



Golazzo!

newsletter

Plantation FC Club Philosophy

Plantation Football Club is a non-profit organization that provides the opportunity for youth soccer players to experience the game of soccer. Our objective is to develop great soccer players along with great human beings. Players are exposed to the technical, tactical, psychological, and physical demands of the game. In addition they will also experience team-building, sportsmanship, work ethic, and leadership skills that will benefit the players for the remainder of the lives on and off the soccer field.

Motivational Quote:

“I worship the dribble. As a child I did nothing but dribble. In the living room, between the furniture and the chairs, in the garden around my dog. I learned all about life with the ball at my feet.”
-Ronaldinho

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. PFC Tryouts – www.plantationeagles.com
2. PFC Summer Camps – www.plantationeagles.com
3. PFC / ESP Summer Conditioning Program – www.plantationeagles.com



EDUCATION

Parent Education

Discussions with Claudio Reyna

This past Thursday I had the opportunity to meet with Claudio Reyna, the new youth technical director for U.S. Soccer Federation. Claudio has played in a few World Cups for the U.S. and also played in La Liga, Scottish Premiership, and the English Premiership.

I was invited to this meeting to discuss the new curriculum that was recently released by U.S. Soccer. A curriculum that is long overdue.

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Coaches/Coaching-Education/Coaching-Home.aspx>

Now we have a blueprint to follow. The curriculum covers ages u6-u18 and basically gives clubs some guidelines that we can follow in regards to what we teach players and when. The curriculum also has the intention of creating a style of play in our country. This has been lacking for years and we have always looked to copy others. Now we have to a plan to create our own style.

In addition to the curriculum we also discussed the state of youth soccer in south Florida. Claudio stated how important south Florida has become in developing soccer players for the U.S. national teams. With the diversity we have in the area, south Florida has become of hotbed for players from all cultures. In addition to discussing the talent pool we also discussed the obstacles that we face daily in this area. The one common denominator that all of the youth soccer leaders brought up was “parents.” These days, parents want to have too much influence in their child’s development. This is not just in south Florida, but all over the country. And the majority of these parents have minimal experience in the game, besides sitting on the sidelines for the last few years watching their kids play. For some reason, parents believe they have become qualified coaches. And I have had my run-ins with parents who think playing high school soccer qualifies as having a good background in the game. Not even close. Parent education is a topic that arises frequently and many of us have pulled our hair out trying to figure out how to overcome this obstacle. There is no real solution other than getting out there and educating parents on the process of developing soccer players. Parent involvement is part of our culture and is something that will not change. Don’t get me wrong, parental support is very important for youth development and has many pros. The cons usually consist of those parent (with minimal experience is soccer) that are under the impression that they know what is best for their child when it comes to soccer and is the one that seems to ruin everything, not only for their own child, but the children around them.

With tryouts beginning this week, here are a few things to consider when deciding where your child will play the next season. As per our discussion with Claudio Reyna, the focus of U.S. Youth Soccer is to develop better players for our national teams and for professional teams around the world. In our discussions with the new technical director, winning at the youth level is not a priority. So if your focus is getting your child on a winning team, you are headed the wrong direction. Any experienced coach will tell you the same. What your child is capable of doing on the field and their impact on the game is what counts.

As tryouts approach, remember a few things.

1. Look for a club that is not run by a parent that has never kicked a soccer ball in their life. And just for the record, just because you have sat in a chair the last few years watching your son or daughter play doesn’t mean your an expert.
2. Find a coaching staff that is always looking to learn. No experienced or qualified coach will ever claim to know it all, even after obtaining the highest licenses in the world. It’s funny because some parents who have barely kicked a ball claim to know it all. And for some reason, their kid (12 years old) knows it all too. Wonder how that happened.
3. The club must have a plan. This recent curriculum is a good start. If you ever visit the top clubs in the world, there is always a plan for developing players. And that plan is developed by coaches, not parents, where the only plan is to play 30 tournaments in one season. Nice plan. If we stick to that our kids will be done playing soccer by the time they are 12, and they would have nothing to play for.

4. Two important building blocks for developing soccer players is practice and play. Practice being the training environment. If your child is playing more games than practice, red flag! How does he get better without practice? Play! being free to play without some adult constantly hounding the poor kid to do this or that. That is not only the coach, but the parent also. Kids need the opportunity to solve problems themselves. There must be a good balance of practice and play.
5. Don't measure a clubs success by the amount of trophies they have in the trophy case. No college coach, professional coach, or national team coach cares about your win-loss record. They just care about what impact you make on their team.

Finally, great players make themselves. Yes, having a plan I good, but in the end, it's comes down to the passion your child has toward the game of soccer and the effort your child puts toward soccer in training and on their own time. Just because your child is not progressing, doesn't always mean the club is doing a bad job. Players and parents need to look at themselves first. I know many parents who will make excuses left and right about why they think their kid is not progressing. They will blame everything and everyone but refuse to realize that maybe their child does not want it as badly as the parent. How many times have you seen this happen? And when the parent does realize it, its often too late to do anything about it. Make your son/daughter take responsibility for their own development. Stop making excuses for them. That responsibility will go a long way, not only in soccer, but in life.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact John Ramos at ramosport@aol.com or 954.448.3571

Enjoy

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**** If there's a topic you would like to see discussed, please email your suggestions to ramosport@aol.com with "Newsletter Topic" in the Subject field.**



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