



Welcome to the **Soccer Association of Boca Raton**. You have joined the largest soccer club in Florida affiliated with the **US Soccer Federation**—the national governing body of soccer in the United States.

SABR's fundamental outlook is to best serve our community with the mission of being a 'total' club. We accomplish this by offering a variety of programs, so players of all skill levels in Boca Raton have an opportunity to

play the game at the level that best suits them. Further, we strive to develop every player to his or her maximum within each of our programs.

As a member of the SABR club, you will learn first-hand that player development extends beyond skills needed to play the game. The social development of our players is also an important part of our mission. Teamwork and cooperation, good sportsmanship and fair play, value of effort versus outcome of game, camaraderie, and most of all FUN are the keys to our club philosophy.

SABR trains and provides nearly 100 referees—mostly youth from our community—who are certified each year by the **US Soccer Federation** as qualified and knowledgeable in the **Laws of the Game** to manage the games for our players. SABR also provides the opportunity for community service for more than 100 local high school students who volunteer their time as **Buddies** in our **TOPSoccer** Program or other efforts that help our club. Players looking for a more competitive game and schedule are encouraged to check out Team Boca, our travel program. Finally, rounding out SABR's offerings are adult leagues and scrimmages organized throughout the year to give back to parents, coaches and sponsors the joy of playing the game. Again, to all of you and our sponsors, thanks and welcome to SABR's new season.

SABR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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YOUTH SOCCER CONTACTS—WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Most of your questions can be answered by your child's coach or age group Division Representative. Please start there. If they don't know the answer, they will "go up the ladder" and get it for you. The current list of **Division Representatives** is at https://sabrsoccer.net/about/contact/.

You can also send us an email to sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net. Your email will be directed for response from a SABR volunteer. Please allow a few days for our volunteers to catch up with you.

Often the information you seek is on our web site—<u>www.sabrsoccer.net</u>. Our SABR web site will keep you up to date on current events, our calendar, and more. For example, each week, we post the game results from all our Under 9 to Under 19 coaches. You can also find us on Facebook at @SABRSoccer, our adult program at @sabr.adult.soccer, and our national youth champions teams at @teamboca. Our club is also on Instagram at @sabrsoccerboca, @sabr.adult.soccer and @teambocasoccerclub.

CONTENTS

2025-2026 SOCCER SEASON SCHEDULE	4
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	5
PLAYER REGISTRATIONS	5
SKILLS EVALUATION	5
WAIT LIST	5
LIMITED REFUNDS	6
INSURANCE	6
SPONSORS	6
TEAM SELECTION	7
PRE-ASSIGNMENTS	7
COACHES	8
REFEREES	9
PARENTS' COMMITMENT TO ATTENDANCE	9
RAINOUTS AND FIELD CONDITION HOTLINE	9
WHAT 'WINNING' MEANS TO SABR	10
TOM CHERUBIN CUP & CELEBRATION	10
GAME & PRACTICE SCHEDULES	11
ILLEGAL PRACTICES	11
RULES AND REGULATIONS	12
DISCIPLINE CHART	13
AGE CHART	14
GAME DAY SETUP	15
RULES OF CONDUCT	16
COACHES' AND SPECTATORS' AREA	17
INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL	17
PARENTS' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING	18
COACHES' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING	19
VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME	20
COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR SABR HIGH SCHOOLERS	20
SABB SOCCER AFTER SCHOOL TRAINING	20

2025–2026 SOCCER SEASON

Registration Converts to Wait List	September 14, 2025
Coaches Clinic	September 27–28
	or October 4-5, 2025
Coaches Meeting	
Contact Players	October 11-19, 2025
Practice Begins Under 7 to 19	Week of October 20, 2025
Jamboree Under 9 to 12	November 1, 2025
Orientation Under 5 & 6	November 1, 2025
First Season Games	November 7–9, 2025
THANKSGIVING BREAK (No Practices) Novem	
Practices Resume	December 1, 2025
HOLIDAY BREAK BEGINS (No Practices)	December 15, 2025
HOLIDAY BREAK ENDS	January 4, 2026
Practices Resume	January 5, 2026
All Practices End (including Under 5 to 8)	February 5, 2026
Regular Season Ends (Under 9 to 19)	February 8, 2026
Tom Cherubin Cup Playoffs	February 9–22, 2026
	(Under 9 and older)
Cherubin Cup Makeup Games & Finalists Practice W	eekFebruary 23–26, 2026
Trophy Day for Under 5 to 8	February 28, 2026
TOM CHERUBIN CUP FINALS	February 28, 2026



SABR reserves the right to change this schedule if necessary due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. The Club will make every attempt to update the online version of this calendar as needed.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Boys and girls born between January 2007 and December 2021 are eligible to play in the new season of SABR. The club primarily serves players who reside within the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District (www.mybocaparks.org/WhoWeServe), which is roughly the area south of C-15 canal, north of the Hillsborough canal and east of the Turnpike to A1A. Proof of residency is required at registration. Anyone who lives outside the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District must pay a non-resident youth administration fee of \$65 per player to the City of Boca Raton. Participants must pay this fee.

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Registration is completed online at www.sabrsoccer.net. From there, you can click buttons to register and answer all your questions in our FAQ's. All registrations are *First Come*, *First Served* for all the roster spots by age group. If you miss the scheduled registration deadline, you should still complete the online registration to join our wait list.

SKILLS EVALUATION

Players in the Under 9 and older age divisions are assigned to teams based on skills ratings in order to have balanced play. Players who did not play last season and who will be in the Under 9 to Under 19 age groups must attend a skills evaluation. Evaluations take place in August and September, and registered players are notified if they must attend. All registered players (regardless of skill level) are placed on a team *provided they register before the deadline while roster spots are available and attend their skill evaluation if necessary.*

WAIT LIST

Anyone missing the registration deadline should go to www.sabrsoccer.net to complete the registration form. If a spot becomes available, you will be contacted to attend a skill evaluation (for the Under 9 to Under 19 age groups). Once accepted, waitlisted players are required to pay the standard registration fees. Placement on teams from the waitlist is not guaranteed and will be filled only if openings occur.

LIMITED REFUNDS

SABR will honor all refund requests through the registration deadline, less a \$25 administrative fee. Registration fees help pay for uniforms, insurance, equipment, and referee/coaches training. These expenses are paid in advance of our season and cannot be recouped. All refund requests must be in writing and emailed to sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net or sabrregistrar@sabrsoccer.net by the registration deadline.

INSURANCE

Via SABR's affiliation with **Florida Youth Soccer Association** (**FYSA**), all youth players and coaches are covered by accidental medical insurance. The medical payments coverage is excess of other valid and collectible coverage. All coaches, managers and administrators are covered by liability insurance. Note, all claims for insurance must be reported to the appropriate Director of Boys or Girls Soccer.

SPONSORS

Sponsors supplement our registration fees so more families can join SABR. Sponsorship also supports our expenses for team equipment, coaches' clinics, and referee fees. Team sponsorships start at \$395, which feature the sponsor's name and/or logo on the jersey. Choice of uniform color and practice night may be requested but cannot be guaranteed. Due to the large number of sponsors in some of our age groups, SABR cannot guarantee color or team selection. Decisions are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone interested in sponsoring a team or supporting our program is encouraged to email us at sponsor@sabrsoccer.net.

TEAM SELECTION

To be placed on a team in the recreational program, players must be registered with fees paid, including City Non-Resident fee, if applicable. Rosters are generated using Team Building software, and the teams are balanced by the software using player ratings (including the effect of any pre-assigned players due to coaches' commitment). Prior year players are skill rated by the respective coaches at the end of previous season; new players are rated during the current year registration process. The maximum number of pre-assignments to the same team is two.

PRE-ASSIGNMENTS

We allow pre-assignment requests only for those who wish to volunteer together: coaches in Under 7–Under 19; and Team Parents in Under 5–Under 6; pre-assignments are not guaranteed. Only 2 volunteers may serve together on one team. Player requests by anyone else, including team managers and sponsors are NOT permitted.

In no case will we allow more than 2 players to be pre-assigned to the same team (or 3 in the case when the coach or assistant coach children are siblings). The only exception is for pre-assignment of siblings of non-volunteers provided SABR is advised during registration and exclusive of children added to the teams from the waitlist. We then generate team rosters without any further adjustments.

No trades or preferential player assignments will be permitted to avoid problems of team imbalance. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS**.

COACHES

SABR has adopted the US Soccer Federation Play-Practice-Play coaching system for volunteer parent coaches. USSF rolled out P-P-P in 2018 for recreational soccer programs like ours across the country. We invest in all our coaches and assistant coaches through coaching clinics with USSF National Instructors, and we pay the annual fees for their season of USSF weekly practice plans designed for our coaches' phones, plus the cones and equipment they need to run practices, and access to USSF's digital resources and videos for those that want to learn more.

SABR recruits and develops coaches and assistant coaches. All coaches, new or returning, are expected to attend one or more coaches' clinics. All clinics are free of charge and feature licensed members of the U.S. Soccer Federation national staff. Attendance is recorded for verification. Contact the appropriate age group division representative or Director of Boys or Girls Soccer for details.

One coach from each age group receives a 'Coach of the Year' plaque. SABR tracks the performance of every coach throughout the year and then chooses one who best represents the superior character of a SABR coach. These coaches are recommended by our Board of Directors, division representatives, coaches, and parents. Award criteria include integrity, honesty, teaching ability, team cooperation, personal involvement, encouragement, respect for others and fairness of play.

COACHES' CLINICS & MEETING

SABR provides all coaches with the necessary training, materials, and support to ensure proper development of players. The coaches' clinics are designed to teach and inform ALL coaches in divisions Under 7 through Under 19 and trainers in divisions Under 5 and Under 6 about age-appropriate activities for youth players. Every year the clinics focus on the changing growth, development and learning styles of players through their maturation.

A MANDATORY COACHES MEETING WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON. SEE THE SEASON CALENDAR FOR THE SPECIFIC DATE.

COACHING RESOURCES

https://www.ussoccer.com/coaching https://www.fysa.com/recreational-coaching-resources/

REFEREES

SABR encourages local community members to be a part of the game as a referee. Referees are paid on a per game basis and are required to participate in a referee licensing course if they do not already have a current USSF certification. To be certified, referees must take a USSF course, which is offered online by the Florida State Referees (FSR) website at <a href="florecter-floridge-flo

PARENTS' COMMITMENT TO ATTENDANCE

Each SABR family has made a commitment to all the other parents and their children to attend practices and games when they register their children to play.

Soccer is a team sport. SABR's coaches are volunteers who give of themselves for all the league's children. They plan practices and games expecting their players to be ready to take the field on time. It is important for parents to play their part to meet these expectations.

SABR prioritizes individual effort and teamwork over the result. These life lessons are weakened when families schedule other family activities and games and practices are missed. Please consider the disappointment of fellow players and families if your team is not at full strength or forfeits due to your player missing a game.

RAIN OUTS & FIELD CONDITION HOTLINE

Always assume that games will be played, and practices will be held unless you are contacted by SABR. Apart from lightning, games and practices will only be canceled when inclement weather (i.e., dangerously strong incoming winds) or other field conditions interfere with player safety. SABR families can always call the City of Boca Raton Fields Condition Hotline at (561) 367-7068 for up-to-date reports. If you are not sure, go to the field. SABR does not play when lightning is present in the field area or when the authorities have closed the field for any reason.

SABR will attempt to schedule make-up games, but not practices. Coaches do not schedule make-up games; they are advised by their division representative as to those schedules.

WHAT 'WINNING' MEANS TO SABR

Ultimately, SABR defines 'winning' in its recreational program as the process whereby children and youth have a safe space to grow, have fun, and gain important life skills through the game of soccer. SABR's long-term goal is for players to be winners off the field. SABR soccer offers players a chance to participate in a great game that is just that — a game, and people of all ages play games for fun. Through the game, players also exercise and learn about individual effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and, as they get older, they gain a better perspective about competition.

In the Under 5, Under 6, Under 7 and Under 8 divisions, SABR does not keep score, results, or standings. Players receive participation trophies following their last regular season game. As players grow older and mature, SABR keeps season standings in the Under 9 and older divisions. Regular season games ending in a tie will remain tied. Trophies are given to each member of the regular season first and second place teams in each older age division.

TOM CHERUBIN CUP & CELEBRATION

The Tom Cherubin Cup is a postseason championship single-elimination tournament for all boys' and girls' teams in the Under 9 and older divisions. It is named in honor of one of SABR's most dedicated volunteers whose outlook always epitomized "what's right for the kids."

Every team makes the playoffs, and SABR uses the regular season standings to establish tournament brackets. During the Tom Cup Tournament, ties are broken according to procedures listed in the tournament rules given to each coach prior to the start of the tournament. Trophies are awarded to each member of the winning and runner-up teams in the Tom Cherubin Cup.

The last day of tournament play is a celebration of the whole SABR soccer season. SABR welcomes all players and families to hold team picnics, come to the games, and play in the soccer midway bounce house, climbing wall and other attractions.

SABR fully believes that it is the fun our players, regardless of age, get from their participation and effort, that far outweighs the outcome of any particular game.

GAME & PRACTICE SCHEDULES

In most age groups, games will be played regularly one day a week (either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday). It is possible for some divisions to have two games in one weekend although this does not happen frequently for any given team or division. Schedules are determined based on field availability, number of teams within a division, and other considerations. Occasionally, games will be played on selected weeknights, mainly in the case of makeup games and during the Tom Cherubin Cup Tournament playoffs at the end of the season for our Under 9 and older age divisions. Each division will play approximately 12 regular season games and one to three playoff games. SABR tries to work around most holiday schedules sanctioned by the public school system.

Practice day and time for a given team is determined by the coach and division representative. Field time slots are assigned by the SABR Fields Coordinator. Once assigned, a team's practice day and time cannot be changed.

SABR cannot and will not make changes to accommodate a player who is assigned to a team having practices inconvenient to the player or family. Unfortunately, in an organization of over 2,000 players, any attempt to accommodate individual schedules is administratively impossible.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES

Team practice is permitted only as assigned by SABR. Any practice, team meeting, event or gathering at which some or all the players from the same team attend (e.g., barbeque, pool party, park picnic, etc.) where soccer is played, outside of the assigned practice slot, will be considered an illegal practice by SABR. The penalty imposed on a team for an illegal practice will be up to the discretion of SABR and may entail forfeiture of games and/or disqualification from further play. In short, SABR takes a very dim view of illegal practices and will deal with offenders harshly.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

REFEREES

If no referee is available at the start of the game, the game will be rescheduled for play at a later date.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

SABR requires a minimum amount of participation for every player.

All the players are teammates, and everyone gets to play. Players should not be considered as either full-time players or substitutes regardless of which players start the game.

Every player in attendance at a game in our Recreational Program—and who is physically able to play—will play at least 50% of each game.

In our Under 5 through Under 8 age divisions, our games are designed so that all the players can play the entire time.

In the Under 9 and older divisions, roster sizes are set to a fixed maximum so no one should ever play less than 50% of the game when all the players attend. Coaches will use their best efforts to maximize player participation for every player within the flow of the game.

EQUIPMENT

Each player must provide shin guards and soccer or athletic shoes. Rubber cleats are recommended but not required. Metal cleats or baseball-style toe cleats are not permitted; players wearing them will not be allowed to play. Elastic-strapped

eyeglasses and glasses designed for athletic activities are recommended. Players are encouraged to own a soccer ball to bring to practice. Shin guards must be worn under socks during all practices and games. Insurance does not cover players who are injured if they are not wearing proper equipment.

JEWELRY & CASTS

New or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may not be worn during games or practice. All piercing jewelry, including nose piercings, may be considered potentially dangerous apparel by the referee. As such, players and coaches should be prepared for a referee to rule a player ineligible to participate. To ensure full participation, it is recommended that all jewelry be removed prior to the referee check-in. If a player has bandages on their earlobes, it will be assumed they are covering earrings, and the player will not be permitted on the field.

SABR rules forbid players from playing games or practice with a hard or soft cast. The referee has final authority to determine a player's eligibility. If there is a situation involving a unique medical device which may be harmful, the player's parents will submit a request to SABR so that the equipment may be evaluated, and referees informed that the device is permitted.

The referee is the final authority in determining a player's eligibility.

DISCIPLINE CHART

The following chart represents discipline and suspensions for violating the rule of SABR. Anyone involved with these violations will be assessed and punished accordingly. A rules committee reviews each offense and administers judgment.

Offense and Discipline	Non-Player	Player	Suspensions
Assault	х		1 to 5 years
Assault on Referee	х		2 to 10 years
Assault on Referee		Х	1 year
Criticism	х	Х	1 game
Dissent	х	Х	1 game
Enter field without permission	х		1 year
Enter field without permission		Х	1 year
Enter ineligible player	х		1 year
Fighting		Х	5 games
Foul and abusive language	х	Х	2 games
F/A language to Coach/League Officials	х	Х	4 games
Joining fight in progress		Х	8 games
Profanity or insult	х	Х	2 games
Profanity or insult to Referee/League Official	х		5 games
Profanity or insult to Referee/League Official		Х	4 games
Pushing nonviolent		Х	2 games
Red card nonviolent		х	1 game
Removing team from field	х		1 game
Second caution		х	1 game
Serious foul play		Х	2 games
Spitting		Х	4 games
Striking nonviolent		х	1 game
Striking violent		х	5 games
Stopping imminent goal		х	1 game
Swearing	x	Х	2 games
Threatening gesture		Х	4 games
Threatening gesture to Coach or League Official	x	Х	5 games
Threatening gesture to Referee	x		1 year
Threatening gesture to Referee		Х	8 games
Verbal abuse	x	Х	1 game
Verbal threats	x		1 year
Verbal threats		х	8 games
Violent conduct	x		1 year
Violent conduct		×	8 games

AGE CHART

SABR follows U.S. Soccer's Birth Year Registration Mandate. All children born in a calendar year play together in their birth-year age group.

AGE DIVISION	PLAYER'S YEAR OF BIRTH	
U5	2021	
U6	2020	
U7	2019	
U8	2018	
U9	2017	
U10	2016	
U11	2015	
U12	2014	
U15	2013–2011	
U19	2010–2007	

GAME DAY SET-UP

This schedule represents game day parameters for each age category that represent age-appropriate departures from the FIFA Laws of Soccer. In addition, there is unlimited substitution, subject to certain timing parameters enforced by the referee.

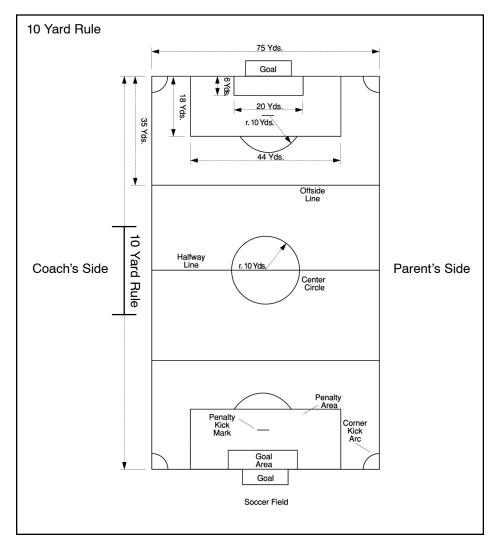
Note that slide tackling is permitted as long as there is no foul committed in the judgment of the referee.

Special rules for playoff games involving overtime will be shared with coaches at the end of the regular season.

Age Group	Ball Size	Players	Goalie	Play Time	Offside
Under 5	#3	4–5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 6	#3	4–5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 7	#3	4–5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 8	#3	4–5	No	20-minute half	No
Under 9	#4	7	Yes	25-minute half	Yes
Under 10	#4	7	Yes	25-minute half	Yes
Under 11	#4	9	Yes	30-minute half	Yes
Under 12	#4	9	Yes	30-minute half	Yes
Under 15	#5	11	Yes	35-minute half	Yes
Under 19	#5	11	Yes	40-minute half	Yes

RULES OF CONDUCT

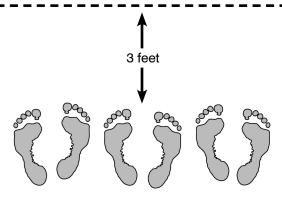
The coach of each team shall be responsible for the conduct and demeanor of assistant coaches, team volunteers, and fans. The following items highlight some of the rules regarding non-player conduct: No person shall be allowed to argue with, confront, or abuse a referee. Under no circumstances are parents or fans allowed to enter the field at any time during the game unless permitted by the referee or coach; this can result in a minimum suspension of one game. SABR administrators also serve as field marshals when present at games. Please respect their directives.



COACHES' AND SPECTATORS' AREA

Coaches and assistant coaches shall be restricted to an area ten (10) yards to one side of the centerline (the opposing team coaches are restricted to the other ten-yard area from the center line), on only one side of the field. Parents and fans must occupy the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches. The ten-yard areas are not rotated, irrespective of the team's changing sides of the field to start the second half. No one may be behind the goals! *Noisemakers are not permitted.* COACHES MUST BE ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE FIELD AS THE PLAYERS AT ALL TIMES.

THREE FEET BEHIND THE LINE



All players and coaches on one side of the field and parents and fans on the other shall remain at least three (3) feet behind the touch (side) lines.

INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

Anyone failing to abide by these rules of conduct is subject to expulsion from the playing area by the referee, Division Representative, SABR Administrator or Program Director. Failure to leave the area when requested to do so may result in a forfeiture by the team with which the offending party is associated. Further rules and sanctions for players and non-players are listed in the league **Discipline Chart** in the SABR handbook.

In case of injury, the referee shall decide if it is severe enough to stop the game. If play is stopped for any injury, the referee may allow a coach to attend to the injured player. Parents and fans may not enter the field at any time during the game unless permitted by the referee or coach.

PARENTS' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Every parent who permits his/her child to play in the Soccer Association of Boca Raton must abide by the following statement of understanding:

STATEMENT OF PARENTAL/GUARDIAN UNDERSTANDING

- The SABR Program is for the sole benefit of the youth in our community.
- I will, to the best of my ability, arrange to have my child attend all team practices and games.
- ✓ I agree to the pre-assignment guidelines for players on each team.
- ✓ I understand that my child's team assignment will not be changed due to conflicts.
- I will not argue with, confront, or abuse any referee.
- I will observe my child's games from the designated area assigned by league officials.
- ☑ I understand that my child will not be able to play in games or practice without wearing shin guards and shoes that are appropriate for soccer.
- ✓ No new or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may be worn during a game or practice.
- ✓ I understand that the primary SABR Service Area is the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District (www.mybocaparks.org/WhoWeServe), and I agree to pay the annual Non-Resident Fee of \$65 per player to the City of Boca Raton if I live outside of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District.

COACHES' STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Every coach who registers for the SABR Soccer program must agree and conform to the Coaches' Statement of Understanding. By registering as a coach, the coach agrees to the bylaws of SABR and the Florida Youth Soccer Association.

STATEMENT OF COACHES UNDERSTANDING

- The SABR Program is for the sole benefit of the youth in our community.
- ✓ I agree to abide by the philosophies, objectives, and rules of the SABR program.
 I agree to play all team players at least 50% of each game. I will use my best efforts to maximize player participation for every player.
- I will not condone or turn my back on any illegal practices. I will not argue with, confront, or abuse any referee.
- $\ensuremath{ \ \, \square }$ I agree to coach games from the designated area assigned by league officials.
- I understand that no player on my team will be permitted to participate in practice or play in games unless they are wearing shin guards and footwear that are appropriate for soccer. During all games, team players must also wear SABR uniforms.
- No new or existing pierced earrings or other potentially dangerous apparel may be worn during a game or a practice.
- ✓ I agree to report the results of all games to my division representative.
- I understand that the use of tobacco is prohibited at games and practices.
- It is my responsibility to demonstrate good sportsmanship and fun for the children and parents.
- ☑ I agree to attend the training session(s) and meeting(s) held by SABR to assist me in coaching the players.
- ✓ I agree to attend the coaches administrative meeting to receive my roster, team uniforms, schedules, and other information for the management of my team.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Want to get involved? Want to meet others who care about our community's youth? SABR always needs volunteers — no matter what age, you can help! SABR has hundreds of volunteer parents and grandparents whose valuable time, energy and knowledge help make SABR one of the best soccer programs in the U.S. Most parents start out as assistant coaches. A few hours per week for 12 weeks is all it takes. SABR can use your help off the field, too. An organization our size has many tasks that can always 'use another pair of hands'. Send us an email to sabrinfo@sabrsoccer.net if you would like to be considered for a SABR volunteer position.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR SABR HIGH SCHOOLERS

SABR encourages our high school aged players to give back to the community. Teenagers from SABR are the core of our TOPSoccer Buddy Crew, as well as in other league programs. All high school age players who are registered in the recreational, travel and TOPSoccer programs are eligible to serve as volunteer coaches or assistant coaches for our younger teams. We provide these players with coaches training and mentoring. All these activities are eligible for accredited community service hours with our local high schools. This is a great way to earn community hours while learning leadership skills and youth development. Send us an email to topsoccer@sabrsoccer.net to find out more.

SABR SOCCER AFTER SCHOOL TRAINING

SABR Soccer After School teaches children from Under 5 to Under 19 in groups of at least 6 and no more than 8 players for 2- to 5-week sessions. Groups meet 1 or 2 days each week for an hour of training that day for highly individualized skills training and small-sided play.

There are usually 2 or 3 choices for each age group, so we can launch something for all our players. The sessions are under the direction of the SABR Youth Recreational Director of Coaching and a staff of highly experienced trainers with college, high school, and other professional coaching backgrounds.

The fees are based on the number of weeks and sessions per week.

Registration: https://sabrsoccer.net/training-programs/#soccer-after-school



Soccer Association of Boca Raton P.O. Box 812650 Boca Raton, Florida 33481

www.sabrsoccer.net