



# Arlington Soccer Association

[www.arlingtonsoccer.com](http://www.arlingtonsoccer.com)

## **FAQ's About Travel Soccer 2017-2018**

*Please note that in August 2015 US Soccer, the governing body for the sport of soccer in the United States, announced mandates changing the registration of players from the current 8/1–7/31 dates to the calendar year (birth year). This means that players will register and teams will be formed by birth years (the year the player was born). These new birth year mandates took effect with the fall 2016 season.*

*Age groups will now be referred to with the age before the "U" (i.e. 10U) or 10 and under.*

### **What is travel soccer and what are its benefits?**

Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) sponsors a travel (select) soccer program. This is a competitive program for players with above average skills and a strong drive to develop their soccer abilities and love of the game. Boys and girls that are ready to play competitive soccer, want to learn new skills, are ready to make the necessary commitment to play travel soccer and are ready to be coached by a professional, licensed coaching staff will benefit from playing travel soccer..

### **How will my son or daughter be picked for a team?**

ASA will run open tryouts in late April/early May for players 9 and under (9U) for the next soccer year and mid-May to early June for all players 10U-19U to form teams for the following soccer year (fall and spring). All players are evaluated during these tryouts by the team coaches and additional evaluators. Selected players are placed on appropriate teams by the coaching staff.

### **How do I determine the right age group for my child?**

Players will tryout based on their birth year. For the 2017-2018, the youngest age group from travel soccer will be players born in 2009. We will have teams for following birth years: 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999.

### **Can my child try out in a different age group?**

Players cannot tryout or play in an age group for which they are too old. Even if they miss the cutoff by one day, they cannot play 'down' in an age group.

Our policy is "No player will be selected for an older age group, unless the technical staff determines that the player's soccer development needs will not be met within their own age group. Players must receive approval from their Age Group Director to attend tryouts for an older age group team. ASA's Director of Travel Coaching shall approve all roster offers for players eligible to play up.

### **How many players are selected for each team?**

Different age groups in travel soccer play with different game formats—and have different roster sizes. Coaches usually carry fewer players than the maximum allowed—optimizing players' playing time in games. The following are the roster sizes for the different age groups in ASA travel soccer program.

---

**(9U) & (10U) Teams**

**7 vs. 7 game format**

**10-12 players on each team**

---

<b>(11U) &amp; (12U) Teams</b>	<b>9 vs.9 game format</b>	<b>11-14 players on each team</b>
<b>(13U) – (15U) Teams</b>	<b>11 vs. 11 game format</b>	<b>16-18 players on each team</b>
<b>(16U) – (19U) Teams</b>	<b>11 vs. 11 game format</b>	<b>16-22 players on each team</b>

### How are players evaluated and selected for travel teams?

1. Technical — Can a player handle the ball technically under pressure and in tight spaces?
2. Speed —
  - a. Pure Speed — Is the player fast from point A to B?
  - b. Technical Speed — Can the player handle the ball under pressure?
  - c. Tactical Speed — Can the player make fast decisions with and without the ball?
3. Character —
  - a. Does the player like to compete?
  - b. Is he/she a positive influence on the group?
  - c. Does the player possess a high work rate?
  - d. Does the player bring passion and energy to the game?

Players are evaluated using several criteria. The three most important areas of evaluation are technical ability, speed and character. Players are evaluated in these and other areas and, if selected, placed on teams that best meet each player's developmental needs. Players that are not selected for the travel soccer program will be provided with information on other Arlington soccer programs and teams.

### When and where do travel teams practice?

The club is allocated fields throughout Arlington by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). These fields are then assigned to travel teams based on team needs and coach preference. Each travel team will have a different practice schedule.

Travel teams generally practice a minimum of twice a week during the season, for 1½ to 2 hours per practice. Other programs for player development are also available to players within the travel club.

### Who do travel teams play?

There are typically three leagues in which travel teams participate during the season. The Club Champions League (CCL), National Capital Soccer League (NCSL) and the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL), who sponsor play for both boys and girls teams. Travel teams may also play in US Youth Soccer Region 1 league during the spring season and/or US Youth Soccer National League throughout the year. The club will determine placement of each team in the appropriate league. Each league determines participation and divisional standings based on a team's results during each season.

### How many travel teams will the Arlington Soccer have in my son's or daughter's age group?

The number of travel teams formed in an age group will depend on the number of players who try out and their ability levels. Arlington Soccer will generally form six teams in the 9U and 10U age groups and five teams in 11U and 12U age groups for each gender. In the 13U and 16U age group ASA strives to form three teams per gender and for the 17U and 19U ASA will usually have two teams per gender. These teams are tiered, according to ability, as an 'A' team and a 'B' team.

### How are teams formed and players selected for each team?

ASA strives to tier teams starting at the 9U. This can be a challenge when players are only seen a few times before teams are formed. In addition, players develop at different rates and may change in just a few months. As a result the coaches may discuss player movement with families to determine if movement would benefit the player.

## **How are the coaches selected for each team?**

ASA employs a licensed, professional coaching staff which is under the supervision of the club's Directors of Travel Coaching (DOTC). All coaches are hired and paid by the ASA. The coaches work for the club and are placed on teams to benefit the development of each player. The coaching staff is evaluated each year by the DOCs and the Age Group Directors (AGDs) and may be rotated among the teams for maximum player development benefits. A complete list of the program's coaching staff, and credentials, is available on the ASA website under Travel.

## **How much time commitment is required?**

The fall season begins in mid-August and goes until mid-November, and the spring begins in March and goes through mid-June. For players selected to a team that will play in the CCL (red or white) they can expect events may fall outside of this time frame and the expectation is these events and practices for these events would be top priority. Teams begin practicing 2 to 4 weeks before the start of each season. That means that any other sport should be secondary to soccer training sessions, games and tournaments during these seasons. Most games are played on Sundays, but you should expect at least 1 or 2 Saturday games per season. Teams usually play one or more pre-season scrimmages and 2-4 tournaments per season, depending upon the age group and competitive level of the team. Practices are from 1 to 2 hours per session (usually 1.5) and take place at least twice a week. **Travel players are expected to attend all team practices and games.**

## **When are tournaments held?**

Teams often play pre-season, mid-season or post-season tournaments (3-4 games in a 2- or 3-day weekend). There are no league games on the following holiday weekends—Labor Day, Columbus Day and Memorial Day—so these are popular tournament weekends, along with pre- and post-season weekends. Players are expected to be available to play in tournaments.

## **How much does travel soccer cost?**

Each player pays a 'player program fee' to play travel soccer with ASA. This player fee covers, coach salaries, league and referee fees, State and National registration fees, player insurance, player development programs, administrative expenses, staff salaries and many other expenses. For the 2017 – 2018 year, we have a tiered program. There is one tier for the 9U - 12U players (\$1900) and then three tiers for the 13U and older players and fees range from \$1800 to \$2100. In addition to player program fees each player pays a "Team Fee" that covers team equipment, tournaments fees, coach tournament travel expenses, winter/indoor/futsal league fees, etc. for their team. Team fees can range from \$300 - \$1200 a player depending on age and team level.

ASA believes that financial status should not prevent talented players from participating in soccer. ASA offers financial aid for families in need but there is only a limited amount of aid available.. Many travel teams also do fundraising activities to offset the costs.

ASA makes a yearlong commitment to our professional coaching staff and to our players. **We expect ASA travel players and families to make the same full year commitment and pay all fees including team fees.**