

Considering Travel Soccer?



To: Parents of In-House and Recreational Players

From: John Madeira, **PASC** Past President

RE: Travel Soccer

Because many parents of the current In-House and Rec programs are new to the concept of travel soccer, I wanted to prepare a brief summary of information for you.

Starting at U9, there are some pretty cool changes that occur: the **PASC** will offer different levels of opportunities for each player to participate. For each age group, there are teams for advanced, intermediate and beginner players. The goal is to be able to group players of equal skill levels together, which will allow for increased player development – no matter what their current skill level. For example, players in the advanced level will learn spacing (running to open area to receive a pass) and players in the beginning level will focus on passing and receiving. The emphasis is always on player / team development before winning.

The “travel try-outs” is the mechanism used to determine which level a player should be placed. The idea of trying out for a team can be an exciting time for each player involved but also there is always the fear of “not making the team”. This is not the case with the **PASC**. The Club will offer a team based upon your child’s level of ability. The teams are broken out as following: Premier Travel (advanced), A Travel (advanced / intermediate), B Travel (intermediate) and Recreational (non-competitive). The goal is to offer A and B Travel Teams but that is not always possible. It depends on the number of qualified coaches who volunteered and the number of children trying out for our Travel program. Therefore, there may be 3 or 2 Travel teams.

The “travel-try outs” consists of three day practice sessions with a fourth scheduled as a rain date, each lasting 90 minutes and will be run by **PASC** appointed evaluators. There is a \$15 cost for the try-outs. The reason for the fee is that there is an independent team of licensed or experienced evaluators. The coaches’ child may also be trying out and the parent coach cannot evaluate their own child. The evaluation drills will allow the player to demonstrate their ability to dribble, pass, receive and shoot. Emphasis is also placed on the participant’s attitude, ability to hustle, listen, try new things and have fun in a soccer environment.

Ideally, each team will have a few players more than that age group fields. For example, U9 is played with 8 kids on the field, so there would be 12-13 roster spots). After the try-outs, the evaluators will finalize the scoring and the players are ranked based upon their final score. The top group of players will be placed on the Premier Travel; the next grouping will be placed on the A Travel, next on the B Travel and the remaining in the Recreational. With this scoring system, each player is placed with a grouping of players of equal skills. This will allow players to continue in their skill development at a pace that is best suited for them.

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It should be noted that it is not necessary to attend the Travel try-outs if your child is planning on playing Recreational. If you, as the parent believe that the Recreational Division is the appropriate level, all you need to do is to register them accordingly.

For those players that are placed on one of the Travel teams, there is a 2-season commitment. The seasons will be fall and spring matching the school year. The goal is to keep the teams together to maximize the skill and team development. Every Travel coach will be licensed (they completed clinics and passed the examination) which will allow for maximum player development.

There are additional costs involved for parents whose child is on a Travel team. These costs vary depending on Team, tournament play and parent involvement but may range between \$250 and \$500. The fees include (subject to change):

- ❑ Registration - \$175 (includes both Fall and Spring Seasons)
- ❑ Try-Out - \$15 (one-time fee)
- ❑ Uniforms - \$80 with optional items for purchase (one-time fee for both Fall and Spring Seasons)
- ❑ Tournaments - \$100 - \$150 (there can be 2 or 3 tournaments each season, and each tournament has a different team cost)
- ❑ Patches - \$5-\$10 per tournament game (in soccer it is customary for players of opposing teams to exchange "club patches" as a way to show sportsmanship and to collect. For each patch a player trades, he receives one from the other team)
- ❑ Winter Indoor - \$100 (this is NOT a requirement; however, many teams stay together during the winter and join a local indoor club. The cost is about \$1,000 per team of 10-12 players.)

After the try-outs, results will be announced approximately 10 days after the completion of the last tryout session. Parents of the participants will have to accept their child's nomination within 48 hours of the initial posting via the website by accepting the position on the team and paying \$175 non-refundable fee, which covers the costs for the travel season registration fee and a portion of the initial team setup fee will be returned to the team. **A player will not formally be accepted onto a team until they are registered with the club.**

The coach of the team in which your child has been placed will be contacting you for a parent meeting and will review, in detail, practice and proposed game schedules, potential tournaments and other house-keeping items.

This is an exciting time and one that should be an enjoyable experience. The purpose of this letter was only to provide a summary of things involved and by no means is meant to be an exhaustive presentation. The only goal is to try and answer some of the questions that I have fielded over the last few days.

I would encourage all players to attend the try-outs and to have a good time!