



# Loudoun Soccer Spring 2023 All-Stars Frequently Asked Questions



## **What is Rec All-Stars?**

Rec All-Stars is a supplemental program designed for the motivated, experienced, and skilled Recreational player. Players must try out to be selected to an All-Star team.

## **Who is eligible for this program?**

Any U9-U12 player who is registered for the Spring 2023 season with Loudoun Soccer and is actively participating on a team in Rec or Challenge is eligible to try out. Players must try out in their birth year to participate. Only players born in the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 are eligible for this program – no exceptions.

## **Why are All-Star teams formed by birth year age groups and not by grades?**

US Soccer (the governing body of soccer in this country) recently mandated a reorganization of age groups by birth year for all teams playing participating in outside competition (e.g., Travel, All-Stars, etc.). Since Rec and Challenge are in-house programs, Loudoun Soccer can organize them by grade to better suit the needs of the Recreational player.

## **Can my child play up or play down?**

Players must try out for their own age group/birth year – no play up or play down requests permitted.

## **How do tryouts work?**

Players pre-register via their User Account and **MUST** attend at least one of the two scheduled tryout dates (4/23 and 4/30). **Players are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions.** Tryouts will consist of a series of small-sided games to best evaluate each player's abilities and athleticism.

Players check-in 15 minutes before each session to receive a numbered, reversible scrimmage vest, which will be collected at the end of the session.

## **What should parents do during tryouts?**

Parents are invited to watch from the designated area (typically one of the touchlines), but are prohibited from cheering, coaching, or instructing their child or others during the tryout, so that players may be assessed in their natural environment. In other words: sit back, relax, and let your child play.

## **Who are the coaches and evaluators?**

The coaches are non-parents (of players trying out), experienced and licensed trainers, many of whom currently or previously coached Travel teams. Some have high USSF licenses, while others have played semi-professionally, and others coach in our Rec Technical Training Academy program. Evaluators may be volunteer coaches from our Rec program. A parent-coach may be assigned as an Assistant Coach after teams are formed. No players are guaranteed positions on a team prior to tryouts.

## **What do coaches look for at tryouts?**

Coaches look for a combination of excellent athletic ability; high caliber soccer skills; size and speed; focus and intensity; a positive attitude; and a willingness to learn.

## **How many teams will be formed? How many players will be selected?**

The goal is to form at least one team per age group and gender. Additional teams may be formed in an age group depending on the number of players that try out; the quality of the players that try out; and the availability of a capable coach to be assigned to this new team. The approximate # of players to be selected per team are:



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U9 and U10 (2013-14): 12 players; U11 and U12 (2011-12):16 players

## **How will families be notified?**

Families will be notified via email of their child's selection; players who are not selected will also be notified. Unfortunately, no feedback can be provided to those who are not selected, as the nature of the program is to identify and select players, and not to fully evaluate. Notification should be sent on or around May 3. Families whose child is selected will receive information on their All-Star team's practice schedule as well as payment information.

## **What's the commitment?**

Practices will take place on Sundays (5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 6/4); one practice in the evening during the week of June 12 may also occur (five total practices). Teams will attend an All Star Tournament June 17-18. Teams typically play four mini matches on Saturday, and 1-3 full matches on Sunday. Families should plan on being available for the full weekend; tournament schedules are typically available one week in advance.

## **What is the fee and what does it include?**

The per-player fee is \$160, and includes the following:

- Tournament team entry fee
- Approximately 15 hours of soccer and instruction (tryouts, practices, and tournament games)
- Two numbered All Star jerseys (required)

No refunds will be issued regardless of circumstance (e.g. injury, schedule conflicts, etc.) given the nature of the program (e.g. team budgets are based on a certain number of players per team). However, COVID-related cancellations may be issued refunds or credits based on the circumstance and the cancellation date.

## **What does the uniform include?**

The Loudoun Soccer All-Star uniform package includes two official logoed jerseys from Capelli Sport. Players should wear their black shorts and black socks from their Recreation uniform. Sizes are collected during online registration, and jerseys will be ordered following selections.

The cost is included in the registration fee. ALL players will receive new jerseys each season; previous All-Star jerseys may not be reused. Uniforms will be distributed before the event. Optional items like backpacks may be ordered.

## **Why is this program so expensive?**

The program is expensive relative to your regular Recreation fee because Loudoun Soccer keeps its Recreation fee low due to fundraising and sponsorship revenues, and because coaches of Rec teams are volunteers; the reality is the Rec program fee could be much higher but the organization works hard to keep the registration fee low.

Loudoun Soccer generates little-to-no profit with its All-Star program, despite the additional work required to manage it; nearly all of the money collected is used to pay for its expenses (tournament entry fee, uniform and coaches' salaries). This is why refunds will not be issued regardless of circumstance once a player accepts the selection offer.

Participating players will receive approximately 15 hours of soccer, or about \$10 per hour, which is a reasonable expense.

## **I have an additional question not answered above – whom do I speak with?**

Email Al Bonilla at [al.bonilla@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:al.bonilla@loudounsoccer.com) or speak with a Loudoun Soccer representative at the tryout tent.