

What should I wear/bring to practice and what size ball do I need?

Great questions! You should wear whatever is comfortable to move in! Most players wear athletic shorts with a t-shirt of some sort. You should also wear soccer socks, shin guards and cleats. Don't forget your water bottle and ball! More information on supplies and ball sizes can be found here on the [FC Richmond website!](#)

I lost something! I found something! What should I do?!

Remember *where* you found it! This is crucial in returning it to the owner! Then bring it to the shed at whatever field you are on where a field assistant will keep it until the end of the day. Then it will be stored in a bin in the shed until someone comes to claim it. IF you lost a phone or keys, then check with the field assistants at your fields and/or Sara at recreation@fcrichmond.com to see if it has been picked up.

We've never been to a soccer game. How do we know where to go, what to bring and can we bring our amazing dog?

First off, we're so excited you're coming to your first FC Richmond game! You're going to have so much fun! When you arrive, head toward the FC Richmond table near the shed, there will be a field map on or near the shed to help you get oriented. The fields are clearly marked with numbers, and we'll have Field Assistants in FC Richmond gear nearby to help guide you to the right spot.

Avoid walking across fields with ongoing games or in front of other spectators. Once you find your field, find a spot to sit at least 5 feet away from the sideline. As long as the ball is in the lines, players are allowed to run outside of the lines! Please don't sit behind the goals or on the players' and coaches' side (opposite of the spectator side). Look for spectator signs to locate where you should sit.

You should also plan for the weather accordingly. We recommend bringing:

- An extra layer or rain jacket
- An umbrella for rain or sun (as long as it doesn't block anyone else's view!)
- Water or a drink (spectators need hydration too!!)
- Something to sit on (a blanket or folding chair works great!)

As for your amazing dog...

Well mannered dogs are welcome in Chesterfield County Parks as long as you:

- Keep them on a leash the ENTIRE time
- Clean up after them
- Don't let them disturb others or distract from games

Remember, sidelines are not dog parks, and even a friendly dog can be distracting if they are not calm and under control.

We look forward to seeing you on gameday!!

Do I need to buy a uniform or are they provided?

Information on uniform purchase and requirements [here](#)

FOR COACHES: What's the deal with post-game snacks?

Post-game snacks are optional and totally up to the team. Some teams love them, others skip them. A few common approaches:

SignUpGenius: A parent volunteers to organize a snack signup for the season.

Game Day Rotation: Families get assigned a number (1–8, etc.) and bring snacks that week.

No Snacks: Especially if there are allergy concerns or it just feels simpler.

If snacks are offered, kids should always check with their own parents/guardians before eating.

The classic FC Richmond snack? Orange slices or clementines!! They are easy, healthy, and allergy-friendly. If you want to offer snacks, invite a parent to take the lead. Just let the team know you're open to someone organizing!

And please remind kids to pick up ALL trash — I once followed a trail of orange peels from Field 7 to the parking lot. True story.

Are games cancelled for rain? How will we know if a game is cancelled?

Games are cancelled typically based on field condition and weather. If it is actively storming (lightning and thunder) all games will be cancelled. If it is just raining it will most likely not be cancelled unless the fields are deemed “unplayable.” You will be notified via email with ANY and ALL cancellations.

My child will only play if they are their friends' team but I won't know that until registration... What should I do?

Unfortunately we can't guarantee that your child is placed on the same team as their friend, due to scheduling conflicts, team balance and team availability. There are many factors that go into choosing a team for each child. With all this considered, we will try our best to place them on a team with their friend, as they get 2 buddy requests in their registration. However, if they are not placed with their friend there are some things to keep in mind. Part of the fun of playing soccer is that you get to make new friends playing a game that you love and that you will get to play against some of your friends in games throughout the season!

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns at recreation@fcrichmond.com!

Can my player play down?

Unfortunately our club policy does not allow for players to play down. We are registered through the VYSA and USYS, and are bound by their rules in making teams.

Can my player play up?

Playing up is very rare and is taken on a case by case basis with the directors. These are some things we keep in mind when deciding if a player should be considered for playing up:

- What is your player's physical size relative to his/her same-age peers? (Is s/he big for his/her age? Small for his/her age? Any other physical details when compared with average kids their age?)
- Former soccer experience?
- If allowed to play "up", it may be under the condition that s/he play on a different team (this is to discourage folks from asking to play up just to stay with a favorite coach, which isn't usually best for player development) SO would you still want him to play up if s/he COULDN'T be on the same team as last season? (Not a deal-breaker either way, just something we ask!)
- Has s/he tried out for FC Richmond Travel? Is that something s/he might possibly be interested in? Sometimes that is the best fit for an advanced player!
- Would you be willing to coach?

We always want players to play in the best division possible for their needs. If you have questions or concerns about your child's division placement please reach out to us as early as possible as the closer to the start of the season the less flexibility there is in adjusting these things

What do I do if I know my child has behavioral issues or will not be able to fully participate in practice?

Rec is open to everyone but if there will be issues with behavior we may ask you to remain present at practice. Feel free to reach out to recreation@fcrichmond.com with any questions or concerns.

Why didn't my child get on the team we wanted and what can we do about it?

The most common reason for your child's placement is a scheduling conflict with the day your requested coach is practicing. If the days you listed don't match up with the day your coach is assigned to practice, you will not be placed on their team. This is why it is so important to list ALL days that your player could *possibly* be available to practice.

Another possible reason is that your requested coach's team had no more available spots by the time you registered. We fill teams in order of registration, so if you registered when the team was already full, your child will not be placed on that team.

There are many things that are considered when choosing a team for your child. In order to create well balanced teams we take into consideration the players' age, previous soccer experience, practice day availability, carpool requests and coaching requests when we can. Sometimes we have to move players around simply to keep teams well balanced. We always prioritize practice day availability and carpool requests, as noted in registration, BEFORE coaching requests.

If you still have questions regarding your child's team assignment please feel free to reach out at recreation@fcrichmond.com.