



HAVERFORD
SOCCER CLUB



2019 – 2020 Haverford Soccer Club – Travel Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How are Travel Team tryouts conducted?**

U-8-U-13 teams will have two (2) tryouts. U-14 and older will have a minimum of one (1) tryout. Players are expected to make every effort to attend **ALL** tryouts. Teams will be picked by the coaches at the conclusion of tryouts. In general, coaches will notify the players of their status within a week of the last tryouts.

Players will be evaluated at tryouts based on four primary areas:

- Physical Ability - speed, stamina, strength, agility, coordination, etc.
- Technical Ability - How well a player performs the various skills of the game (dribbling, shooting, passing, receiving, etc.)
- Tactical Ability (Decision Making) - Being able to think on a field and make quick, intelligent decisions on offense, defense and transition.
- Psychological Ability - How much the player enjoys playing, enjoys competition, is able to handle the stress that comes with competing, etc.

In order for coaches to properly evaluate players, HSC requests that parents refrain from coaching their child during the tryout process. The coaches need to be able to see players in action, working on their own, thinking on their own and solving the problems of the game.

HSC will field teams in each age group Under 8 through Under 14 in the fall season. Older teams may play in the fall season or opt to wait and start play in late October, after the high school season has ended.

For most age groups, HSC will use "independent evaluators" to help the head coaches at tryouts. Their purpose is to provide additional feedback to the head coaches on the players during tryouts. In the end however, final player selection for each team is made by the head coaches. The head coaches may use whatever criteria and information they choose in making player selections for their team.

2. **Who coaches the teams in the HSC Travel Team Program?**

A large majority of our travel teams are coached by volunteer parents of players on the team. Our HSC Elite teams have full time paid professional coaches.

3. **What are the costs involved in the Travel Team Program?**

The costs vary greatly from team to team. Each team has a different budget that come with different commitments and expectations during the year. In general, 'A' teams have a higher cost factor than the lower level teams. Similarly, older teams tend to have a higher cost per player than younger teams.

4. **Does HSC have any geographical boundaries which limit participation?**

No, HSC does not have any geographical boundaries. Children may participate on a team, regardless of address.

5. **Does a child have to have previously played in HSC before in order to try out for the Travel Team Program?**

No, players may try out for an HSC travel team, regardless of where they previously played. Players from other soccer organizations are welcome to tryout.

6. **How much travel is actually involved in the Travel Team Program?**

That really depends on which team your child is on. In a typical fall season, a team will play 8-10 games. Half of these league games will be home games and half will be away games. Most of our travel teams compete in the Central League which rarely requires teams to travel further than 30 minutes to an away game. Older Travel teams/ Elite teams will likely travel greater distances for their league games. Some teams travel on occasion to out of area tournaments, including New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and other places. These tournaments are infrequent and only a few of our travel teams actually travel out of state.

7. **What is the commitment level for the program? How much soccer is involved throughout the year?**

Most travel teams start their season in mid-August and play in one or two tournaments in late August. All teams Under 8 through Under 14 will play in a fall travel league. The first league games are typically on the weekend after Labor Day Weekend. Fall leagues typically run through mid-November.

FALL SEASON - In the fall, teams will have one game a week, occasionally two. Travel teams will have two practices a week throughout the fall season with the exact schedule determined by the head coach.

WINTER SEASON - In the winter, teams will play a limited amount of indoor soccer, this is dependent on which team your child is placed on, they may train one day a week and they may play in an indoor league.

SPRING SEASON - All our 'A' teams and some of our 'B' teams will participate in the State Cups. This is a tournament involving the better teams throughout Eastern Pennsylvania to determine a state champion. This is mandatory for all 'A' teams. Travel teams in addition, can also play in a spring league and will practice once a week.

8. **What is the difference between the Intramural Program and the Travel Team Program?**

There are many differences. The Travel Team Program is geared for our stronger players who aspire to play at higher levels in the future. The number of games and practices that travel teams have is much higher. Travel teams play indoor soccer in the winter and are active in the spring in state cups and / or spring tournaments.

Players who simply wish to have a fun social experience while playing soccer in a low stress environment should stay in the Intramural Program. In general, players who do not play in a travel team program do not make it to the high school varsity level in school soccer.

9. **Can a player move up to a higher-level team within his / her age group at tryouts?**

Yes, we have tryouts each year. At that time, some players move up to a higher-level team while some players move down to a lower level team. Tryouts are open to anyone of the proper age each year.

10. **How strict are the age group classifications? May my child play with an older or younger age group?**

Our Travel Team Program teams are bound by the same age group classifications as all the other teams in the United States. A player who is one day too old for a team within a birth year age group is ineligible to tryout.

However, players that wish to “play up” at a higher age group must submit a request with evidence on why they should be considered to “play up” to the Travel Management Team before the tryouts begin.

11. **May a player selected for a higher-level team opt to play on a lower level team which has less of a commitment?**

Yes, a player who feels that he / she will not be able to live up to the commitment and expectations of an 'A' or 'B' team may opt to play on a lower level team. This must be stated as soon as player selections for teams are announced at the conclusion of tryouts. Any player selected for a level at the conclusion of tryouts may request to only be considered for a team in that age group at a lower level.

12. **Can a player be moved up or down a level in his / her age group during the season?**

In general, when a player accepts an offer to play on a travel team, the agreement is for a full year. The player will be considered on that team until tryouts take place the following year. There are some exceptions however to this rule:

- **A Player Moving Up To A Higher-Level Team** - Coaches are asked to watch the players on the team one level below their team in their age group. If a coach likes a player on the lower level team, the coach may offer that player a spot on his roster, provided that the roster is not filled. The player may accept or decline the offer. There are certain time periods when a player may not switch teams. This includes the time after the "roster freeze date" imposed by the travel team leagues while league play is taking place during the fall. Roster changes may not be made until the season has completed. Similarly, in the spring, rosters of teams playing in state cups may not be changed while the team is still involved in state cup play.
- **A Player Wishing To Drop Down To A Lower Level Team Within The Age Group** - A player may request to move down a level if they feel that they are playing at too high of a level or are playing on a team where the commitment is too much. Similar to a player being moved to a higher-level team (see above), a transfer may only take place at certain times of a year. The transfer will be denied if the team the player wishes to move to has the maximum number of players.

13. **Are HSC travel team players allowed to play other sports?**

Yes, definitely! We do not expect young soccer players to only play one sport. The fall season is the primary season for all HSC travel teams Under 8 up through Under 14. During the fall, all players are expected to make as many games and practices as possible. The winter, we realize that players often like to play other sports. Players on teams playing winter soccer are expected to live up to the commitments and expectations as presented by the coach at the beginning of the season. However, players are welcome to play other sports in the winter if desired.

In the spring, players on our 'A' teams are expected to be available for **ALL** state cup games. This applies to players on any 'B' teams that are involved in state cups. However, players are not precluded from playing other sports in the spring as long as they are able to make it to all state cup games. The exact commitment level for all teams in the spring is dependent on the expectations defined by the head coach for each team.

For teams Under 15 and older where the primary season is the spring, players are expected to make soccer their number one sport in the spring and make all games and tournaments as scheduled by the coach. Players on these teams will normally be playing high school soccer in the fall so the season for the older teams usually does not start until after the high school season has finished.