

Lions' Den Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE LIONS' DEN!

Welcome to the January edition of the Lions' Den and the first one of 2022! We hope you all had a wonderful and safe holiday season. The beginning of 2022 promises to be an exciting one for the Bay Lions. Please read through the newsletter for important updates.

Bay Lions Gear:

- Bay Lions FSC Youth and Adult t-shirts
- Bay Lions FSC Ladies Tank Top
- Bay Lions FSC Youth & Adult Windbreakers
- Bay Lions FSC Youth and Adult hoodies
- Bay Lions FSC hats coming soon!
- RTIC 20 oz Coffee travel mug*
- Bay Lions FSC car magnets*



***these items available to purchase through Bay Lions FSC**

Start off 2022 in style by sporting your Bay Lions gear. There are many items to choose from. Most items are available through our partners at r&I printing. But remember you can order the coffee mugs and car magnets through Coach Simon or Donna directly.

A percentage of the proceeds supports the Bay Lions club.

<https://www.rlprinting.net/bay-lions-soccer-club>



Important Upcoming Dates:

- Jan 3: Regular practice schedule resumes
- Jan 8-9: Miami Dade League playoffs, U11 and U12
- Jan 14-17: Wellington Soccer Shootout, U13 White
- February TBD: 3rd Annual Bay Lions Car Wash to benefit the Brianne Ashley Stewart Foundation

Important Note Regarding GK Training:

- We will be offering GK training on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays starting on Monday, January 3rd. The Coaching Staff will reach out to each team, and each goalkeeper family, to coordinate when to attend.

Covid Update: As everyone knows, we are in the middle of an Omicron Covid surge. We must remain vigilant when in crowded spaces especially as teams continue to participate in league games, friendlies and tournaments. Please make sure all players have masks that are easily accessible when needed. Also, we ask for your continued cooperation in abiding by the updated CDC guidelines for testing and quarantine so we can continue to do our part in keeping our Bay Lions community and others safe during this rapidly changing environment of the pandemic. The continued sharing of information of positive test results as well as potential exposures is greatly appreciated.



A huge congrats goes out to our U12 for winning the Springs Holiday Cup last month. It was an exciting finish that came down to penalty kicks with the Bay Lions prevailing. What a great way to close out 2021!



U11 & U12 are PLAYOFF bound!

We'd like to congratulate U11 and U12 for making it to the Miami Dade league playoffs! The U11 finished in first place overall in their division with a record of 6 wins and 2 ties and U12 finished in second place overall in their division with a record of 5 wins and 3 losses. If you are free the weekend of January 8-9, please come out to Three Lakes Park to cheer them on! Both semifinal games will be played at 11 am on Saturday and the finals will take place on Sunday. We hope to see you there! Go Lions!

*Playoff dates may change due to teams impacted by Covid, stay tuned!



SPONSORSHIP

Diamond Sponsors



Platinum Sponsor

Shells & Fish

Sponsorship is a great way to support the Bay Lions FSC while gaining visibility in the youth sports community. Sponsorship is also a crucial financial piece which has allowed the club to grow from just one team and one coach in its inaugural year, to 6 teams and 5 coaches in only 4 seasons! The club has many different packages available. They are posted on our website and we encourage you to share them with others. Please reach out to Coach Simon if you have any interest in becoming a sponsor this season.



Coaching Assignments 2021/2022 Season:

U8 Co-ed: Coach Chris

U11: Coach Tomas

U12: Coach Simon

U13 Blue: Coach Simon

U13 White: Coach Tomas

U13 Girls: Coach Chris

Assistant Coach: Coach Sam

Strength & Conditioning Coach: Coach Manny

Goalie Coaches: Coach Anthony & Coach Armando

A friendly reminder that coaching fees are due each month by the 10th.

Team Liaisons are as follows:

U13 Blue- Donna (Dalton) & Ryan (Austin)

U13 White- Tammy (Cameron) & Andrea (Jacob)

U13 Girl's- Noel (Cata) & Beatriz (Anna)

U12- Andrea (Martin) & Sandra (Kory)

U11- Vero (Nico) & Elissa (Danny)

U8: TBD

Coaches Pitch:

Happy New Year, Bay Lions! We are officially looking towards the second half of the season and can't wait to see what this year has in store for us. We are hoping everyone had a healthy, safe, and joyful holiday break. This week we get back to work, and we can't wait to see everyone!

On this edition of the Lions' Den, and since we're all in the New Year spirit still, I'd like to present a New Year's resolution. Collectively, from coaches, to players, to parents, we'd like to ask everyone to disengage from the referees and their decisions in 2022.

After the months of October and November, in one of our coaches' meetings, we brought up the different circumstances our teams found themselves in with refs. Whether it was the coaches, players, or parents that may have found themselves in an argument, we realized it always went against what matters most – the players.

In the community we find ourselves in, where good refs are scarce and are likely refereeing collegiate, showcase, and semi-pro games, it's important to understand who we are dealing with. Firstly, in tournaments, the referees we have work from 7 am – 8 pm. The majority of the times, we have the same ref(s) every game or every other game. We've noticed that refs carry grudges, and ultimately make biased decisions for and against teams.

Can we blame them, though? If we take a step back for a moment, and put ourselves in their shoes, would anyone like to get yelled at for 12 hours straight in the blazing Miami sun? I know some of us are out there for 4 games in one day and feel like we need a spa day – now imagine 12 games per day!

Additional to referee's bias, and even more importantly, are the lessons of respect and accountability for our players. If a referee makes a bad call, and a Coach or parent on the sideline goes off on them, what will the players on that team do? Or if we lose or tie a game, and our conversations revolve around how we lost because of the ref, where is our accountability for the things that we can control as a team?

As frustrating as it may be, questionable refereeing is in store for us for the immediate and foreseeable future. Rather than making it an enemy of the process, let's do our best to use it for our advantage. I know resolutions are tough to keep up, but it's easier when we're working on it together!

Wishing you all a strong start to 2022. And like always, GO LIONS!

All the best,

From the Bay Lions Coaching Staff



Roaring Birthdays-January

Martin U12- January 3
Vibhu U13 white- January 16
Julia F. U13- January 22
Aadi U13 blue- January 26
Anan U13 blue- January 26
Jacob L U12 - December 27



Giving Back:

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated new and used soccer gear for the youth in Colombia. The response was overwhelming, and the donations will go farther than you could possibly imagine. Thank you for your generosity! Rest assured for those who missed the deadline, you may donate at any time throughout the season as we will send another round of donations in June.









Bay Lions Social Media:

We encourage all our Bay Lion families and friends to follow our Bay Lions social media platforms.



<https://www.facebook.com/BayLionsFSC/>

<https://www.instagram.com/baylionsfsc/>