

LAUREL SOCCER CLUB FAQ

New parents can have a lot of questions. Many of them are fairly basic and can be found here. Please read through the list of questions and answers and if you cannot find the answer you are looking for, please contact the club registrar at laurelsoccer.registrar@gmail.com or the club president at laurelsoccer.president@gmail.com. Thank you.

My child has never played soccer before, is this OK? Yes absolutely! This is a recreational club and we do not hold try-outs for any of our programs.

How old does my child have to be to play? Ages for soccer go by birth YEAR, not birth date. The minimum year adjusts ever Fall according to PA-West and US Youth Soccer guidelines. In the Fall of 2025 anyone born in 2021 or earlier is eligible to play with Laurel Soccer.

Note: Starting in the Fall of 2026 US Youth Soccer is moving to a birthdate qualification, instead of birth year.

What age group will my child play in? Depending on birth year your child will be played into 1 of 4 groups with Laurel Soccer. When you register your child, only the programs available will be presented to you, all determined by the birth year.

What are the different groups? Laurel builds programs for U6 In-House, U8 In-House, U10 In-House, and Travel. The travel programs start with the U10 age group and older. There is no U6/U8 travel program.

What is the difference between In-House and Travel? The **in-house** programs are meant for younger players who are new to soccer and would like to develop their skills. These programs will have their games on Saturdays and will practice together in their own groups. We will have multiple teams for U6 and U8 and depending on enrollment will have 1 or 2 U10 teams as well. The U6/U8 teams will only play other Laurel U6/U8 teams. The U10 team(s) will play other teams in Lawrence County. The U6/U8/U10 teams do not keep track of wins/losses. The **travel** program will have their games on Sundays and will play other team in Lawrence, Butler, and Beaver counties. These games are more competitive and wins/losses are tracked.

How much does it cost to play? U6/U8 programs – typically around \$100. U10 In-house/Travel programs - typically around \$150. This cost covers all fees and jerseys. The U10 in-house and travel players will receive 2 jerseys, one for home and one for away. Actual cost should be verified by creating an account to see what programs are available, or you can email the club registrar @ laurelsoccer.registrar@gmail.com.

When & where are practices? Practice days and times will be set each season by the volunteer coaches, but there will be 2 practices per week. Our practice and game fields are located near the Lawrence County Fairgrounds, either behind the fairgrounds or at Spartan Park (right next door).

How many games are in a season? The season typically contains 8 games (4 home and 4 away) for the U10 and Travel programs. All U6/U8 games will be at home.

What equipment do I need? Shin guards, soccer cleats, soccer socks, athletic clothing appropriate for the weather, and the correct size soccer ball (#3 – U6/U8, #4 – U10/U12, #5 - U14 and older).

How do I register for a season? – Go to the green login/register button at the top right of this page, this directs you to the login page, enter your username & password to log into the system. If you are new to the program, you will need to create a username & password. Save these -- you will need them for each season registration! Select the child you wish to register and follow the prompts and answer all questions. Payment is made at the end of the registration process when you check out.

Can I make specific teammate or coach requests? Yes. During the registration process there will be an option for a teammate request or coach request. All efforts will be made to accommodate the requests, but nothing is guaranteed.

What documentation will I need to supply to play? Players in the U6/U8/U10 In-house programs will not need to supply anything. Once a player registers for the travel program a copy of the birth certificate and a photo headshot of the player will need to be provided before a player can be placed on a team. These are required documents

to verify the proper date of birth and must be uploaded to our governing organization, PA-West, for approval. This is not optional. If your child continues to play, we may take updated photos every couple of years to keep the player passes up to date.

Can I pick my own travel jersey number? You will be able to pick a primary and backup number for your jersey during the registration process, however players from past seasons who already have that number will be given priority. We try to accommodate all player numbers, but there are no guarantees.

Are the coaches/volunteers certified? The Laurel Soccer Club follows the rules of the Department of Human Services Child Protective Services Law (<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/default.aspx>). All volunteers are required to complete a Child Abuse History Clearance, a State Police Criminal History, and/or an FBI Criminal History Clearance. All volunteers are also required to complete an annual SafeSport training (<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/>)

The U6/U8/U10 Volunteer Coaches are not required to carry an official coaching license, however the travel coaches are required by PA-West to have a valid, up-to-date coaching license appropriate to the level of game that they are coaching.

Will I have to participate in fundraisers? YES. Like all youth organizations, The Laurel Soccer Club relies on fundraising as part of its annual budget to keep the club operating. Each season will have fundraising activities and it is expected that all families will assist in those efforts. Parents will also be asked to choose 1 time slot at an in-house or travel game to manage the snack shack. Without successful fundraising our registration fees would have to increase, putting the cost out of reach for some families.