

Hanover Soccer Club Travel Program FAQ

About Travel Soccer

Travel is a program for players who are looking to play competitive soccer. Often some players and athletes show a talent for the game, but need more of a challenge to continue to develop. The emphasis of HSC's Travel Program is to develop the technical and tactical skills of players above what a traditional intramural program is offering. HSC strives to provide an opportunity for all levels of need and competition.

How does Travel soccer differ from Intramural Soccer?

Intramural provides an environment for children to learn the game of soccer and have fun while doing so. Teams are selected at random and practice 1 night a week. Age divisions for Intramural are U6, U8, U10 and U12. All games are played in-house and coaches are instructed to provide as equal an amount of playing time per player, as is possible.

Travel teams are more competitive and are developed through the tryout process. Age divisions range from U9 through U19 and teams normally train 2 nights a week. Teams play in one of several competitive leagues, typically CPYSL (Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League) or CMSA (Central Maryland Soccer Association). "Home" games are played at HSC fields and "away" games are generally played within 1½ hours from Hanover, though travel times may vary. Most teams also register for between 1-8 tournaments a year, depending on the team's competitive goals. Travel soccer playing time is based on the team's needs as well as the individual player's ability to competently display his/her abilities and is at the coach's discretion.

How does the Travel program work?

HSC hopes to have at least two travel teams in each division, beginning at U9. At the U9 and U10 age groups, players will be assigned to form (“unflighted”) teams of relatively equal strength. These teams will be formed following a one night tryout and will begin training in mid-August. One night a week, these teams will train together in a session facilitated by an independent trainer. Teams will also train an additional night under the guidance of individual team coaches, with a preference to sharing a training space to allow for scrimmage opportunities and collaboration among the coaches of the age group. At this age, there is less emphasis on game results and more emphasis on individual player development. This being said, the Travel environment is still more competitive than most Intramural programs. The philosophy at U9 and U10 is that players belong to the "Travel" program. Because existing teams have been “flighted,” with players being selected and assigned (based on assessed ability) to "A" and "B" teams, players born prior to 2009 will be grandfathered in to a “flighted” selection process. All Travel teams have the same fundamental mission for players - to create a meaningful, fun and positive experience, to develop soccer skills, and to teach the lessons associated with team play.

Tryouts will be held annually and teams will be reformed each year (and sometimes in mid-season, depending on the needs of the age group). At ages U9 and U10, it is recommended that all players play approximately 50% of the total game time and at a variety of positions. Again, the goal of HSC is to provide a range of opportunities to keep children playing on HSC teams - from Intramural to highly competitive Travel teams.

Starting with U11 age groups and above, all teams will be required to attend a minimum of 2 tryout nights. Once a player accepts an offer to play with a Travel team, the player has a “guaranteed” roster spot with that Travel team for the fall season only (August 1 through November 30). While the club hopes to retain team continuity for the entire soccer year (August 1 through July 31), we also recognize that many children play multiple sports and have commitments other than soccer. Placement on the spring roster of a Travel team is contingent on a

variety of factors, primarily having sufficient players returning from the fall season. Additionally, players in an age group with multiple “flighted” teams may be transferred from one team to another between the fall and spring seasons, based on coaches’ assessments of their ability and with approval of the Travel Selection Committee (TSC). The TSC reserves the right to make roster/coaching changes that are in the best interest of the club.

What is the Travel Tryout process?

Signup for Tryouts- register online at www.hanoversoccerclub.net. If you are new to HSC, create an account and register for Fall 2017 Travel Program. Cost for tryouts is \$10.00 (per age group tryout session), which is charged to your credit card. If your child is offered a spot on a Travel team **and the offer is accepted**, the \$10.00 will be credited to your child’s registration fee. After you have registered for tryouts, you will receive a confirmation email. The email will include a PDF attachment with the forms to bring to tryouts. If you are new to Travel soccer and Hanover Soccer Club, you will also need to bring your child's birth certificate.

Attend Tryouts- Tryouts will be scheduled for April and early May. In the spring of 2017, U9 will have one (1) tryout night and tryouts for U10 through U15 will consist of a minimum of two (2) tryout nights. Players must tryout to join a Travel team. Look at the date corresponding to your child's birth year on the tryout schedule to determine the date to attend. Tryouts will begin with the oldest age group (U15) and continue until all age groups have completed tryouts. Players who wish to attend tryouts for an older age group may do so. If they are not offered a roster spot, they may then attend tryouts for their birth-year age group. Registration will be from 5:30 - 6pm. Tryouts will be from 6 - 7:30pm. Players are to wear cleats, shin guards and bring water. To ensure as fair an evaluation process as possible, players should not wear anything identifying them with an existing soccer program (HSC travel jerseys or travel jerseys from any other program are prohibited during tryouts). Your child will be assigned a number and their

photo will be taken upon turning in their completed paperwork. Once registration is complete, your child will be placed in a smaller group. Boys and girls will be evaluated separately. Each group will go through a series of stations where they will be assessed by independent evaluators (other than coaches of the existing age group). Parents must remain in the pavilion area during tryouts and are prohibited from entering the fields. At the end of the evaluation session, your child will turn in their number and be excused to leave.

Tryout Review- After tryouts for each age group are completed, the HSC Travel Selection Committee (TSC) will review the results from the evaluators' player assessments, incorporating feedback from coaches who may already be familiar with the age group. The TSC will then finalize teams.

Parent Acceptance - HSC hopes to send emails offering roster spots sometime between Wednesday and Saturday after the tryouts have been completed. Parents will have 48 hours from the receipt of this email to accept an offer. Acceptance is confirmed by logging into the HSC website and submitting payment for Fall Registration for their child. If parents do not submit payment for the Fall Season within 48 hours of receipt of the offer being made, their child's roster spot may be forfeited to another player.

Note - HSC has a track record of placing 95% of players who tryout on a travel team. We typically will not turn away players based solely on their evaluation scores. Those who are not selected will have the opportunity to play with our Intramural program for U9-U12. Currently, we do not have enough interest to offer Intramural/Rec programs for children older than the U12 age group.

What costs can I expect with my child playing Travel soccer?

Players must register each season. Travel registration fees are currently \$115.00 per season for U9-U12 and \$125.00 per season for U13-U15. All players are also required to participate in fundraising (of a minimum of \$100.00) or may pay a

\$50.00 Opt-Out Fee. This fundraising requirement applies only once per household for each season. Uniform “kits” are an additional cost of approximately \$90.00-\$110.00 (depending on size). Players on teams electing to participate in tournaments will typically incur additional costs. Tournament registration fees are between \$500.00 – \$ 1,000.00 and the cost is typically shared equally among all players.

Note - The \$10.00 Tryout Fee can be paid at time of Registration at Tryouts.

How do we order Uniforms?

Uniform “kits” consist of 2 jerseys, shorts, and socks. The kits are used until your child outgrows them. The kits are purchased online via a club-specific link and ordering instructions will be sent prior to the start of the season. Parents new to the Travel program will have the ability to look at sample sizes to order a uniform that best fits their child. If you are unsure, most U9 players order a Youth Medium kit.

How many players are on a team?

U9 and U10 play 7v7, with a maximum roster of 12 players.

U11 and U12 play 9v9, with a maximum roster of 16 players.

U13 and older play 11v11, with a maximum roster of 22 players (depending on age group, league and season).

How is the Coach chosen?

All coaches must apply for a coaching position to the Travel VP and Coaches Coordinator. The factors considered include (but are not limited to) the coach's experience, temperament, and commitment. Coaches are required to obtain a National "E" coaching license within 12 months of acceptance of a coaching position. Head Coaches not obtaining a National "E" License within 12 months of acceptance of a coaching position may be replaced. The cost of licensing courses (National F, National E and National D) will be paid by HSC upon successful completion. All coaches must also complete a comprehensive background check and concussion awareness training.

What is the commitment-level of parents/families to volunteer?

Families of children participating in the Travel program are required to assist with preparing the clubs fields prior to each (fall and spring) season. Additionally, each family is also expected to volunteer a minimum of at least one additional time (typically between 1-3 hours) per season. Tasks could include working in the Snack Shack, attending league meetings on behalf of the team/club, picking up paperwork from one of the league offices, serving on a committee and/or completing field prep/maintenance prior to the weekend's games.

The most important objectives of HSC Travel Soccer are to:

Maintain a safe, positive, fun and challenging soccer environment for all players.

Develop and prepare players for the future - both on and off the field - by teaching soccer skills as well as important "life skills" including leadership, communication, character, teamwork, responsibility, time management, self-discipline, sportsmanship and respect for others.

Engage qualified coaches and trainers who provide the highest quality training and who motivate each player to work to his or her highest potential.