



# Welcome to Rangers Academy

June, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is included in the travel fee?** Team practices, league games, academy practices, 2<sup>nd</sup> session of indoor league for 11U-14U players, speed and agility training Nov-Mar, tournaments (two for ages 11U-14U and one for ages 15U-19U). These fees also cover the cost of player registration for the ISL and Club overhead. *Please note:* travel to/from games, lodging for tournaments, 1<sup>st</sup> session of indoor league and School of Excellence skills classes are **not** included in your travel fee.
- 2. When will we know our practice schedule?** Tentative practice schedules will be distributed sometime in July. Please note that practice schedules for some teams may change throughout the fall due to darkness. Our first practices will begin in late July / early August.
- 3. When will we get our schedule of games?** A draft of the Fall schedules should be available around the end of August and should be finalized the beginning of September for all Fall teams. The first league games will not be until after Labor Day. Schedule release dates for the Spring season have not been announced, but are usually in March.

- 4. How much travel will be involved?** The amount of travel varies from team to team and season to season, it all depends where the other teams are from in your league. There are more teams in the lower divisions across the state therefore generally the state can assign teams that are geographically closer. As you move up in the divisions the amount of teams become fewer so therefore the geographic region increases. This is just a general guideline and not the rule, in the past we had a team in the lowest division travel much more than a team in one of the highest divisions.
  
- 5. What are the different divisions/leagues?** All of our teams are part of the Indiana Soccer League (ISL). Within the ISL there are different divisions. The highest (most competitive) division is Premier, the next level down is 1<sup>st</sup> Division, then 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. So there are 5 divisions. Not all age groups have all 5 divisions. For the U11 and U12 groups the highest division is 2<sup>nd</sup> division. All other age groups have Premier and First, however not all age groups go down to 4<sup>th</sup> division, some may only go down to 3<sup>rd</sup> division. It all depends how many teams from across the state register for each age group. Within the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> divisions there may be multiple groups within the division, this is usually always the case for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> divisions. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Red, 4<sup>th</sup> Blue, 4<sup>th</sup> Yellow, etc. The amount of colored groups for each division varies greatly from year to year and also varies by the age group.
  
- 6. Who do I contact if I cannot make a practice or game?** Please notify your child's coach. If the absence is known ahead of time please notify the coach and team manager.
  
- 7. Do I get to keep my uniform and warm-up?** Yes
  
- 8. Can I purchase additional uniform items, socks, shorts, etc?** Yes, additional items will be available for purchase from our uniform supplier throughout the season.
  
- 9. What if my child outgrows their uniform or warmup?** If the uniform is in great condition we may be able to exchange with our current inventory based on size and numbers available, the uniform needs to be in like new condition. We often have uniforms available in inventory, however if we have to place a special order the cost will be higher than current prices due to shipping. New warmups can be ordered at an additional charge – they cannot be exchanged since the names are embroidered on them.

- 10. When guest players are needed for an older team, how are the guest players chosen?** If a team is in jeopardy of having to forfeit a game, they will often bring up players from a younger age group. Coaches will take into consideration: player skill, ability to physically play an older age group, positions needed to fill.
- 11. How many tournaments are included?** For the 11U-14U age groups we include two tournaments with their fees. For the 15U-19U age groups one tournament is included in their fees. Teams can choose to attend additional tournaments. The additional fee will probably be between \$50 - \$125 per tournament. This fee will vary based on entry fee cost, number of players and location of tournament.
- 12. Will our team be entered into the State Cup, President's Cup or Challenge Cup tournaments?** This decision will be made by each individual team along with the coach after the Fall season.
- 13. What winter programs are included with our travel team fees?** Winter team training and academy practices are included in all fees. Indoor academy practices start mid-November for all ages. Team practices start in November for 15U-19U teams and mid January for 11U-14U teams. Also included is Speed and Agility training from November – March. First session Indoor league fees are **NOT** included. 2<sup>nd</sup> Session indoor league fees are included for 11U-14U Players.
- 14. With a commitment to supporting other school activities and a balanced life, how does that align with participating on a competitive travel team?** The Rangers support our athletes also participating in school activities but we also recognize that can be a challenge. At the beginning of the season, we will meet with each team and the team will work together to determine goals, expectations and accountability for the team. This will vary based on the age group of the team, and also the number of players on each team. If you have any concern at all about meeting the expected commitment of your team we recommend registering your player in our pool program where you can determine the level of commitment.
- 15. What individualized training will my child receive?** Your child is eligible to participate in Academy practices and school of excellence training (School of Excellence classes have an additional charge). Soccer, like any skill that you are developing, requires multiple opportunities to develop expertise. Practice and games are very important; however, full player development can only be achieved if players are maximizing all Club opportunities and/or working on skill development and training outside of practices. Please remember that the average player only has the ball at their feet for 1-2 minutes during a normal game. Most of the time during the first 10 minutes of practice a player will touch the ball much more than any game, therefore attending practices are very important to improve skill level.

**16. What is the Academy training?** Academy practices are held on a weekly basis and are included with your travel fees. Academy practices focus on individual foot skills. To achieve maximum development it is highly encouraged for all players to attend academy practices. Individual skills are the foundation of any strong soccer player.

**17. What is School of Excellence (SOE)?** Skills and Development classes that are offered on a monthly basis. These classes focus on specific areas: goalie, speed and agility, shooting, etc. The skills classes are at an additional cost and are optional, speed and agility is included with your travel team fee. You can sign up for these classes online through the website.

**18. How does the Academy and School of Excellence work with the travel team?** Academy practices are an opportunity to work on the players individual foot skill development and are held on weekdays. Travel team practices and games will take priority over the SOE classes and Academy practices, however, most classes and academy practices do not interfere with team practice times.

**19. How is playing time determined?** This varies based upon the age group of the player and the coach's philosophy. Your coach can answer this question for you. We have minimum playing time guidelines in place for league play for each age group. For tournaments these guidelines are not in place. If you have questions on how your child can receive more playing time you should talk directly with your coach. This should not be done right after a game. Please talk with your coach on a separate day. If you have concerns about playing time before the season starts we encourage you to talk with the coach to make sure you have correct expectations.

**20. What can I do to help my players' development?** Review the information on your child's age group. This information can be found on the website under player development. Work with your child to support their learning at the pace which they are pursuing soccer. Giving them the opportunity to participate in SOE classes and supporting time at home for skill practices. Encourage them to practice at home for just 5 minutes. By telling them just 5 minutes it keeps it manageable in their mind and 9 times out of 10 the five minutes turns into more than 5 minutes. Talk with your coach and set specific goals for the upcoming season. Follow up with the coach on how your child is improving in the areas you set goals. Bottom line, though: keep it fun! Be very encouraging and positive ALL THE TIME. Any negative comments, even the smallest ones, can be very detrimental to your player's development.

**21. Why do some players "play up" and others don't?** Due to a variety of circumstances, teams will sometimes need to have younger players "play up" to avoid forfeiting a game. When determining which players to have as guests, coaches may

consider the following: player's ability to play more aggressively on an older team (size and speed), player's ability or particular skill in soccer (position needed to fill), player availability.

**22. Who has field/playing time priority when my child is on a team that needs guests players?** Rostered team players should receive starting and priority playing time. Guest players should serve as substitutes unless there is no one on the rostered team trained to play a position (such as goalie).

**23. If I have a question about the practices or policies of our coach, who should I speak with?** We encourage you to speak with your coach first. Good communication is the key to any good relationship and is the first step in working together. If you do not feel that your questions are answered, please feel free to contact your Program Manager or a member of the Board of Directors.