

What is travel soccer?

Maybe a better question would be, "How does travel soccer differ from recreational soccer?" The two primary differences between travel soccer and recreational soccer are the level of competition and the opponent. In travel soccer, our teams compete against teams from other soccer clubs rather than teams from our own community. As you can imagine, the level of competition is higher as each soccer club attempts to field a competitive team at each age group. Travel teams also usually practice 3 times/week, rather than once a week, further enhancing individual skills and team play.

How are players placed on travel teams?

Travel soccer teams require selections that typically are conducted in the early summer and late fall. The selection process consists of soccer activities and scrimmages designed to evaluate coordination, soccer skills, and understanding of the game. When you try out for DCFC you are trying out for the club. The coaching staff will place the player on the team that best fits their age and level of play.

What are the fees associated with travel soccer?

Travel soccer has higher fees per player than recreational soccer, but contributes a similar amount to the club collectively. Fees pay for the team registration, referees, upkeep of the grounds at DCFC, and other costs associated with operation of a travel program. All travel players new to DCFC will also be required to purchase a uniform kit, which includes home and away jerseys, shorts, and socks. DCFC Summer and Winter clinics are strongly encouraged for travel soccer players, and are not included in the travel fees. Additional team specific fees for tournaments and other activities may also be required. You can see a breakdown of the fees by visiting the website.

How much travel is involved with travel soccer?

Most league games are played locally, usually less than a one to two-hour drive from Muncie. Communities like Carmel, Noblesville, Brownsburg, Fishers, Pike, Lawrence, and Center Grove all have travel soccer clubs. League games are typically played on Saturdays and Sundays, but may also include a weekday game once or twice a season. There are up to eight league games in a season. There are also a number of tournaments to choose from throughout the year. Typically teams play in 2 tournaments per season.

How do I know if travel soccer is right for my child?

Travel soccer is not for everyone. It requires a greater commitment than recreational soccer due to the number of practices, the higher fees, and the travel to away games. However, your child does not have to be the next Carli Lloyd or Leo Messi to play travel soccer. There are several different levels of play for each age group to ensure that every team is competitive, and more importantly, that every child has fun!

How is my players age determined?

The state organization determines eligibility based on a calendar year that runs Jan 1 – Dec. 31

What is the U9/U10Academy?

Yes it is travel soccer, it is just structured differently than standard travel soccer league play and is focused on individual player improvement not the building of teams for competition. Players are put in teams by age U9 and U10. If there are enough players to form more than one team per age group, the teams will practice together and travel on game days together. Players may be moved from match to match or roster to roster.

Training in the academy has a different focus than standard travel soccer. The goal is to focus the majority of training time on individual skills (footskills, passing, receiving, and shooting). Build well rounded players that have the skills to integrate into any tactical formation or style of play. Some time will be spent on tactical skills, but is not the primary focus of the training. Space and shape will be the focus of formations and tactical training.

Can U8 players play in the U9 academy?

Yes on a limited basis, U7 and below are not permitted to travel. If your player is U8, highly talented or physically big for their age the U9 academy may be an option for your player. It is similar to the decision to send a child to kindergarten early, you want to make sure that they can have success in the environment. When your player moves to traveling soccer the tempo of the game and talent level will increase dramatically. A one year difference in age can make the transition frustrating and individual success unachievable. If you are in doubt about your U8 player you can bring them to tryouts and we will give you honest feedback about your player.

What can I do to prep my player for traveling soccer?

Summer camps and winter development clinics. For players to develop it is important for them to get as many touches on the ball as possible and DCFC offers numerous opportunities for this.

Who do I contact with questions?

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact:

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