

A Parents Guide To Travel Soccer

Why Travel Soccer

As parents and coaches we know that children are born with different talents. In our schools we have special programs to help develop those talents. Here at MNSA soccer, we have both intramural and travel programs.

Travel soccer is designed for players U-9 and above who show a true ability to play soccer and who want to compete at a higher level. The goal of travel soccer program is to challenge players to realize their highest potential through better training, higher levels of competition and more games.

The U-9 and U-10 years are entry level years into travel soccer for the players and for many of the parents. MNSA's goal is for players at this age to focus on attitude, good working habits and instilling a passion for the game. As in any year we want to learn new skills and have fun.

What's the Time Commitment

For the fall season, travel teams practice 2 nights a week starting in the summer months and continuing through the season. The fall season consists of 10 to 12 games and are played on Sat and Sun. Half of the games are played at home and half are away. Away games are usually played against teams within a 20 to 45 minute drive.

Travel teams also play in several tournaments during the year. They include a pre season tournament and a tournament over Columbus Day weekend. In addition, some travel teams play an indoor season at local arenas. (Tri States, Rocket Sports, etc). The tournaments give the travel players the opportunity to meet player from other areas, collect patches, and play different competition. The indoor season allows the players to stay in shape during the winter while playing a fun, fast paced game.

How Are Teams Selected

Travel Teams are selected for each age group based on spring tryouts. Every player of proper age is permitted to tryout for a travel team. It is MANDATORY for all players wanting consideration, to attend tryouts. Travel team players from the previous season are not guaranteed a position.

At tryouts MNSA uses independent evaluators to rank the players based on skill, athleticism, and attitude. These evaluators usually consist of the MNSA training staff, coaches from other age groups and Ukelite. At the end of the second tryout session, the evaluators meet with the appropriate age group Coaches to review the rankings. Teams are selected and the players are notified in a week or two after tryouts.

MNSA travel teams play in Delco(boys) and Pags (girls) soccer leagues. These are very competitive leagues. MNSA coaches try to pick the appropriate level of competition to challenge players and give them the opportunity to succeed.

Please remember that even with all this organization and everyone's good intentions, that the selection and coaching process is not perfect. However, if you would like to discuss improvements to the overall process or questions about age group selections, please feel free to contact the Director of girls travel or the Commissioner of Travel. Contact information is listed on the MNSA web site under Administration.

What To Bring To Tryouts

Players

For tryouts, every player should come ready to play and wear appropriate clothing including, shorts, shirts, shin guards, socks and cleats. They should also bring a soccer ball (labeled) and water bottle. Please remember that you need a ball to perform at tryouts

U-9 Thru U-12	Sz 4 ball
U-13 and above	Sz 5 ball

For safety reasons, shin guards must be worn or the player will not be allowed to participate. In addition, no jewelry should be worn on the field at any time.

During tryout. Players should play hard, play fair, and have fun.

Parents

Every parent needs to know that there are three things that they need to do for their child prior to, during and after tryouts.

- Before the tryout Hug your kids and encourage them to do their best.
- After the tryout, Hug them and tell them that they did a good job and that you love them.

Finally please let the coaches and evaluators do their job during tryouts and do not get involved in any type of discussions with the coaches at tryouts. We are working hard to make this a positive experience for your son or daughter, but we have a very full

tryout schedule. If you have any questions regarding the tryout procedure, please feel free to get in touch with the respective person after the tryout session.

Fees

The registration fee for the 2008-2009 is \$155.00. This includes 5 weeks of professional training, All ref fees and all insurance cost for the players. If a player does not make a travel team, all of the fees will be refunded or can be credited toward Intramural soccer fees.

Our club is nonprofit. Its objective is to provide all children with a chance to play. Players who are in need of financial assistance in order to play should state this on their registration. One of our goals is to not have any child be unable to play soccer due to financial reasons.