



BFCGS Program Guide | Spring 2026

Bend FC Grassroots Soccer

"Building community, confidence, and character — one kick at a time."

Program Overview

Bend FC Grassroots Soccer (BFCGS) is a school-based outreach program designed to engage 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students through the game of soccer. By bringing the game directly to school sites, we aim to remove barriers to participation and foster a deeper connection between students, their school, and their community.

The primary goal is simple: To help students identify with, connect to, and enjoy school while developing teamwork and collaboration skills through soccer.

Core Objectives

- **Improve Student Engagement:** Strengthen the bond between students, school staff, and the educational environment.
- **Skill Development:** Teach fundamental soccer skills and instill a lifelong love for the game.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Foster sportsmanship, student collaboration, and peer support.
- **Character Building:** Instill values of teamwork, dedication, hard work, and resilience.

Program Logistics

- **Target Audience:** Students in grades 3, 4, and 5.
- **Selection Process:** Schools nominate students (focusing on those who would benefit most from engagement).
- **Capacity:** Maximum of **30 students** per school program.
- **Duration:** 6-Week Program (Spring 2026).
- **Session Format:** Weekly 30 to 45-minute soccer lessons held on-site at the school.
- **Equipment:** **Bend FC provides all necessary equipment** (balls, cones, pinnies, etc.).
- **Safety & Compliance:** All Bend FC staff adhere strictly to Bend-La Pine Schools volunteer and safety processes.

Spring 2026 Schedule

The program runs for 6 consecutive weeks, culminating in a grand finale tournament.

Week	Dates	Activity
Week 1	March 2 – March 6	School Practice Session 1
Week 2	March 9 – March 13	School Practice Session 2
Week 3	March 16 – March 20	School Practice Session 3
Break	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Sessions</i>
Week 4	March 30 – April 3	School Practice Session 4
Week 5	April 6 – April 10	School Practice Session 5
Week 6	April 13 – April 17	School Practice Session 6

The Grand Finale: "Under the Lights" Tournament

- **Date:** Saturday, April 18th, 2026
- **Time:** Starting at 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Bend FC Turf Complex
- **Details:** Students will represent their school in a tournament played under the stadium lights! All families, school staff, and administrators are invited to attend and cheer on their school team.

The School Partnership

To ensure a successful program, we ask our partner schools to collaborate on the following:

School Responsibilities:

1. **Nominate Students:** Identify up to 30 students in 3rd–5th grade who would benefit from this mentorship and activity.
2. **Provide Supervision:** Supply **one** staff member or volunteer for **one hour per week** for the duration of the 6-week program to assist with supervision and student support.
3. **Coordination:** Collaborate with the BFCGS coordination team regarding scheduling and logistics.

Bend FC Responsibilities:

1. **Curriculum & Coaching:** Provide expert coaching guides, curriculum, and instructors.
2. **Resources:** Supply all physical equipment needed for the sessions.
3. **Event Management:** Manage all logistics for the End of Year Tournament.

Our Method: Empowering Students

We believe that soccer is more than just a game; it is a vehicle for education. The BFCGS curriculum is designed to teach essential life skills alongside athletic skills.

Through this program, students learn:

- **Winning with Humility & Losing with Dignity:** Managing emotions in competitive environments.
- **Respect & Gratitude:** Showing manners toward parents, teachers, and coaches.
- **Community Importance:** Understanding the value of education and staying involved in a positive community.
- **Fair Play & Leadership:** How to lead by example and work within a team structure.

Program Contacts

Program Administrator- Don Emerson, Executive Director Bend FC

A Central Oregon native with deep roots in the Central Oregon community, Donnie Emerson serves as the Executive Director of Bend FC. Emerson brings decades of experience as a player, coach, and administrator to the new Bend FC school based program. In addition to his current role with the club, Emerson worked for Bend LaPine for 16 years as a High School Head Soccer Coach, a tenure as a middle school Athletic Director, and 11 years in the Bend-La Pine Special Programs as an Adaptive PE assistant.

Contact- donnie@bendfc.com

Logistics and Coordination- Stef Emerson, Recreational Director Bend FC

As the Recreational Director for Bend FC, Stef Emerson oversees the Central Oregon Soccer League (COSL), serving as the first point of contact for hundreds of young players entering the sport. Her leadership is defined by a commitment to creating a positive, organized, and welcoming environment for families and players of all skill levels. Beyond her work with the club, Stef is currently a full time employee by Bend-La Pine Schools in the Technology department.

Contact- cosl@bendfc.com

Schedules and Communication- Jessica Passage, Business Manager Bend FC

Jessica Passage serves as the Business Manager for Bend FC, acting as the backbone of the club's administrative and financial operations. In this vital role, she oversees the day-to-day business logistics, including financial management, player registration, and member services. Jessica has two children who are elementary students in the Bend LaPine School District.

Contact- jessica.passage@bendfc.com

Coaching Staff

LaPine Elementary School

Allison Carrillo- Manager Bend FC Futsal Center

Contact- alli.carrillo@bendfctimbers.com

Juniper Elementary School

Kelly Gieber- Manager of Camps and Clinics

Contact- kelly.gieber@bendfctimbers.com

Bear Creek Elementary

Isaac Villanueva- Bend FC Full Time Coach and COCC Program Administrator

Contact- isaac.villanueva@bendfctimbers.com

RE Jewell Elementary

Zachary Hansen- Bend FC Full Time Coach and Junior Stars Supervisor

Contact- zach.hansen@bendfctimbers.com