

Pro Coaching Staff

All players in the Desert Elite Program are trained by our professional coaching staff that includes nationally licensed coaches, former high-level players, and selected professionals committed to developing our players. Currently, the DFSC Pro Staff consists of 13 coaches, including 5 full-time professionals. Our staff is organized under our Boys Director of Coaching, Girls Director of Coaching, Youth Academy Director of Coaching, with separate roles for Director of Operations/Player Development, Manager of Recreational Programs, and Goalkeeping Director. We believe this diversity within our coaching staff provides DFSC players with the best chance to develop a more adaptable style of soccer and prepares them for playing at any desired level in the future.

Field Locations

Our competitive players train and play at a variety of locations around the North and Northeast Valley area including: Horseshoe Trails Elementary, Paradise Valley Park, Desert Broom Park, Cactus Shadows High School, and Black Mountain Elementary. Home game fields for teams in Port of Subs Open League include Cactus Shadows HS, Desert Broom and Black Mountain Elementary. See Fields tab for directions.

Tryouts/Skill Assessment

The DFAC tryout process consists of 3-4 sessions for each age group during late spring, of which players should attend at least two. Coach evaluators are assigned to each age group during the evaluation session. Players are evaluated on soccer skills, athleticism, attitude, and teamwork in an objective manner. Parents/players will be contacted with team placement. All players must go through the process each season.

NOTE: If the season has already started and you are interested in playing on a Desert Elite team, you may be eligible to be added to an existing roster. Please [contact the office](#) and you will be put in touch with the age-appropriate director to possibly attend a team practice and set up an evaluation session.

Our Season

The Desert Elite season begins in August with team training and School of Excellence; regular season games begin in September. The season will run through February/March for most teams and through April for those teams participating in post-season State Tournaments. Spring Clinics take place in May and June and are included in club registration fees.

Training

Training sessions are conducted by our professional staff and are typically one and a half hours in length per session, except for our U7/8 teams which train for 1 hour each session. Our U9/U10 Developmental teams typically train twice a week, while our competitive teams train a minimum of three times per week. DFSC's training and coaching curriculum includes the Coerver® coaching method (world's #1 Teaching Method). We believe that team systems and tactics are important but they cannot fully compensate for poor control, inaccurate passing or other technical weaknesses. Ultimately, team organization is only as effective as the individual player. The philosophy is that the game consists of sequences of play between 2, 3 and sometimes 4 players in various parts of the field, and that team success is determined by player performances in these exchanges. Teams U12 and older will also participate in Overall Athletic Performance (OAP) training on the field once per week, and potentially adding an additional ½ hour to the front end or back end of one of the scheduled practice sessions. The purpose of OAP training is designed to help our players develop core stability, speed improvement, running form, agility, acceleration, and strength. The older, more competitive teams may also have OAP training outside of regular practices.

Registration and Fees

DFSC Elite Registration fees consist of club and AYSA (Arizona Youth Soccer Association) league registration, Spring Clinics, School of Excellence, and administrative fees (insurance, fields, referees). These fees vary between \$465-\$675, depending on age and registration date, and can be split into 3 payments if registered before June 15 (after July 15, fees can be split into 2 payments, then 1 single payment option after August 15). A \$100 credit is given for completing 2 volunteer hours during our Desert Elite tournament weekend.

In addition to club registration fees, families will pay their teams directly (except for Academy teams who pay a total of \$850 or \$900 for the season not including uniforms or optional tournaments) for training, coaching, tournaments, etc. Team fees vary, and are a function of several factors including level of play, experience of the coach, length of the team season, number of tournaments, and number of rostered players. Ideally, all team fees will be collected by December, regardless of length of

season. Typical team fees for an older U11+ team may range from \$800-\$1,500. These fees are an estimate only, as every team is slightly different depending on team expectations. Budgets are presented at team meetings, usually held in August.

Uniforms

Each player is required to purchase 2 Adidas game jerseys, (one red, one white), two pairs of black Adidas shorts, and 2 pairs of black Adidas socks (Academy uniform kit varies slightly). The uniform kit price usually costs around \$210 for U11 and up and around \$115 for Academy, depending on age/size, and includes 2 training shirts. Players can purchase additional red training t-shirts that are required for practices and other events. Our uniform cycle is every 2 years, re-ordering in the even years. DFSC has a uniform agreement in place with SoccerGarage.com. Your team manager will contact you about ordering uniform kits and will coordinate jersey numbers to prevent duplicates.

Rebound Free Mini Injury Assessment

Rebound Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation is excited to offer DFAC soccer athletes an array of sports medicine services. Sometimes small, seemingly insignificant aches and pains can lead to more serious injuries. Our hope is to prevent them from becoming more serious. With that in mind, Rebound is opening their two clinic locations (N. Scottsdale & Carefree) for DFAC soccer athletes to schedule injury assessment/evaluations and receive recommendations at no charge. We do our best to work the athletes into the schedule the same day if possible. Please call to schedule and tell the receptionist you are a Desert Elite athlete. Click on the Rebound logo at the bottom of our site.

College Portal

Check out our College Preparation information under the "College Portal" tab.

Desert Elite Soccer Program strives to:

- Foster development through soccer, and help provide life skills essential for personal growth
- Afford players the opportunity to maximize their potential
- Recognize that not all players' life priorities will be soccer and only soccer
- Create a program based upon "possession" soccer, and "complete ball-mastery"
- Provide an atmosphere where kids can enjoy playing soccer!