



SCSL Travel Soccer Handbook

Introduction

The Shenandoah County Soccer League Travel Club offers a venue for those children wishing to take their game to the next level. The focus of the travel program is not only on player development on the field, but also on building character off the field. Travel soccer requires a large commitment from the players and the parents, but the relationships that are created along the way are well worth the efforts. If your child has the desire to further their soccer experience, we encourage you to challenge them with the travel soccer program.

The Difference between Recreational and Travel Soccer

RECREATION: Most likely your child's experience with soccer has been at the recreational level. The Recreational Division of the SCSL sponsors recreational teams from Strasburg to Mt. Jackson. These teams are formed based on age and demographic location of the player's residence. There are no try-outs to determine on which team a child will play and costs of participation are relatively low. The emphasis of the recreational program is about learning the fundamentals of the game in a non-competitive atmosphere.

TRAVEL: Travel soccer is more competitive in nature. Travel teams offer competition and training for players who have the potential, drive and desire to compete at a higher level. The primary focus of the Travel Program is player development through quality coaching and high quality competition. Great emphasis is placed on teamwork and sportsmanship. During pre-announced tryout dates, players wishing to earn a position on a travel team participate in annual tryouts. State and national associations restrict the number of players on each travel team depending on the age group and selection for a travel team is completely at the coach's discretion.

Travel games are scheduled primarily on Sundays, although there may be an occasional Saturday game. The schedule traditionally consists of 8-10 league games, half of which are played at our home fields (the Soccerplex) and the other half away. Typically away games are a 1 to 2 hour drive from the area depending on where you are located in the county. The fall season begins the weekend after Labor Day and extends through mid November. The spring season begins in March and extends through June.

Each player's amount of playing time during league play is at the discretion of the team's coach. Unlike Recreational soccer, all players may not receive equal playing time. Each coach

continually determines the player's level of skill and adjusts playing time accordingly. Playing time will be dependent upon performance at practice and at games.

When a player is selected and accepts a position for a travel team, that player is expected to fulfill a commitment to play in league competitions. U-9 through U14 age groups participate in both the fall and spring seasons while U-15 and above are only required to play a fall schedule (due to the high school season).

Travel teams practice at least two times a week for approximately one and one-half hours each practice. As with games, practices are mandatory, as they are vital for individual player development and also for development and cohesiveness of the team. Punctuality is expected.

A Team Manager conducts the financial and administrative duties for the team and communicates various team activities to the players and parents. This person volunteers their time to keep the team's administrative matters organized and we ask that each player and parent give them their full cooperation. Decisions on each team's league selection are made through a joint effort between the coaches and the parents of the players on that team.

Costs to Play Travel Soccer

There are various fees associated with participation in a travel program. These fees include League, VYSA, and SCSL registration and insurance fees. Each player will be required to pay a fee of \$125 per season. New players (including new teams) will be required to pay an additional \$75 per player in the first season to cover the costs associated with purchasing uniforms. Team uniforms belong to the team. A \$50 refund will be given to any player not returning to the team if the complete uniform is returned in good condition. Fees are non-refundable (other than the uniform policy previously stated).

Each team is responsible for maintaining its own financial records. Typically this is the responsibility of the Team Manager.

Fundraisers

Additional costs may be required for the purchase of equipment (benches, tents, practice/game balls, etc.) and for those teams wishing to participate in tournaments or indoor leagues during the off season. In lieu of collecting additional fees, fundraising activities may be held throughout the year. Players and parents are expected to participate in fundraising.

Travel Tryouts - What to Expect

Open tryouts will be held each year between the last week of May and the first week in June. Even those players previously rostered with a team must attend tryouts and be selected in order to earn a spot on the team for the following year.

It may be necessary for newly formed teams to have players of multiple ages selected for the team. All players must meet the maximum allowable age limit as governed by the affiliated leagues (ODSL requires all players to have reached their eighth birthday before they can be registered on a team.) For example, a newly formed team of U10 players may roster players who are eight, nine, and/or ten years old. However, 40% of rostered players are required to be of “pure” age or a waiver request must be granted by the travel league (ODSL).

We are committed to ensuring that all children receive a fair and equitable evaluation during these tryout sessions. Coaches will be assessing the individual player’s fitness, athleticism, skills and attitude. *Selection of team members is at the discretion of the coaching staff. No player will be discriminated against based on race, religion, or financial ability.* You will be notified by phone if your child has or has not been selected for a team.

During the registration process, you will be required to provide a copy of the child’s birth certificate.

Practices and League Play

The first weekend of fall league play is traditionally the weekend following Labor Day. Spring League play begins early March. League schedules are typically not released until a week or two prior to the first league game. Players are expected to be ready to begin practice at their designated dates and times. In addition, players are typically expected to arrive for “home” league games approximately 30 minutes prior to game time, and “away” league and tournament games approximately 45 minutes prior to game time. The coach of your player’s team may indicate arrival times, which may differ from these guidelines.

Players’ Attendance Policy

Participation in Travel soccer is a commitment and players are expected to be at practices, games and tournaments on time.

Parents' and Players' Code of Conduct

The Program takes pride in the sportsmanship of its players and spectators. While the coaches will help to remind players of their responsibility to maintain composure and exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship, it is of utmost importance that the players, parents and siblings also show the same level of respect and sportsmanship to all players, coaches, and officials. Positive support will help all of the players and the Shenandoah County Soccer League program.

The SCSL supports the following policies for our travel parents:

- ☐ Do not, under any circumstances, shout abusively at your child or any other child. Abusive verbal behavior by parents will not be tolerated. Violators may be asked to leave the venue and may be sanctioned.
- ☐ Verbal or physical abuse of any coach or referee will not be tolerated and violators may be sanctioned.
- ☐ Do not coach your child or other children from the sideline during the game. Please make only positive comments to the players. Our coaches will provide instructional input during games.

Program Miscellaneous

Teams joining the SCSL travel program beginning in the Fall of 2013 are required to wear the League's designated uniform colors. Teams are responsible for providing a home and away jersey, a pair of shorts, and a pair of socks. Uniforms are to be clean at the start of each game with jerseys tucked neatly into shorts during play.

Questions and Concerns

Player and parent concerns should be discussed with the Coach. If the complaint is not resolved, please contact the Travel Club Representative and the Travel Commissioner. If the complaint is still not resolved, please contact the League Board.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us at anytime.

Paschalis Dagkalidis
Travel Commissioner
Club Representative- ODSL
scsltravel@gmail.com

Expected Behavior

ODSL Parents Code of Conduct

Conduct yourself with honor and dignity at all times. (Your actions reflect on the team, club, community association, and soccer)

Be fair always no matter what the outcome.

Know and obey the laws of the game.

Work for the good of the team.

Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.

Be generous when your team wins.

Be graceful when your team loses.

Believe in the honesty of your opponents.

Let them play, remember that you are not a player on this team.

Support your team, coaches and representatives. (Discuss issues in private)

Never encourage, condone or participate in any activities that may result in injuries to players and spectators, or result in damage to soccer facilities.

Develop and encourage an appreciation of the game of Soccer.

ODSL Players Code of Conduct

Conduct yourself with honor and dignity at all times. (Your actions reflect on your team, club, community association, and soccer)

Be fair always no matter what the outcome.

Know and obey the laws of the game.

Work for the good of the team.

Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.

Be generous when your team wins.

Be graceful when your team loses.

Believe in the honesty of your opponents.

Never encourage, condone or participate in any activities that may intentionally injury players/spectators, or damage soccer facilities.

Develop and encourage an appreciation of the game of Soccer.