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-8 and above who show a true ability to play

soccer and who want to compete at a higher level. The goal of the travel soccer program is to challenge players to realize their highest potential through better training, higher levels of competition and more games.

The U-8 and U-9 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 generally practice 2 nights a week starting in the summer months and continuing through the season. The fall season consists of 8 games and is played on Saturdays (boys) and/or Sundays (girls). 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. The season begins the weekend after Labor Day and continues through mid-November.

Travel teams may also play in several tournaments during the year which could include a pre-season tournament, a post-season tournament and a tournament over Columbus Day weekend. In addition, some travel teams may choose to play a winter indoor season at local arenas. 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 try out 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 board members, coaches, and/or independent evaluators to rank the players based on skill, athleticism, and attitude. There are usually 2 tryouts per age group. 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 Central League. This is a competitive league. 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 Coaching, the Director of Player Development or the Commissioner of Travel.

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-8 Thru U-12 Size 4 ball

U-13 and above Size 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 tryouts, 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 contact the Director of Coaching, the Director of Player Development or the Commissioner of Travel after the tryout session.

MNSA Travel Fees

Registration fees are set by the Board prior to each travel season. There is no fee for tryouts. Travel fees are generally $330. This includes training by independent trainers during the season, all referee fees, and all insurance costs for the player. Payment is due in full at the time the offer is accepted.

Our club is a non-profit organization. Its objective is to provide all children with a chance to play soccer. 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.

FC3 Premier Travel Information

FC3 Premier is a grassroots travel soccer program designed with a focus on player development for serious soccer players who have a strong passion for the game. As a member of the FC3 Premier program, you are committing to play travel soccer at an advanced level. Each of our FC3 Premier teams will have a professional and experienced coach and follow a specifically designed FC3 Premier curriculum created by the MNSA Director of Player Development and MNSA Director of Coaching. This will expose your child to age-appropriate development and focus to advance their overall soccer skills that is beyond what MNSA currently offers with its volunteer program.

Fee per player:

U8 = $1000

U9/U10 = $1250

U11/U12 = $1400

1st payment of half is due at time of registration

2nd balance is auto withdrawn on 9/1

General Information:

- Games are Saturday in the Fall (occasional Sunday)

- Training will be at least 2 times per week

- Winter & Spring session included

- Winter: 1 -2 practices a week, YSC/Futsal on weekend

- Spring: 1 -2 practices a week, Central League games on Sundays

- 3 or 4 tournaments throughout the year

- Uniforms are not included in the fee and will need to be purchased