

U9/U10 ALC's, Coaches and Parents,

Over the past few days I've been receiving questions regarding Rec. versus Traveling (Competitive) soccer within the U9/U10 age levels. In response to these questions I've prepared this information sheet which outlines the differences between our Competitive and Recreational programs. I hope this assists both the parents and coaches in making their decisions in these transitional years.

Competitive Soccer (Traveling)

- The registration fee is \$300/player. In addition, this is a new uniform year so the uniform kit is an additional \$90/player. The next new uniform year will be for 2014.
- Registered Competitive players can sign up for the WBSC Training Academy which runs throughout the winter in the Vadnais Dome. The cost of this program is \$40/8 week session. This fee covers the cost of a professional trainer. The next session runs from February-March.
- In the month of April all Competitive teams are provided with a once a week training slot in the Vadnais Dome. These teams will train with their coaches at no additional charge.
- During April-May each U9-U12 Competitive team will train once a week with a professional trainer provided by the club. This training will occur during the time that's outlined in the above bullet point. This is a supplemental program to what your teams coach is already providing. This is also provided at no additional charge.
- WBSC teams typically participate in MYSAs Eastern Division. Teams that make up this division are from WBL, Mahtomedi, Woodbury, Hudson, Cottage Grove, Stillwater, South St. Paul and other communities that are located on the eastern side of the cities.
- At these younger age levels there are typically multiple Eastern Divisions to account for the large number of teams that participate. As a result of this you typically will not play the same team twice during a season.
- Games will begin in May and last until mid to late July. In most cases you'll only be playing one game a week. However, due to rain outs and rescheduled games you may experience cases where you'll play multiple games in a single week.
- All of the games contain 1 referee.
- Game scores are kept but not recorded at these younger ages. Standings and post season play begin at U11.
- Teams can elect to play in weekend tournaments. Most Competitive teams play in 1-3 of these each year. Each team plays a minimum of 3 games from Friday-Sunday. The club provides a tournament reimbursement of \$250/team which is typically the cost of 1 tournament fee. Any remaining fees are distributed amongst the players.
- The White Bear Soccer Club sets aside a limited amount of money each year to grant as scholarships for players. Please go to the link below for the complete application details.

<http://www.whitebearsoccer.org/page/show/157007-stephanie-mcneal-scholarship-fund>

Club Soccer (Recreational)

- The registration fee is \$90/player for Rec. and Rec. Plus.
- Note: A Rec. Plus program can only be provided when we have a neighboring community that wishes to participate.
- Rec. teams compete against other Rec. teams within the same club and age level. When there are not enough teams within a particular age level then we'll combine age levels in order to field a sufficient number of teams. This is quite common in the U9/U10 age levels as a number of the players and teams elect to travel.
- During May each of our Rec. levels, U5-U10 will train once a week with a professional trainer provided by the club. This program will last for 4 weeks and is supplemental training to what your teams coach is already providing. This is also provided at no additional charge.
- Games will begin after Memorial Day and run until the end of July.
- No scores or standing are recorded.
- No referees will be present at the games. This will be handled by the coaches of both teams.
- No weekend tournaments exist for Rec. teams. However, some tournaments do allow Rec. Plus teams to participate and they may be playing against other Rec. Plus teams or Competitive teams within their age level. Each tournament is different in what they offer.
- The field size and number of players on the field at one time is the same between Rec. and Competitive.

In addition to the comparison that I laid out above there's a few other factors that I want you to be aware of.

Each year at the U9 and U10 levels the club typically has to modify the Rec. program based on the number of registrations that are received. From U5 to U8 everyone plays Rec. and we always have a large amount of teams. Starting at U9 we typically see half to three quarters of the teams elect to play Competitive Soccer. This means that we may only have 3-4 teams that elect to play Rec. Playing the same 2-3 teams over and over again can limit the soccer experience. In these cases we then need to combine U9 & U10 teams and possibly U8 as well. If this occurs then we'll also need to look at balancing the teams so that the older level isn't dominating the younger one.

I'm not trying to influence your decision, but instead want you to be fully informed on the differences between these two programs and the challenges that may arise.

I hope this information is helpful and we look forward to providing you and your child with the best possible soccer experience.

Please don't hesitate to contact your coach, ALC or myself with any questions.

Regards,

Jonathan Staruck

President WBSC

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