



# Manalapan Soccer Club

## Travel FAQ for new players

### 1. What is travel soccer?

Travel soccer consists of a fall season and a spring season. The fall season starts in September and goes until November. The spring season starts in April and goes until June. Many teams do additional summer and winter programs. For MSC's younger teams, the practices are usually held at the Manalapan Rec Center (sometimes at Clark Mills and/or Millford Brook) and games are generally played in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

### 2. How much does travel soccer cost?

The cost of travel soccer varies from team-to-team, and from year-to-year but is generally between \$1600 to \$1800 per player for the entire year. That includes ALL team related costs plus player uniform (does not include individual equipment such as cleats and shin guards) and that cost is usually broken down into 5 payments (the number of payments varies from team-to-team). The registration fee (\$400--**INCLUDES UNIFORM**) is required to accept the roster spot and goes directly to the Club. The remaining amount is usually split into 4 equal payments and is made directly to the team treasurer (who is a parent volunteer from the team). These equal payments are spread out across the fall and spring seasons to help spread out the expense of travel soccer.

### 3. Who will coach the team?

MSC has an agreement with Shatliff Soccer to train all of the Club's under-8, under-9 and under-10 teams. Shatliff will provide a professional soccer trainer that will make all on-field decisions and works with a volunteer parent (Team Manager) to plan league and tournament schedules. The Team Manager is responsible to manage the team while the trainer is responsible to train and coach the team. Team Managers are not involved in the coaching of the team and do not make decisions regarding on-field activities.

### 4. How are teams formed?

US Soccer sets the age groups for all US youth soccer teams. Currently players are divided by their birth year. All 2014s play together and compete against other 2014s. The same is true to all birth years.

Once a player registers with MSC for travel soccer a tryout will be held. The tryout consists of two scrimmage sessions. During these sessions, professional trainers will monitor the sessions and evaluate the players. At the conclusion of the second session the players will be ranked and the roster(s) will be set according to the rankings. The Club attempts to have as many teams as possible in all age groups, as long as the teams are competitive.

If a player receives an offer they have 24-hours to accept or reject the offer. If no response is received it will be assumed that the player has rejected the offer. In that instance, the next player on the list will be given an offer. The process is followed until the roster(s) is set.

### 5. What is the management structure of a travel team?

A travel team is generally made up of a Team Manager and a professional trainer. MSC has two Board members (Travel Vice Presidents) that assist each team in the operation of their team. The Team Manager can request assistance from the Travel VPs, as needed, to assist in all aspects of the team. The professional trainer can also leverage their company if trainer/training assistance is needed. This provides coverage in the event of unplanned absences, etc.

### 6. When do travel teams play?

Each travel team will practice two times per week during their fall and spring seasons and generally once per week during the winter (winter training is optional for each team). Each team will play in a league and in two tournaments per season. The league for our younger teams is the Monmouth / Ocean Soccer Association (MOSA). These games are primarily played on Sunday and are primarily limited to Monmouth and Ocean counties.

Tournaments are usually Saturday and Sunday and are at different times throughout a season. We recommend that our younger teams play in tournament closer to Manalapan to limit the travel but older teams can travel throughout the state and highly competitive teams can even travel throughout the region for tournaments.

### 7. What is the timeline for the team?

Tryouts will be held in April/May of each spring. The rosters should be finalized no later than 2-weeks after the last tryout session. Team practices will start in August. Most teams do an early season tournament in August/September and league play starts in September.

### 8. Does my child have to attend both tryout sessions?

Attending both tryout sessions is not required but is HIGHLY encouraged. Two sessions give the professional trainers twice the time to properly evaluate your children.

### 9. Do I need to sign up for tryouts or can I just show up?

All players should sign up at the MSC website ([www.manalapansoccerclub.com](http://www.manalapansoccerclub.com) -- Travel -- Travel Tryout and Club Registration) to simplify the process at the field on tryout day but we can register players at the field if needed.

### 10. Is there a fee for tryouts?

NO. Tryouts are free and open to all interested players. There is NO OBLIGATION tied to the tryout. The \$400 registration fee is not due until an offer is extended to a player and that player accepts the offer.

NOTE: All of this information is general in nature and does not apply to a specific team. Every team is different but this information should serve a general guideline for under-8 travel soccer