A Soccer Club, City Government, and School System Unite to Break Down Barriers to Participation

Tommy Park | Dana Wedeles | Kurt Huffman
ASA Core programs

- Nearly 5,000 annual participants
- 25% of players across all programs receive financial aid totaling over $250,000
- Recreational League - 3,000 annual participants
- Academy Program - 750 annual participants
- Futsal - 2,000 league players
- Seek to represent city demographics across all programs unifying community through soccer w/ Access4All
Breaking Down Barriers to Structured and Unstructured Participation

Facilities | Programming | Resources
Futsal Court Planning

**Facilities**

- **Recessed and raised perigrand**
  - The recessed and raised perigrand provides a level playing surface and allows for better ball control and agility.

- **Play area**
  - The play area is designed to accommodate the size and speed of the game, with clear boundaries to help players maintain control.

- **Incorporate walking paths**
  - Walking paths are integrated into the design to encourage physical activity and provide a safe way for spectators to move around.

- **Incorporate seating areas**
  - Seating areas are strategically placed around the court to offer spectators a comfortable view of the game.

**Programming**

- **Teach game rules and strategies**
  - Teach players the basic rules and strategies of futsal to ensure a fair and enjoyable game.

- **Encourage skills development**
  - Offer workshops and clinics to help players improve their skills and techniques.

- **Promote community involvement**
  - Encourage community involvement by hosting tournaments and coaching clinics.

**Resources**

- **Select appropriate equipment**
  - Choose the right equipment to ensure players are prepared for the game.

- **Secure permits and permits**
  - Obtain necessary permits and permissions from local authorities to ensure compliance with regulations.

- **Establish partnerships**
  - Form partnerships with local community groups to enhance program delivery and outreach.
In FY17, the Community Matching Fund’s inaugural Year, Alexandria Soccer Association was awarded funding with a match to convert the Four Mile Run court to a multi-use futsal court.

The goals and fence have been installed and the court will be re-surfaced and in use in July.
ACPS Partnership

★ The Importance of Starting Strong - Formal Partnership/Principal Agreement
★ Equaling The “Opportunity Playing Field”
★ Important Components - Supper Program - Healthy snacks
★ What The Data Is Showing - Alexandria Out of School Time Study
★ School Strategic Plan Alignment
★ Connecting Community Partners
After School League

by the numbers:

340
Elementary school kindergarten through fifth grade participants (205 at Ramsay and 135 at Cora Kelly). Each kid received a free ASA jersey!

22
Volunteer ASA coaches

20
School volunteers

1,730
Healthy meals served after school before soccer started.

4
School bus drivers who worked late to take kids home from soccer.

Countless

Fully funded, after school soccer leagues. On afternoons in September & October kids at the two elementary schools spent an hour after school playing in the soccer leagues at fields ASA set up behind each school.

600
Minutes played—running, kicking & cartwheeling!

24
Fields lined & 44 goals set up for games.
Inputs from ASA

★ League/program administrator
  ○ Registration
  ○ Group/team structure
  ○ Manage Coaches
  ○ Execute
★ Trained coaches | Paid and Volunteer
★ Uniforms
★ Equipment | Goals, pinnies, and field lining
★ Considerations
  ○ Age groups
  ○ Amount of time & frequency
  ○ Supplementary programs | Reading, writing, mindfulness

Facilities | Programming | Resources
Support

★ Volunteers
  ○ Parents of core program kids
  ○ Adult leagues
  ○ Teachers & Social workers

★ Uniform sponsor
★ Running Brooke Partnership | Move2Learn Grant
★ USYS, East Region, & VYSA | Soccer Across America
★ US Soccer Foundation | “Soccer for Success”
Community Impact

★ Healthier kids
★ Happier kids
★ School attendance improves
★ Parents engaged
★ Opens door to core programs
★ Brings the community together through Soccer
★ Best data for impact found at USSF

ussoccerfoundation.org/impact/
Thanks for all you do!

Questions?
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