BLAIR BOYS' SOCCER

OUR MISSION

To provide our student-athletes with an elite high school soccer experience where they:

1. Develop into resilient, hard working, collaborative, and intentional young men who are prepared to succeed and lead beyond Blair.

2. Grow their knowledge and love of the game of soccer.

3. Make memories and friendships that last well beyond their time on the hilltop.

WHO OUR PLAYERS ARE

- **People First, Students Second, Athletes Third:**
  They have balance in their lives and keep soccer in perspective.

- **Respectful:** They treat each other, their coaches, their opponents, referees, and fans with dignity.

- **Ambitious:** They want to be the best at everything they do.

- **Hardworking:** They work smart and hard to achieve their goals.

The team after Convocation in September 2025.

HOW WE PLAY

- **Game Model:** We have a game model, which is a document that outlines our identity and principles of play for each phase of the game (attack, transition to defense, defense, and transition to attack). It is built with flexibility in mind to give our players a decision making framework to best move through every game situation.

- **Set Pieces:** We are organized on set pieces with clear roles, plays, and signals which we install in preseason and practice regularly throughout the season.

- **End of Game Scenarios:** We have systems in place to tweak our approach when we find ourselves up or down a goal in the final minutes of a match to either consolidate a lead or push for an equalizer.

COACH GRADY

Holder of the U.S. Soccer Federation National “D” Coaching License and currently pursuing the “C” level with completion in February 2027

Captain, All-NESCAC Selection, and DIII National Finalist as player at Williams College

Former summer analyst with the Philadelphia Union’s (MLS) development team

COACHING PHILOSOPHY

- **Intentional:** Every decision made has a clear reason and is pursuant to our mission.
- **Holistic:** Each player is known and valued as a person and supported and challenged to grow on and off the field.
- **Process-oriented:** We can control our performance but can only influence the result of each match. If we play our best, the results will follow more often than not.
- **Positive:** Players are treated with respect, never criticized for execution mistakes, are commended for good decisions and effort, and encouraged to be bold.
- **Reflective:** Video and player feedback are used to guide decision making.

OUR PRESEASON

- Six days used to build team culture, set expectations and goals, evaluate individual ability, and teach our game model, set pieces, and end of game scenarios.

- We have double sessions each day and every session begins with a classroom component where we watch video of our principles before practicing them on the field.

- We spend time each day having fun off the field with activities like game night, trivia, and ice cream runs.

OUR IN-SEASON FLOW

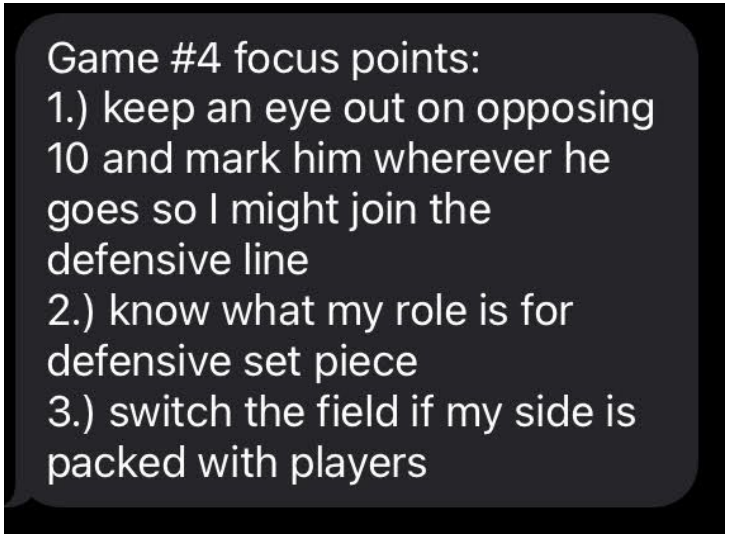
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Reintro and Scout Review of previous game Scout of upcoming opponent Rondos and small sided tournament	**Prep** Tactical passing Set piece assignments	**Game Day** Focus points due before warmups	**Recovery and Scout** Review of previous game Scout of upcoming opponent Players with significant strain recover while others train	**Championship Friday** 🏆 Tactical passing Set piece assignments Competitive games between four teams for the right to keep the trophy for the week	**Game Day** Focus points due before warmups

CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY

Each Friday, we pick four players to serve as captains for the day. They pick their own teams and then compete in a series of four competitions (soccer tic-tac-toe, soccer tennis, 1v1 duels, 6v6 tournament) against each other for points. The team with the most points at the end of the day gets to keep the trophy for the week.

FOCUS POINTS

To prime ourselves for top performances, players message me their three focus points for the upcoming game while in the locker room before warmups. They are taught how to pick focus points that are specific to situations they are likely to encounter in the game given their position, our style of play and the opponent's tendencies.



Focus points from one of our 6s in advance of a match against an opponent who plays in a 4-3-3 attacking shape but whose 10 has a tendency to float high.

OUR SCHEDULE

We play one game against each of the other six Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) schools. The team with the most points at the end of the regular season is crowned MAPL champion. We fill out our schedule with competitive local private and public schools.

In addition to competing within the MAPL, we vie for state championships in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Prep "A" division.

Our final regular season game is always against our rival school, Peddie.

Our home opener is played on a Friday or Saturday night under the lights on the turf in front of the whole community. Students dress up and cheer throughout the game.

PEDDIE DAY

SOCCERFEST

HOW WE DEVELOP PLAYERS

- **Reflection and Planning:** Throughout the year, Coach Grady meets with each player at least twice one-on-one to reflect on how things are going and plan ahead with them so they are on track to meet their goals. We identify clear action steps and think through where they fit into the player's schedule.

- **Offseason Training:** In the winter, we train inside of our turfed bubble three days a week. In the spring, we train every weekday with the most soccer focused group and scrimmage with the whole group on Sundays. These session are optional but widely attended nonetheless. Many of our players also play club soccer locally.

HOW WE GET OUR PLAYERS RECRUITED

- **Discussions:** We have open and honest conversations about player preferences, goals, abilities, and anxieties when it comes to their life after Blair and then make player-specific plans about how to approach the recruiting process.

- **Highlight Videos:** We film every match on our own Veo camera and Coach Grady teaches our players how to pick and sequence clips of themselves to assemble professional-quality videos for coaches in iMovie.

- **Outreach:** Together, we assemble a list of schools that are good fits for each player and thoughtfully design introductory messages, with embedded highlight video to help them get on coaches' radars.

Layton Glover '26 signed with Christopher Newport, joining Andrew Antunes '24 (Franklin & Marshall), Evan Chomow '24 (Fairfield) and Cayden Walton '25 (St. John's) in the collegiate ranks.

HOW WE DEVELOP LEADERS

- **Autonomy:** The most successful teams are player-led. Our players are empowered to take ownership of the program in many ways, large and small. Examples include the locker room being a players-only space, players being in charge of teaching certain parts of our game model, set pieces, and end of game scenarios during preseason, and players running many offseason training sessions.

- **Collaboration:** I meet with our leaders regularly throughout the year in formal and informal ways to get a sense for how they feel things are going and to give them suggestions and feedback when necessary.

Our 2025 captains were Layton Glover ‘26, Steven Groseibl ‘26, Michael Lynch ‘26, and Brandon Wood ‘26