



HAVERFORD
SOCCER CLUB



2019 – 2020 Haverford Soccer Club - Elite Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How are the Elite Team tryouts conducted?**

U-11 to U-13 Elite Boys and Girls teams will have two (2) tryouts. U-14 and older Elite Boys and Girls teams will have a minimum of one (1) tryout. Players interested in the Elite Program 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, can handle the stress that comes with competing, etc.

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 Elite tryouts will be conducted by the Elite Head Coach of that age group.

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

Our HSC Elite teams have full time paid professional coaches.

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

The Elite Team Program is more expensive than the Travel Team Program. There are several reasons for this. First, and most significant, is that the head coaches in our Elite Team Program are paid coaches who have greater soccer background than the volunteer parent coaches in the Travel Team program. This higher level of coach comes a higher cost to the player.

The Elite Team Program is a year-round program aimed at players that view soccer as their main sport. With this, teams will attend more high-level tournaments, they will play in higher level leagues, they will practice 2-3 times a week throughout the Fall/Winter/Spring, they will participate in State Cup.

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

No, HSC Elite 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 Elite Team Program?**

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

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

In a typical fall/spring 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 Elite teams compete in EDP/APL leagues which requires teams to travel further distances to an away game. Most Elite teams will only travel to tournaments in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

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

Elite teams start their season in mid-August and play in one or two tournaments in late August. All Elite Teams Under 11 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. Elite teams will have two practices, with an optional third practice, a week throughout the fall season with the exact schedule determined by the head coach.

WINTER SEASON - In the winter, Elite teams will practice twice a week as much as possible (weather dependent) They will participate in an indoor league(s). They may also choose to participate in Indoor State Cup.

SPRING SEASON - All our Elite 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 Elite teams. Elite teams in addition will also play in EDP/APL spring league and will practice twice a week.

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

The Elite Team Program is aimed at stronger players who aspire to play soccer year-round at a higher level. The number of games and practices that Elite teams have is much higher throughout the year. Elite teams will play and practice indoor soccer in the winter and will play and practice in spring leagues/spring tournaments and State Cup

Players who wish to play soccer with a slightly lower commitment level, competition level and with a lower financial cost should look to play for one of our Travel Teams.

9. **Can a player move to an Elite level team within his / her age group at tryouts?**

Yes, we have tryouts each year. At that time, some players may wish to tryout and be selected for an Elite team while some players may move down to a travel 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 Elite 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 an Elite team opt to play on a Travel 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 Elite team should not opt to tryout for the Elite team. However, if they do opt to try out for an elite team, and then feel that they cannot live up to the commitment and expectations must be state this as soon as possible.

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 on that team until tryouts take place the following year. There is an exception 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.

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

Yes, definitely! We do not expect young soccer players to only play one sport. However, the Elite team program is aimed at players that view soccer as their main sport. Soccer should take priority over other sports when conflicts inevitably arise throughout the year.