

## Considering Travel Soccer?

To: Parents of In-House and Recreational Players

From: **Parkland Area Soccer Club**

RE: Travel Soccer

Because many parents of the current In-House and Rec programs are new to the concept of travel soccer, I wanted to prepare a brief summary of information for you.

Starting at U9, there are some pretty cool changes that occur: PASC offers different levels of opportunities for each player to participate. For each age group, there are teams for advanced, intermediate and beginner players. The goal is to be able to group players of equal skill levels together, which will allow for increased player development – no matter what their current skill level. For example, players in the advanced level will learn spacing (running to open area to receive a pass) and players in the beginning level will focus on passing and receiving. The emphasis is always on player / team development before winning.

The “travel tryouts” is the mechanism used to determine which level a player should be placed. The idea of trying out for a team can be an exciting time for each player involved. If there are sufficient numbers to field two or more travel teams, **PASC** will form balanced teams and hold one joint Academy practice a week. If there are only enough players for one team, then the team will still have an Academy practice. Teams generally play in LVYSL. If Coaches have interest in playing in PAGES or ICSL, they should contact the Travel Coordinator for guidance. PTS Trainers for the Academy are funded by the Club. The Focus is on Technical development and to introduce travel soccer and the commitment to families.

The “travel try outs” consists of Two individual practice sessions each lasting 90 minutes and will be run by PASC appointed evaluators. There is a \$20 cost for the tryouts. The coaches’ child may also be trying out and the parent coach cannot evaluate their own child. The evaluation drills will allow the player to demonstrate their ability to dribble, pass, receive and shoot. Emphasis is also placed on the participant’s attitude, ability to hustle, listen, try new things and have fun in a soccer environment. Ideally, each team will have a few players more than that age group fields. For example, U9 is played with 7 kids on the field, so there would be a maximum of 12 roster spots. After the tryouts, the evaluators will finalize the scoring and the players are ranked based upon their final score. In cases where more than one team is formed **PASC** will then form balanced teams at the U9 . At the older age groups the top group of players will be placed on the Premier Travel; the next grouping will be placed on the A Travel, next on the B Travel and so forth. With this scoring system, each player is placed with a grouping of players of equal skills. This will allow players to continue in their skill development at a pace that is best suited for them.

It should be noted that it is not necessary to attend the Travel tryouts if your child is planning on playing Recreational. If you, as the parent believe that the Recreational Program is the appropriate level, all you need to do is to register them accordingly.

For those players that are placed on one of the Travel teams, there is a two-season commitment. The seasons will be fall and spring matching the school year. The goal is to keep the teams together to maximize the skill and team development. Every Travel coach will be licensed (they completed US Soccer Courses and passed the examination) which will allow for maximum player development.

There are additional costs involved for parents whose child is on a Travel team. These costs vary depending on Team, tournament play and parent involvement but may range between \$400 and \$750. The fees include (subject to change): Registration - \$400 (includes both Fall and Spring Seasons) Tryout - \$20 (one-time fee) Uniforms - \$125 with optional items for purchase (one-time fee for both Fall and Spring Seasons) Tournaments - \$100-\$150 (there can be 2 or 3 tournaments each season, and each tournament has a different team cost) Winter Indoor (this is NOT a requirement; however, many teams stay together during the winter and join a local indoor club. The base cost is about \$1,500 per team of 10-12 players.)

Travel Team offers will be sent out to the players after Travel Coordinator approval. Parents of the participants will need to accept their child's nomination within 48 hours of the initial posting/offer via the website by accepting the position on the team and paying \$400 non-refundable fee. The fee covers the costs for the full two-season travel registration, Academy Team Training, a portion of the initial team setup fee and Fundraising. Players aged U9-U14 will be eligible to register for the PASC Summer Skills camp and Winter Technical Training at No Additional Cost. A player will not formally be accepted onto a team until they are registered with the club. The coach of the team in which your child has been placed will be contacting you for a parent meeting and will review, in detail, practice and proposed game schedules, potential tournaments and other housekeeping items. This is an exciting time and one that should be an enjoyable experience. The purpose of this letter was only to provide a summary of things involved and by no means is meant to be an exhaustive presentation. The only goal is to try and answer some of the questions that have been asked over the years. I would encourage all players to attend the tryouts and to have a good time!

