SS Romulea

# Romulea Autistic Football Club





We founded our football team in 2015 World Autism Awareness Day tournament by the support of:

- → Gruppo Asperger Lazio (a volunteer organization of families and people on the autism spectrum)
- → Giuliaparla (cooperative of services)
- → Garibaldi (a cooperative of workers on the autism spectrum)



#### WHY?

Paralympic Games: football is for blind players or cerebral palsy only.

**Special Olympics and** special federations of Integrated football: requirement of intellectual disability (ID), but only one third of people on the autism spectrum has ID, yet the other two thirds face difficulties in sport too.





## Inclusive football team with mixed players:

- → players on the autism spectrum
- → others players: voluntary educators, parents and friends

### **Inclusive way:**

- → male and female players
- → strictly FIFA rules



- football is popular
- → promotes social skills
- → psychophysical well-being
- → responsibility

- → inclusion
- → self-determination
- → self-advocacy
- → autonomy



In 2017 we played in FC8: Eight-a-side Football Championship; no other teams with disabilities.



Motor skills assessment by qualified personnel.

Scientific monitoring in cooperation with Sapienza University in

Rome to measure the level of inclusion in the social group regardless of the social skills, with sharing of objectives as a Condition favouring Inclusion (Social Engagement Scale).

| SHARING SPACES   | SHARING ACTIVITIES  | SHARING OBJECTIVES  | SOCIAL SHARING   | EMOTIONAL SHARING  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| a) he/she tolerates other known<br>people to be in the same space                                  | a) he/she is able to follow a<br>routine of reinforcing and/or<br>pleasant activities | a) he/she follows the rules   | a) he/she makes requests for<br>help to complete a task  | a) he/she shows any reaction to<br>situations that trigger emotional<br>content          |
| b) he/she tolerates people in a<br>distance of one meter   | b) he/she is able to follow a<br>functional routine                                   | b) he/she completes a targeted activity in absolute autonomy                      | b) he/she asks for attention to<br>the reference persons | b) he/she shows appropriate<br>reactions to situations that<br>trigger emotional content |
| c) he/she tolerates physical contact   | c) he/she is able to perform small<br>activities within a consolidated<br>routine     | c) he/she performs targeted<br>activities in coordination with<br>peers           | c) he/she asks for attention in<br>group                 | c) he/she expresses adequately<br>his/her emotional contents and<br>personal experiences |
| d) he/she tolerates the presence<br>of strangers   | d) Transition among different activities  | d) he/she shows satisfaction in<br>concluding useful activities                   | d) he/she shares his/her<br>interests                    | d) he/she tends to involve others<br>in group situations                                 |
| e) he/she tolerates to stay in<br>unknown public places  | e) he/she tolerates changes to consolidated routines                                  | e) he/she proises others  | e) he/she shows interest in others' conversations        | e) he/she has welcomed<br>emotional experiences<br>expressed by peers                    |
| f) he/she tolerates to stay in<br>places (or together people) that<br>create specific difficulties | f) he/she performs tasks upon<br>instructions   | f) he/she creates new strategies<br>for making the group pursue the<br>objectives | f) he/she starts conversations of<br>mutual interest     | f) he/she establishes reciprocal<br>emotional interactions                               |



In 2016 we were recognized as sport club by the National Olympic Committee (CONI).

Since 2018 we are an official team of SS Romulea: now we are fully included in the football world!

### Weekly trainings at SS Romulea.

- → monthly friendly matches
- → competitive tournaments
- → recreational activities
- → members meetings

The project also involves:

- professional football players and coaches
- → events communication team



#### www.autisticfootball.club



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@afcromulea @ssromulea



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@romuleaautisticfootballclub @ssromulea



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