



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When does the season start? One season consists of two sessions.

Fall Session = August – November

Spring Session = February – May

Q. How much will this cost? Fees are \$570 per season. To make it easier on families, fees may be paid in three installments in June, July and August.

Q. How much are uniforms? Approximately \$150. Includes home and away jerseys, home and away shorts, 2 pair of socks and a personalized soccer bag.

Q. What do my fees pay for? Fees cover the league entry fee, game field rental, referees, training fees, team app for scheduling and communication, practice facilities, goalie training, speed and agility training, insurance and club administrative costs. The vast majority of fees are for the league fees and training costs.

Q. Are there additional costs beyond the fees? These fees do not include uniforms, tournament fees or indoor soccer fees. The anticipated life of uniforms is two years (four sessions). Tournament fees usually run between \$25 and \$50 and are payable before the tournament. Indoor soccer is optional, with fees paid directly to the facility where games are played. Fundraising will help reduce these costs. See “Are there fundraisers to help offset fees?” below.

Q. Are there fundraisers to help offset fees? Yes. Individuals may *voluntarily* participate in the pizza sales fundraiser – which typically reduce fees at least \$100 per player per season. The amount of money that can be raised is unlimited and proportional to the amount an individual sells. This past year one family reduced their fees \$440 through the fundraiser.

Q. Where are the games played? Most games are played near River Port Amphitheater in Maryland Heights, MO (off I-70) or off 370 in St. Charles. League fields are located throughout the St. Louis metro area including Illinois.

Q. Where are practices/training held? Glazebrook Park on Stamper Lane in Godfrey IL.

Q. How many games are there? 9-10 league games per session.

Q. Are there week night games? Most games are played on weekends. There are occasional weeknight games.

Q. When are practices and games? Our teams practice once per week, have ball skills training once per week and play one game per week. There will be a few weeks in the season where no games are scheduled. As the players get older or if they play on a Premier (top) level team they may practice twice per week and train once per week. Occasional additional practices may be held at the coach's discretion in a unique situation. Coaches may not have a combination of team practice/training any more than 3 times per week (7 day period).

Q. What league will we play in? Will our team be able to compete? Our teams play in the St. Louis Youth Soccer Association League (SLYSA) which draws teams from throughout the Metro St. Louis region and the Midwest. Teams travel from Quincy, IL, Southeast Missouri, Indiana and Southern Illinois to play in this league because it is well organized and they can play teams of comparable skill levels.

There are usually 4-6 divisions per age group with 8-9 teams each. New teams are first placed in the bottom division. If a team wins more than .750% of their games they may be moved up a Division. The top division is the Premier Division, then Championship, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, etc.

If your team practices and trains with the trainer consistently, has players with good attitudes and who give their best effort - then your team should be able to compete at the appropriate competition level.

Q. What is the difference between “Training” and “Practice”? **Practice** is conducted by the team coaches and focuses on individual skills, small group play, position play and team concepts. The trainer is not present for practices. **Training** is conducted by the trainer and focuses on individual skills development and small group play with a focus on “touches on the ball”. Coaches are usually present to observe but play a support role, if any.

Q. Do you play in tournaments and do you travel to out of town tournaments? This is at the discretion of the coach. As players get older tournaments are encouraged however most are not out of town. Tournament fees may be included in overall fees at the discretion of the coach and typically run \$25-\$50 per player. Younger teams typically do not travel to out of town tournaments. When they do play tournaments they are within the St. Louis area. As teams improve and get older out of town tournaments would first be discussed with the parents before a commitment was made. Premier and Championship level teams will most likely attend an out of town tournament but again this would be discussed with the team before commitments are made.

Q. Is there “equal playing” time? Our coaches are encouraged to play each player a minimum of 30% of the game time in each game. The coach may use their discretion and playing time may be impacted by several factors including, but not limited to, game situations, attendance at practice and training, attitude, tournaments, grades, injury, etc.

Q. Can my child still play on their “rec” team? Players who are U10 and younger may continue to play on their rec team provided parents agree their son or daughter will attend Club events if there is a conflict. Players may not play indoor soccer during any Irish season at any age. Once players reach the U9 level they will not be permitted to play on a “rec” soccer team.

Q. Won't my child get burned out playing “club” soccer? We follow the US Soccer guidelines for how many hours a player should spend on soccer in a 7 day period. Breaks are built in for major holidays such as Easter, Memorial Day, etc. For example, players at the Kindergarten-3rd grade level will only attend one practice and one training session per week and each session will be limited to one hour. Time increases to 90 minutes at the

U10 level. There are only 9-10 games per session (similar to a Park and Rec schedule). There are no league games in the summer or winter, although individuals can voluntarily choose to play indoor soccer, 3v3, futsal, etc. The investment of time is increased with age and skill level but even still is less than many other sports, especially compared to many other select sports.

Q. Can my child play other sports and play for the Irish?

The vast majority of our players are involved in other activities such as track, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, music, math competition, dance and many other activities and we work around them to the best of our ability on a case by case basis. We ask that in the case of a conflict you choose Irish first. In the event this is not possible in a unique situation please communicate with the coach in advance to ensure the absence does not negatively impact the team.

Q. Is my son/daughter good enough for club soccer? Your son or daughter does not need to be the best player on their “rec” team in order to develop into a good soccer player. Players of all skill levels should show improvement after a few full sessions of training and league games, assuming they attend training and practice regularly and make a conscious effort to listen and learn. Ultimately, individual success will be determined by attitude, effort *and* skill.

Q. How do I know if this is for me? If your child is able to make the majority of practices/training sessions, has a good attitude and is willing to listen and learn then there is no reason this should not be a positive experience for you and your child.