. The goal of our league is to teach sports fundamentals, sportsmanship and a love for the game. Your support and encouragement will go a long way to helping achieve that goal. As a coach, you should demonstrate the following:

1. Build sound fundamental sports skills and develop a love for the game.
2. Encourage team play.
3. Reinforce good sportsmanship.
4. Show respect for referees, other coaches and players at all times.
5. Be a resource person to your team, helping them to develop their athletic and human potential.
6. Involve all team members and parents in special events.
7. Recognize that all children are not the same and respect their individual differences.

Remember: Be careful where you walk ... you never know who's going to follow in your footsteps!

Safety:

The safety of children is extremely important. Here are some strategies to help you safeguard any children or youth in your supervision:

- Ensure that you are the last person to leave practice/game. Wait until all players have either left practice/game or have been picked up by a responsible adult.
- Talk to parents/legal guardians and introduce yourself. This initial contact can facilitate communication between you and parents regarding any player or team matters.
- If an emergency situation arises, report events as soon as possible to your STARS Athletic staff.



Registration

All participants **MUST** have all required paperwork and fees paid prior before the start of the first practice.

This includes:

STARS Registration form

\$75 for enrollment in program.

Participants must have paperwork and fees paid in full to receive gameday gear. Currently we only accept credit/debit cards at this time.

Participants may be eligible for scholarship that may pay up to \$150 per participant. If your child qualifies for Medicaid or Food stamps, please go to <https://everykidsports.org/pass/apply>





Player's Responsibility Code

- *Play for the fun of the game!* ✓
- *Play by the rules.* ✓
- *Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents.* ✓
- *Work hard for yourself and your team.* ✓
- *Do not yell or argue at/with the officials* ✓
- *Control your temper and your language.* ✓
- *Be a good sport, be a team player and treat all players like you would like to be treated. (The Golden Rule)* ✓





Parent's Responsibility Code

- S.T.A.R.S. athletics requests that the parents /guardians of children participating in the youth sports programs help us monitor the program by:
 - communicating with their children and coach
 - observing their children in practices and games

As a parent with a child in S.T.A.R.S. Recreation youth sports program, it is reasonable to expect the following from the program:

- that your child is involved in both weekly practices and games
- that your child has the opportunity to play all positions and have equal playing time
 - that a special event involves all team members and parents
- that your child enjoy a safe, satisfying and growing experience while involved in the program



Parent's Responsibility Code Cont.

S.T.A.R.S. athletics does not condone the following activities and/or events:

- overnight trips
- special practices for a small number of players
- events involving a small number of team players
- that your child be subject to physical or verbal abuse from coaches, parents, peers, etc.
- coaches requiring team members to keep secrets
- coaches wishing to have excessive involvement with your child

Please remember:

- children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours
- children learn best by example
- children should always be encouraged to play by the rules
- children (and officials) should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making a mistake
- children should be taught that an honest effort and hard work are just as important as winning

The goal of our league is to teach fundamentals, sportsmanship and a love of the game. The support and encouragement of all parents will go a long way to helping this come true



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• *What to Wear*

All players must have Recreation-issued t-shirts tucked inside of pants. Clothing must not interfere with flags. Flags must be visible with one flag on each side of player and worn at the hip. Flags cannot be worn on the front or back of the player. No metal spikes are allowed. No extra equipment is allowed (i.e. bandannas, hats, jewelry). Each participant will be given (1) recreation-issued shirt, (1) pair of gameday shorts, and (1) pair of socks.

• *Coaches Meeting Dates*

Thank you for volunteering to coach! We couldn't offer a quality program without your help. As a reminder, there will be a coaches meeting regarding all Youth Soccer Leagues.

At the meeting we will discuss a variety of topics including: recreational sports philosophy, sportsmanship, game locations, league rules, practice schedules, roster distribution and blind draft procedure, game schedules, etc.

• *Contact from Coaches*

Coaches should be in contact with players no later than the second day of practice.

• *Game Day:*

- Parents/Spectators should be seated on the opposite side of the field as the team and coaches.
- Garbage: At the conclusion of games please do your part to place trash into a garbage can. Help keeps our fields looking good.
- Game times are start times. Have your team there early to warm up. That way the game can begin promptly.
- Remember have a good time, this should be fun for everyone: players, coaches, parents and even the officials.



Weather/Cancellations

Any current cancellations will be posted online and on our voicemail by 4:30 pm weekdays. If there are no postings/announcements, please assume all games will continue as scheduled.

Practice/Game Locations

Billy Bowlegs Park 951 Marsh Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Practice Days and Availability

Practice takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No more than one practice session per week should ever be held.

Background Investigation Forms

All volunteers must submit a background investigation form before they are able to coach. All background forms are completely confidential. If you have volunteered for us in the past year you are still required to fill out a new form. Thus, it is important that you notify us of any changes to your address or any other pertinent information.

Concerns/Issues/Conflicts

If a problem/concern arises during the season, the department encourages its staff, officials, participants, parents and coaches to follow the "24-hour rule" before communicating the concern. In other words, give it 24 hours and allow the problem or concern to "cool off". You may be surprised at the results of this approach. Obviously, major concerns should be brought to our attention immediately.