

AMENITY

ATHLETICS

THE LEAGUE THAT YOU CAN WALK TO



Fall Soccer Season 2020 is on its way!

2020 has been an interesting ride hasn't it? We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their patience regarding our decision to cancel Spring season and refund all registrants. As of July 1st, we have opened registration for our Fall season!

This is the first of a digital newsletter that we will be releasing every month to keep everyone as well informed as possible. Along with a brand new logo and website, Amenity Athletics has several other "new" components we will be addressing in detail throughout this newsletter.

Submit all videos and photos for social media to: AmenityAthleticsPics@gmail.com



@AmenityAthletics



@AmenityAthleticsJax



AmenityAthletics.com

Who We Are

Amenity Athletic's goal is to provide a "recreational league" environment where families can have fun, learn the fundamentals of the game, and improve performance while promoting good sportsmanship and teamwork.

With over 2000 participants yearly in soccer and flag football, we are one of the fastest growing youth athletic leagues in North Florida! Join one of our sports leagues today to see what we are all about! We currently advertise and have teams that play out of the following communities: Bartram Springs, King and the Bear, Murabella, Heritage Landing, Celestina, Durbin Crossing, Aberdeen, Markland, and Johns Creek.

Practices are held throughout all of the respective communities, however, games are played on Saturdays at both Heritage Landing's and Bartram Spring's Soccer Fields. We are in the process of expanding and growing each season and hope to have more communities as well as a third field for games in the near future.

Our soccer leagues are held in the Spring and Fall, and our teams are open to ages 3 to 14 years old. Currently, our flag football league plays during the Winter season and is open to ages 5 to 13 but we are hoping to have a Summer season beginning in 2021.

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A Letter from David Callahan: Former League Director

Hello to my Amenity Athletics family. It has been an amazing 23 seasons serving as your athletic director. The time, though, has come for me to move along. It was an absolute pleasure to see our leagues blossom from less than 300 kids per year to now close to 2,000. It's been a privilege to be a part of watching your children grow. I got to see a few former U10 kids graduate from high school this year. I have some former U6 players who are now refereeing games. Amenity Athletics is more than just a place to play sports. It is about community; and it is about friendship. Being allowed to be a part of your communities has enabled me to make friendships that I will carry with me forever.

To all the directors of the great Vesta communities around town, thank you for your support of me and this great league. To my main man, Lenny Gilette.....from a 16 year old reffing games in between high school football practices to my Assistant Director that I couldn't do without. I'm proud of the man you've become. You've been an amazing asset to me and to the league. To the one person that I 100% could never have done this without, Mrs. Solveig Hackleman. You've been right there by me since the first whistle. Nothing good that has happened with this league could have EVER happened without the tireless work that you do behind the scenes. Your patience, grace and passion is so infectious. Thank you for making my time here so joyful.

Lastly, thank you parents and especially our parent coaches. You have always made my job easy. A lot of you have become good friends along the way, and I am very grateful for that. Please continue to send me pictures and keep me updated as to how your kids progress in the soccer world. I always love hearing stories!!!

I'm sure you all are itching to get back out on the field this coming Fall. Amenity Athletics is a one of a kind league and will continue to be. I'm leaving you in good hands with a new director that I happen to know.....pretty well. He happens to be, my brother! I am going to be assisting in the transition to him as League Director this upcoming season.

Thank you again for the many fabulous years!!! I'll pop out there to the fields to say hello this coming season for sure. Stay safe everyone!!

Our Staff



Tim Callahan, League Director for Amenity Athletics. Tim has always had a passion for sports and coaching. As a 3-sport athlete in high school, Tim went on to play college soccer (Southeastern) & college basketball (Trinity College). After college Tim began his coaching career at Providence School in Jacksonville where he coached three different sports over a 9-year period. Leading the girls' soccer team to back to back regional final appearances, middle school softball team to 4 IMSC championships, and JV girls' basketball team to Sunshine Tournament champs.

While coaching, Tim began playing competitive flag football. Over a 10-year span, Tim traveled the USA playing on the #1 team in the country. Winning national championships, played against NFL stars, and eventually being inducted into the flag football Hall of Fame. On July 3, 2010 Tim Callahan was playing in a flag football tournament in Jacksonville when an opposing player fell on top of him causing him to break his neck at the c3 & c4 level. Tim was instantly paralyzed from the neck down and was told he would never walk again.

Vowing to turn that tragedy into triumph, Tim overcame those odds and is walking tall today. Two years after the accident he went back and played in a national flag football tournament in Orlando where his team won the tournament. From paralyzed to a national championship, Tim's story blew up.

As a result, in April of 2013 Tim started the Tim Callahan Inspiration Foundation. The foundation hosts FREE sports camps for kids. Showing kids to never give up, no matter what circumstance life throws at them. The Foundation also gives brand new sporting equipment to kids in need. Tim also helps run 4on4ofjax adult flag football league, the largest adult flag football league in Jacksonville.

Tim has been married for 13 years to his wife Jamie Callahan and they have 2 young boys, Elijah & Noah. Tim is so excited to begin this new venture with Amenity Athletics!

Our Staff

Solveig Hackleman moved to St Augustine from Colorado in 2008. She immediately signed her children up for soccer once she learned there was a league right in her own neighborhood! Her kids enjoyed it so much that they played every season and flag football also. Solveig's daughter enjoyed flag football every bit as much as soccer! After meeting so many wonderful neighbors and making many friends, she began working at Heritage Landing Amenity Center.



Soon after, Solveig began working as the Head Administrator for Amenity Athletics in 2010. "It has been a pleasure to watch the program grow in North Florida. I work mostly behind the scenes doing administrative work but my favorite part is seeing the joy that Amenity Athletics brings to so many families. I love being a part of something that affects so many people in a positive way!"

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Lenny Gillette started playing for Amenity Athletics when he was ten years old. He started with soccer before switching to Flag Football. This was his first experience with playing either sport because it was not available to him growing up where he lived in New York. Amenity Athletics had a huge impact on Lenny early on in life. He continued to play football in middle and high school and still plays flag football for fun anytime he can! He started coaching football with his dad in Amenity Athletics for his younger brother and their team as well as a fill-in coach for an 8U team in soccer a few years back. After refereeing for 6 years, he transitioned within Amenity Athletics to Head Referee. Lenny believes, "Youth athletics are so important because he experienced the impact that it truly has on children himself and to be able to have a small get away from school and other things going on is a great thing to have a part of child life. They also give the opportunity to play with friends on their teams, or even create new friendships while learning about the importance of staying active. I am so proud to be a part of an organization where I can help create this impact on our youth here in our local neighborhood!"

Fall Soccer!



Register at [AmenityAthletics.com](https://www.AmenityAthletics.com)

Divisions:

Under 5 co-ed (U5) 3 - 4 years old

Under 6 co-ed (U6) 4 - 5 years old

Under 8 co-ed (U7) 6 - 7 years old

Under 10 co-ed (U10) 8 - 9 years old

Under 12 co-ed (U12) 10 - 11 years old

Under 15 co-ed (U15) 12 - 14 years old

Registration Fee - \$95.00

includes:

Jersey, Shorts, Socks, and trophy

Registration ends on August 16th!

Late Registration: \$125.00 per child

Important Information

- Once team rosters are finalized, each parent will be contacted by the coach to identify practice times.
- Opening day will be September 26th and our last day will be November 14th
- There will be 8 scheduled games. Games will be played on Saturdays at either Bartram Springs or Heritage Landing fields.
- Shin Guards are required.
- Referees will be provided for all division play.
- Head coaches and assistant coaches are on a volunteer basis. Please see your registration form for more information if interested!

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Youth Soccer during a COVID-19 World

Amenity Athletics has been monitoring Local, State and Federal communications, guidelines, recommendations and advisories regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) since March and we have decided to proceed with our Fall season.

As the season gets closer we will send updates including any guidelines for players and spectators during the Fall season. We will be considering having specific areas set aside for spectators in order to assure for social distancing.

For Parents

- Please check your child's temperature before bringing them to a practice or to a game.
- Please do not carpool if you can help it.
- Please adhere to social distancing during practices and games. If you feel like you cannot do so, please stay in your car.
- Please wash your player's clothes worn at practices or during games including cleats and shin guards.
- Please wear a mask during practices or game days if social distancing is not possible.
- Please let Amenity Athletics know immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason. Please reach out to Solveig Hackleman through email at Shackleman@vestapropertyservices.com
- Please provide personal sanitizer to your child for practices and games.

For Players:

- Please wash your hands before and after practices and games.
- We would like to encourage all players to wear a mask before and after practices and games.
- Please do not touch anyone else's equipment, water, snack, or bag.
- We would like everyone to please practice social distancing and place bags or equipment at least 6 feet apart.
- Please no group celebrations, high fives, hand shakes, hugs, etc.

For Coaches:

- Please help Amenity Athletics to ensure health and safety of the athletes.
- Please ask players how they are feeling. If someone does not look healthy please speak to their parents and see if sending them home might be the best decision.
- Please continue to follow all state and local health protocols.
- Please make sure all players have their own equipment, water bottle, shoes, etc.
- Coaches or Assistant Coaches should be the only one handling team equipment during practices and games.
- Please maintain social distance during practices and game days. If you feel you can not maintain social distancing, we suggest wearing a mask.
- Please sanitize team equipment after practices and/or game days.

Amenity Athletics will continue to:

- Keep up to date with Local, State, and Federal Regulations and distribute protocols accordingly.
- Communicate regularly with all coaches throughout the season in order to implement plans to notify teams of any situations where someone may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Educate all staff on protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations, and other necessary information.
- Ensure adequate field space for social distancing.



Amenity Athletics Refund Policy:

- During the Spring season, we made the decision to refund everyone due to the effects of COVID-19 having on us and proceed with a season safely and properly. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during the process of refunds.
- If a cancellation occurs again for the upcoming Fall season, we are prepared to do the same and once again refund everyone that has registered.

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Now Hiring Referees!

If you are looking for a great part-time job opportunity, we are now hiring seasonal referees for the upcoming Fall Soccer season. This is an excellent job for high school students looking for some extra money with the opportunity to transition to other employment.

Games are scheduled on Saturday mornings at Heritage Landing and Bartram Springs.



Qualifications:

To qualify for the job, you must be at least 15 years old, available to referee at least 5 Saturdays of the eight week season and be able to make quick decisions. Games are played anytime between 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Fall season begins in September.

Soccer Rules

U5 & U6: Size 3 ball

4 players on the field at a time (4v4)

8 minute quarters

No goalie

Players cannot be in the goal box unless there is another player inside the goal box. This rule will be enforced by referees to the best of their ability. Generally we are just trying to avoid coaches placing a child in the box and having them act as a goalie.

Players will have 2 chances for correct throw ins. After the first throw in the referee or coach will instruct the child on how to throw it in. If the player still throws the ball incorrectly it will result in a turnover. I have instructed my referees to be lenient for this age group.

There are unlimited substitutions and substitutions can be made on throw-in, after a goal is scored, or any goal kick.

Each player should play at least half of the game

U8: Size 3 ball

10 minute quarters

There is no goalie. (4v4 in Heritage) (5v5 in Bartram)

Referees will allow one re throw in the case of incorrect throw ins.

There are unlimited substitutions and substitutions can be made on throw-in, after a goal is scored, or any goal kick.

Each player should play at least half of the game

U11: Size 4 ball

25 minute half's

7 players on a field at a time including the goalie (8 in Bartram)

Incorrect throw ins will result in a turnover

There are unlimited substitutions and substitutions can be made on throw-in, after a goal is scored, or any goal kick.

There is offside penalties only in the U11 & U14 divisions

U11 & U14 Divisions only: Penalties in the 18'(penalty area) will result in a penalty shot

Each player should play at least half of the game

U14: Size 5 ball

30 minute half's

8 players on a field at a time including the goalie

Incorrect throw ins will result in a turnover

There are unlimited substitutions and substitutions can be made on throw-in, after a goal is scored, or any goal kick.

There is offside penalties only in the U11 & U14 divisions

U11 & U14 Divisions only: Penalties in the 18'(penalty area) will result in a penalty shot

Each player should play at least half of the game

A huge thank you to Daily's for the partnership the last couple of years!



AMENITY ATHLETICS

Calling all local businesses! Amenity Athletics is now looking for businesses that would like to partner up for the upcoming 2020 and 2021 seasons!

Monetary sponsors will be eligible to receive:

- Logo placement on our website
- Logo placement on player's jerseys
- Advertisements within our digital newsletter
- Tent setup on game days

We have sponsorship opportunities available at multiple levels. If your business is interested in advertising within our digital newsletter or being a partner with Amenity Athletics at any level please reach out to Solveig Hackleman at your convenience at Shackleman@vestapropertyservices.com.

We love our volunteer Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches!



Our volunteer coaches mean the world to Amenity Athletics! Without you, our leagues wouldn't be the same. Every season, our coaches get to build relationships with our communities through their efforts working with our players, parents, and staff members.

Our coaches communicate with our League Director in order to assure a smooth, fun, and exciting season of recreational sports! This coming season we will be working with our new League Director to provide our coaches with more training and opportunities to grow their teams in new ways.

If you are interested in coaching please apply when registering. We currently give one \$50.00 Head Coach Discount per team. The \$50.00 Head Coach Refund will be issued to you once the League Director has chosen Head Coaches and the Required Background Check has been completed.



Amenity Athletics Coaches Code of Conduct

With regard to my players: I believe that my role as a coach is to contribute to the overall success, physical, and athletic growth of the player through participation in soccer.

- I will endeavor to be a good instructor and a positive role model for my players.
- I believe that the score of a game comes second to the safety and welfare of all my players.
- I will endeavor to put winning in its proper perspective.
- I am responsible for understanding and competing within the letter and the spirit of the Laws of the Game.
- I will teach my players to understand and play within the letter and spirit of the Laws, as well.
- With regard to opposing teams: I believe that the way my team conducts itself can also have an influence, for better or worse, on those we compete against.
- I will endeavor to make my team a positive role model.
- I will not coach, nor allow my players to play, with intent to cause injury to opposing players.
- Neither I nor my players and spectators will display hostile behavior towards opposing players.
- I will emphasize winning without boasting and losing without bitterness.

With regard to Referees:

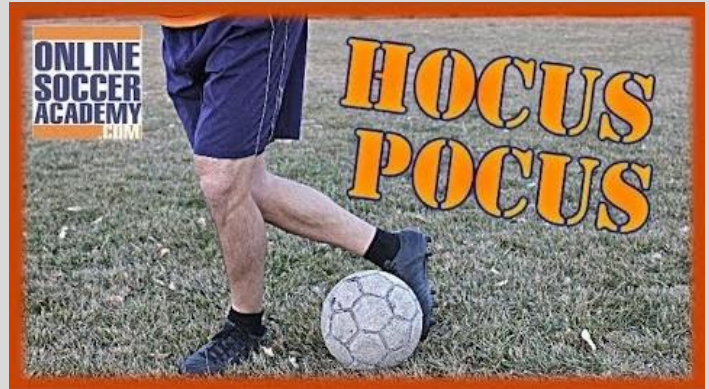
- I believe that Referees, just as coaches and players, are attempting to do their best.
- I will instill in my players and spectators a respect for that fact.
- I understand that my attitude can influence my players and spectators.
- I will display a controlled and undemonstrative attitude toward Referees at all times.
- Neither I nor my players and spectators will address a Referee before, during or after the game in a demeaning fashion.

Practice Tips

Big thanks to Online Soccer Academy for access to free training!

Former professional soccer players Emily Grant and Jared Montz bring you the best in free training videos that Youtube can offer. Below is just a sample of what they provide.

Please feel free to visit their channel at Online Soccer Academy.



Show us your skills! We want to see our players putting their training to use! If you have a video you want to share with the league, please send it to us so we can put it up on our social media!

AmenityAthleticsPics@gmail.com

Team Spirit

What better way to show team spirit than on Team Picture Day! Although things will be structured a little differently this year we are happy to continue this tradition!

To help ensure social distancing and assure enough parking, Heritage Landing will be holding picture days on BOTH Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th.

Bartram Springs will have picture day on Saturday October 10th.

All pictures will be outside only. Times and details will be available in the newsletter and our website at a later date.



We hope everyone is pushing through these last couple of months in a positive way. If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly!

We look forward to seeing what the next couple of months will bring and most importantly, we look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Please continue to be on the lookout for this new monthly newsletter!

Next month...

