



Q&A U13+ Boys

MISSION AND VISION

- ▶ **Mission:** Azzurri Storm is a non-profit soccer organization. Our aim is to provide an environment where young soccer players from all backgrounds are guided and inspired to reach their full potential both on and off the field. Every decision we make and every initiative we take is guided and based entirely upon the well being and benefit of our players.
- ▶ **Vision:** To be widely regarded as Southwest Florida's premier youth soccer club. Azzurri Storm is committed to providing the community with a model of quality youth development, education, and inspiration through the sport of soccer.

AZZURRI STORM OVERVIEW

history

- Formed in 1993
- Represent 500+ players
- U8 – U19
- Competitive Program

affiliation

- Orlando City Affiliate
- Support pathway to MLS academy
- Scouting by Orlando City Academy coaches
- Coaching curriculum provided

college

- Players who are committed to the long game
- Classroom style prep for high school (sophomores-seniors)
- Coaches with collegiate coaching experience and college relationships
- Showcase tournaments

WHY CHOOSE AZZURRI

- ▶ Priority on improvement for all stakeholders: players, coaches and parents
- ▶ **Development focused**
- ▶ **Curriculum** for U8 – U19
- ▶ **All Coaches are licensed** and background checked
- ▶ Coaches lead up to 2 teams at most
- ▶ **Invested in the community** from Optimist recreational soccer to FC Naples USL 1
- ▶ Financial aid available to players
- ▶ NEW: **periodic performance assessments** for players
- ▶ NEW: **community events** focused on celebration and learning
- ▶ NEW: **parent training** and **focus groups**
- ▶ NEW: **support high school players** with college preparations and leadership opportunities
- ▶ NEW: **leadership training** for coaches

COACHES MATTER

NL CLUB PREMIER 1 STAFF



A poster for the NL Club Premier 1 U13-U19 Coaches. At the top left is the Azzurri Storm logo with the tagline 'THE FUTURE IS PURPLE'. To the right is the US Youth National League logo. The main title is 'NL CLUB PREMIER 1 U13-U19 COACHES'. Below this, it says 'BOYS ID SESSIONS APRIL 21-28 BIRTH YEARS: 2013-2007 U13-U19 BOYS'. There are four circular portraits of coaches. Below each portrait is the coach's name and their coaching history.

Coach	Coaching History
Chris Gores	2013 & 2011 Boys Premier
Robbie Schank	2012 & 2010 Boys Premier
Dayne Atkinson	2009 Boys Premier
Daniel Collazo	2007/08 Boys Premier

At the bottom, there is a website link 'AZZURRISTORM.COM/TRYOUTS' and a US Youth Soccer logo.

- ▶ Development focused training
- ▶ Curriculum based
- ▶ **Coaches are licensed** and background checked. (on pathway to improve licensing one level up)
- ▶ Coaching is methodological – focus on education
- ▶ Players have access to varied coaches throughout their Azzurri career enabling a richness in experience
- ▶ Year – long classroom environment for college pathway preparations and development (high school students)
- ▶ New: Feedback system will be documented and regularly shared

LEAGUE SUCCESS

- ▶ The alphabet soup of youth soccer can be confusing. We believe it is important to be in the right league, but the the highest competition league is not always the right place for our players.
- ▶ Azzurri Storm leadership is always looking for the **highest level of competition that best suits our player base.**
- ▶ While other clubs talk about being part of a specific league as a reason for being, it is important to look at their performance overall in that league.
- ▶ We believe in personal development and team development together as being important to player growth.
- ▶ Winning is not always an indicator of success.
- ▶ Azzurri Storm is committed to supporting the individual goals of each player and working to challenge them in their current environment.

WHAT ARE THE LEAGUES: BOYS

Premier Teams (1st Team) and Purple/White Teams (2nd/3rd) play in different leagues.

U8 – U10

- Premier: EDP
- Purple: EDP
- White: EDP

U11 – U12

- Premier: FAL/EDP
- Purple: EDP
- White: EDP

U13 +

- Premier: National League Club Premier I (formerly E64)
- Purple: EDP

TOURNAMENTS VS. LEAGUE GAMES

Potential Tournaments

- 2 Local Tournaments
- Dimitri Cup – January (Lakewood Ranch)
- Weston Cup – February (East Coast)
- Sarasota and Tampa Cups
- Disney Showcase
- Premier Teams U17 – U19: 2 Out of State
 - Dallas Cup, Jefferson Cup, etc.

League Games

- National League Club Premier I (formerly E64)
- Weekend games
- Play opponents 2x: at home and away
- Location of home games: NCRP, Bonita, Paradise
- Away games: Miami – Ft Lauderdale – South of Orlando
- League championships based on ranking
 - Late Fall
 - Early May
 - July
- League games: August – April

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Club Registration Fee

- League Registration, FYSA registration, insurance
- Ref Fees
- Field Rentals
- Administrative and Coaches Cost

\$1900

U13 +

Uniform Kits

- Uniforms run on a 2-year cycle
- The uniform link will be sent in May and purchase is required by June 15th

\$500

Approx.

Team Fees

- Coach Travel Costs
- Tournament fees - Separate cost from the club registration

\$500

Approx.

Financial Aid is Available.

Club Fundraisers and Business Sponsorships can also offset Team Fees

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Sponsor

- Seeking Business Sponsors for Team Funds and Travel Support

Donate

- When you register your player, you can submit an optional donation

Scholarship

- We will make every effort to provide assistance or waive fees in instances where the player's family merits financial aid.

Email John Dina at John@azzurristorm.com if you would like to directly contribute to a team or player.

COMMITMENT FOR U13+

Time

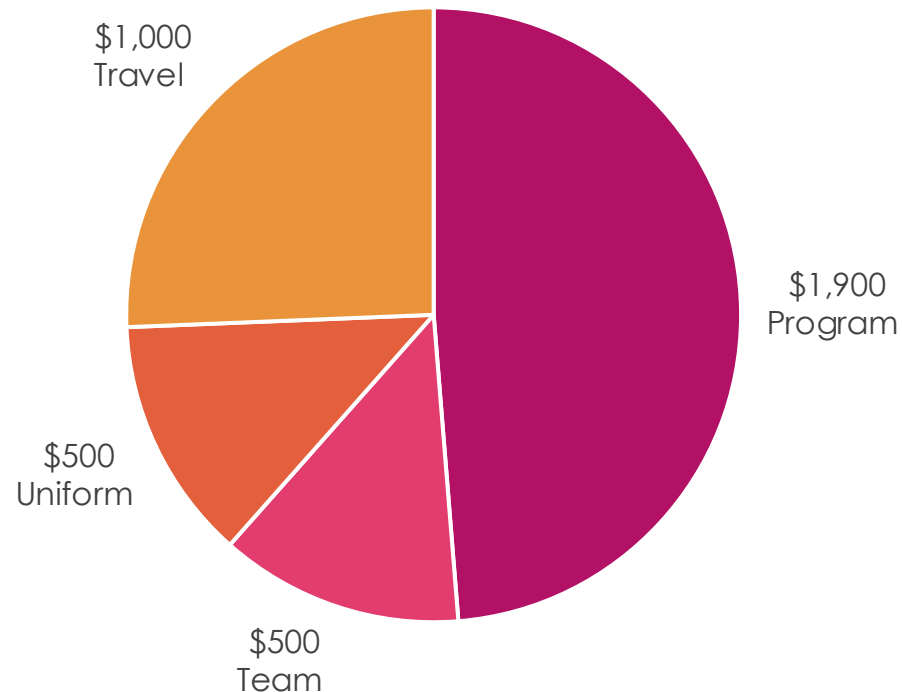
- **3 practices** a week (1.5 hours) Premier Teams
- 2 practices a week (1.5 hours) Purple/White Teams
- Extra **homework** for players to do at home based on coaching standards
- **League Games** – Miami and locations south of Orlando
- **4 Tournaments per season** (includes 3-4 games in a weekend and travel potential)
- Additional team meetings and parent-player education events
- **High School season** – teams do not practice or play games generally

Expectations

- **Training is mandatory.** Not attending will have implications in game minutes.
- **Financial Commitment** is necessary for team fees and failure to contribute to the team fees will have implication in ability to attend games.
- **Game attendance** is not optional. The games are part of the learning experience and the commitment to the program is inclusive of the game commitment.
- Show up **on time** for training and games
- **Communicate any issues** with coaches before events and use Team Snap to provide RSVPs
- **Ref Abuse** is not tolerated from players and parents

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

\$3,900 annual expense estimate



- **Registration costs** for the club: **\$1900**

- **Uniform costs** (lasts 2 years): **\$500**

- **Team costs:** **\$500** average a year

- coaching travel costs

- VEO (camera subscription)

- Tournament fees (and ref costs)

- **Personal Travel** cost: **varies**

- estimate 4 nights for hotel stays + gas + food (assume 2 away tournaments in Florida)

- *Older teams:* assume more significant travel based on tournament/showcase schedules

- *Older teams:* players can travel without family to reduce costs

**Est.
\$3,900**

THE COMPETITIVE COMMITMENT

We encourage and believe children should be involved in varied experiences, academically, creatively and physically

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Competitive Soccer is a significant commitment for families and children

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We value the time and financial commitment that our families make

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As a competitive program, we believe the level of commitment is needed for player development and attainment of their personal goals

NEW TO COMPETITIVE SOCCER

- ▶ Differences between Recreational and Competitive
- ▶ The Try-Out Process
- ▶ The Season: What to Expect

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE SOCCER?

Recreational

- Teams are assigned without skill-based assessment
- Players do not try out to play
- Playing time is balanced on a team
- Practice is 1 a week
- Games on Saturday only
- Coaches are volunteers; do not hold licenses
- No development assessment
- Season is 2+ months each (Fall / Spring)

Competitive

- Teams are assigned based on player tryouts
- Players must try out, and an offer is not guaranteed
- Playing time standards are not consistent; 50% minimum for players U8 – U12 while U13+ is based on various factors
- Practice 2-3 times a week
- Games on Saturday and Sunday
- Includes tournaments weekends
- Coach is licensed
- Player development assessments
- Season is 9 months – follows school year calendar (CCPS)
- Access to additional training

THE TRYOUT PROCESS

Logistics

- Each spring, clubs hold tryouts – end of April - May
- Players must be registered to tryout
- Players will receive a t-shirt to bring to the tryout events
- 2-3 tryout events are required to attend
- Coaches for the upcoming season make decisions
- Coaches will call or email parents with a decision starting the night of the first tryout up to the end of the tryout season.
- All parents will receive a call or email no matter the decision.
- If a roster spot is provided, 48 hours to register and pay deposit fee \$100.
- We recommend not to discuss offers with others during this process.

Player Process

- Players will **wear their Azzurri Storm tryout shirt**
- When signing in at the table, they player will receive their **number to pin to their shorts**.
- Keep this number for the entire process.
- Players will be asked to work in small groups and be assessed on **technical skills**.
- Players will scrimmage
- Players will be assessed on their **soccer IQ** during scrimmaging and small group training sessions
- Coaches evaluate development levels
- Coaches will determine the Premier Team (1st) then evaluate the Purple teams (2nd)

THE TRYOUT PROCESS

- ▶ All teams in a specific age and gender (U10 boys, for instance) hold tryouts together.
- ▶ The coaches for that age group work together to identify the best team/fit for the players.
- ▶ The first team (Premier Coach) will reach out first and fill their squad.
- ▶ The next team (Purple or White) will then be able to make their choices and contact those players and so on.
- ▶ It may take a few days to hear from a coach- do not despair if there is not a phone call the night that the last tryouts take place!
- ▶ Every player will be contacted, regardless of the outcome.
- ▶ Once an offer is made it is imperative that you either **accept or decline the offer and register within 48 hours** in order for the coaches to be able to move forward with creating their teams

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Tryouts and ID Sessions end Thursday (April 24th)
- ▶ Premier coaches will reach out to players first
- ▶ Purple coaches will wait until offers for Premier teams are completed
- ▶ 48 hours to make a decision
- ▶ If yes, pay a \$100 registration fee
- ▶ Season Fees will begin May 1st (chose to pay upfront or monthly)
- ▶ After registration, any fees collected will not be refunded if player decision changes
- ▶ Summer Training will begin in mid July
- ▶ Season officially begins in August
- ▶ Uniform kit ordering information will be sent out in May and should be ordered by June 15th
- ▶ Games will begin in August



QUESTIONS