



## TCSC Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is competitive travel soccer?**

Competitive travel soccer teams are formed by a tryout and selection process. The coach may choose to have a tryout process to evaluate the players and select the players for the team. They may also pickup players that they feel are assets to the team without a tryout process. The players should have a true passion for the game, a want to be there and a competitive spirit. These players are trained to a higher level by a coach / trainer that have a broad knowledge of soccer and training players. The players are usually within 11 months of each other age wise. Teams compete against other competitive teams in the same league and division. In addition to league games, teams may elect to compete in soccer tournaments. Teams that stay together tend to develop great friendships among the players and parents. The selected team plays together for one year, which is two seasons. In late May all teams are dissolved and the selection process is repeated. The coach or tryout staff may or may not offer former players a spot on the team. The goal of the team and the club is to constantly improve.

### **What is the difference between Competitive travel and Recreational soccer?**

In competitive travel soccer, the coach picks the players. In recreational soccer, they do not. The competitive player wants to be at practice and games. The players are trained to a higher level by a coach that has knowledge and experience. The most important difference is commitment. The players are committed to training; the parents are committed to getting the players to practice and games. The coaches and managers are committed to training and managing the team to the best of their ability.

### **Why the change on birthdate cutoffs to form teams for 2016-17?**

US Soccer has adopted the international format of forming teams based on calendar year births from “school year” cutoff line of July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **What changes in format of play for Academy & U11/U12?**

US Soccer has implemented change in format of play from 6v6 to 7v7 for Academy age teams & from 8v8 to 9v9 for U11/U12.

### **Why do I need to attend the Orientation for the Academy teams?**

Most players & parents for this program will be their first experience at travel soccer. We want every player and parent to understand the commitment, the structure & the development of the teams. The ultimate goal for the club is to provide an opportunity for boys & girls to form a team at under 9 & 10 years of age.

### **Do I need to register before the tryout?**

No. However, we recommend highly pre-registering at least one day prior to arriving for the tryouts. The pre-registration is available on-line and it will help you avoid long lines to register on your tryout date. If you did not pre-register, we recommend coming early on the first day of your age group tryouts.

### **What do I need for tryouts?**

We recommend dressing appropriately for training: white shirt (avoid club shirts), shorts, shin guards, socks, soccer ball & cleats. Please bring plenty of fluids.



### **Do I need to be there every day?**

No. However, we recommend the more opportunity a coach has to evaluate you, the better the chances of making a team. If you are unable to make it, please contact your potential coach prior to tryout date that you are unable to attend.

### **How do I contact my potential coach or trainer?**

Tri-County SC will post the list of coaches on the website with their contact phone# and email.

### **What is the Selection process at the tryout?**

The process of player selection is determined by coach, trainers, TCSC VP & Directors for each team. Most of the teams are made up of players similar in age. For Academy division, we generally recommend players Under 10 to play with the Academy teams. They will help set the foundation needed to play at the next level. If we have multiple teams available at an age group, the TCSC staff will distribute the highest rated player down to form each team. If a player from a higher level team drops prior to the beginning of the Fall Season, the opportunity for the next ranked player from the lower level team maybe called up to the upper team by the trainer.

### **How much will it cost me?**

**Tri-County Soccer Club** has a philosophy of keeping the fees as low as possible so more kids can enjoy the sport. Majority of our officers and coaches are volunteers that truly love the game.

**Registration Fee:** We have 3 age divisions: Academy (U9 & U10 teams), Junior (U11-U14 teams) & Senior (U15 & up teams) age divisions. The year is divided in two seasons, Fall & Spring seasons. To provide an opportunity keeping our teams cohesive for the seasonal year, **players are committing for BOTH seasons – Fall 2016 and Spring 2017.** This will help keep our teams in a competitive balance with other travel programs. **If the player chooses not to return for the Spring 2017 season, NO REFUNDS are available for the spring season.** This fee is for insurance, referees at games, field usage and administrative fees.

- **Academy (under 9 & under 10 teams)** – Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 Seasons - \$550. Payments are made online with optional payment plans for the year. Ask your manager for additional details....
- **Junior (under 11 – under 14 teams)** – Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 Seasons - \$550. Payments are made online with optional payment plans for the year. Ask your manager for additional details....
- **Senior Division (under 15 & up)** - Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 Seasons - \$550. Payments are made online with optional payment plans for the year. Ask your manager for additional details....
- ***For teams playing in Division I or higher, there is additional cost \$100 for the seasonal year.***

### **Uniform Package options:**

- **Package #1 Optional Alternate Kit - \$45:** This is the new GOLD set used as an optional away kit only. Package includes gold jersey, short & socks.
- **Package #2 Partial Uniform Kit - \$110:** Partial kits consists of red & white jerseys, shorts & socks.



- **Package #3 Complete Uniform Kit - \$175:** The complete uniform kit consists Package #2 & two training tees, team backpack, team warm-up top & bottom.
- **Package #4 Complete Uniform set with Alternate away Kit - \$210:** This set includes Package #1 & #3.

**Team Dues:** This fee is dependent on the Trainer. Typically the dues range from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per month while the team is active. Team dues provide a trainer funds for travel for games and tournaments, team money for equipment, tournaments, team events and any team related expense. The trainer and/or the team Manager control these funds. Please ask the team manager for details.

### **How far do we have to go for a game?**

Half of your games will be at home and half will be away. Most of the away games are in the Austin / Round Rock area. Most games are played on the weekend. For the upper level teams, they can travel as far San Antonio for a regular season game.

### **When will the season start and end?**

For most of the teams, training for the Fall Season will begin in August depending on the date of any preseason tournaments they are involved. The Fall seasonal play typically starts the weekend after Labor Day through late November with State finals in the first 2 weeks in December. Training for the Spring Season typically begins in mid January for the Academy & Junior age groups with seasonal play late February and early March. The Senior age group seasonal play usually will begin after the UIL and spring break (middle of March) and all age groups will conclude in late April or early May.

### **What are the Divisions?**

The division in which a team will play is determined by the Club. The greatest factor in this decision is the talent level of a team and the commitment level of the parents. The following is a brief breakdown of the divisions in our district.

**Academy:** Academy appropriate age league for U9 & U10 travel teams. No standings, opportunity for teams to travel and play similar teams from the greater Austin area.

**Division III:** Recreational teams that do not have any tryout process. The players sign up to play on the team. All players must play half of the game. Teams may be a traveling team that plays in a league of area towns and cities.

**Division II:** Select teams that have a tryout process. The players are picked and offered a spot on the team. The skill level is higher and the competition is much greater than in Division III. The coach is experienced and has a broad knowledge of soccer. The teams will usually have a team Manager as well. Players are expected to be at practice and the parents are committed to getting their players to the practices and games. Teams will play half of their games at home and half away. Most away games are in the Austin area. Players are usually within one year of age. Teams may enter Tournaments and leagues go through a playoff process to determine the champion. Players and parents develop tight friendships.



**Division Super II:** Select teams that have a tryout process. These teams have been together for a few seasons. These teams have excelled in Division II. The commitment is higher and the travel area is larger. The competition level is very high.

**Division I & Premier:** Select teams that have a tryout process, qualified the previous year & 50%+ returning roster. Every member of the team is an excellent soccer player as well as an excellent athlete. Some teams have paid coaches and trainers. Teams must win in order to stay in the division. The commitment level is extremely high for the player, coach and parents. The cost is much more as well. Teams travel most weekends and often stay overnight. It is typically the only sport the player is involved in. To put it simply, soccer is your life. It comes before everything.