**Hanover Soccer Club Travel Program FAQ**

**About Travel Soccer**

Travel is a program for players who are looking to play competitive soccer. Often some players and athletes show a talent for the game, but need more of a challenge to continue to develop. The emphasis of HSC's Travel Program is to develop the technical and tactical skills of players above what a traditional intramural program may offer. HSC strives to provide an opportunity for all levels of need and competition.

**How does Travel soccer differ from Intramural Soccer?**

Intramural provides an environment for children to learn the game of soccer and have fun while doing so. Teams are typically co-ed, selected at random and practice 1 night a week. Age divisions for Intramural are U6, U8, U10 and U12. All games are played in-house and coaches are instructed to provide as equal an amount of playing time per player, as is possible.

Travel teams are more competitive, not co-ed, and are developed through the tryout process. Age divisions range from U9 through U18 and teams normally train 2 nights a week. Teams play in one of several competitive leagues, typically CPYSL (Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League), CMSA (Central Maryland Soccer Association) or EDP (Elite Development Program). “Home” games are played at Hanover area field locations and “away” games are generally played within 1½ hours from Hanover, though travel times may vary. Most teams also register for between 1-3 tournaments per season, depending on the team's competitive goals. Travel soccer playing time is based on the team's needs as well as the individual player's ability to competently display his/her abilities and is at the coach's discretion.

**How does the Travel program work?**

HSC hopes to have at least one travel team in each level, beginning at U9. All Travel teams have the same fundamental mission for players - to create a meaningful, fun and positive experience, to develop soccer skills, and to teach the lessons associated with team play.

Tryouts will be held annually and teams will be reformed each year (and sometimes in mid-season, depending on the needs of the age group). At ages U12 and under, it is recommended that all players play approximately 50% of the total game time and at a variety of positions, but again the discretion lies with the coach and any assistant coaches. The goal of HSC is to provide a range of opportunities to keep children developing and playing on HSC teams - from Intramural to highly competitive Travel teams.

Tryouts will be 1-2 nights depending on age divisions. Once a player accepts an offer to play with a Travel team, the player has a “guaranteed” roster spot with that Travel team for the fall season only (August 1 through November 30). While the club hopes to retain team continuity for the entire soccer year (August 1 through July 31), we also recognize that many children play multiple sports and have commitments other than soccer. Placement on the spring roster of a Travel team is contingent on a variety of factors, primarily having sufficient players returning from the fall season. The TSC (Travel Selection Committee) reserves the right to make roster/coaching changes that are in the best interest of the club.

**What is the Travel Tryout process?**

**Signup for Tryouts**- register online at [www.hanoversoccerclub.net](http://www.hanoversoccerclub.net). If you are new to HSC, create an account and register for Travel Program tryouts. Cost for tryouts is FREE. After you have registered for tryouts, you will receive a confirmation email.

**Attend Tryouts-** Tryouts will be scheduled for late April to early May. Players must tryout to join a Travel team. If a player cannot attend the tryout, a note explaining why they could not attend may be asked for by the TSC (Travel Selection Committee). Look at the date corresponding to your child's birth year on the tryout schedule to determine the date to attend. Players who wish to attend tryouts for an older age group may do so however must also attend their age-appropriate tryout. Registration will be from 5:30pm – 6:00pm. Tryouts will be from 6 - 7:30pm. Players are to wear cleats, shin guards and bring water. To ensure as fair an evaluation process as possible, players should not wear anything identifying them with an existing soccer program (HSC travel jerseys or travel jerseys from any other program are prohibited during tryouts). Your child will be assigned a number and their photo will be taken upon turning in their completed paperwork. Once registration is complete, your child will be placed in a smaller group. Boys and girls will be evaluated separately. Each group will go through a series of stations where they will be assessed by independent evaluators (other than coaches of the existing age group). Parents must remain in the pavilion area during tryouts and are prohibited from entering the fields. At the end of the evaluation session, your child will turn in their number and be excused to leave.

**Tryout Review-** After tryouts for each age group are completed, the HSC Travel Selection Committee (TSC) will review the results from the evaluators’ player assessments, incorporating feedback from coaches who may already be familiar with the age group. The TSC will then finalize teams.

**Parent Acceptance -** HSC hopes to send emails offering roster spots within 72 hours of the tryout. Parents will have 72 hours from the receipt of this email to accept an offer. Acceptance is confirmed by logging onto the HSC website and submitting payment for Fall Registration for their child. If parents do not submit payment for the Fall Season within 72 hours of receipt of the offer being made, their child’s roster spot may be forfeited to another player.

*Note - HSC has a track record of placing 95% of players who tryout on a travel team. We typically will not turn away players based solely on their evaluation scores. Those who are not selected will have the opportunity to play with our Intramural program for U9-U14.*

**How do we order Uniforms?**

Uniform “kits” consist of 2 jerseys (1 red and 1 white), black shorts, and black socks. The kits are used until your child outgrows them. The kits are purchased online via a club-specific link and ordering instructions will be sent prior to the start of the season.

**How many players are on a team?**

U8, U9 and U10 play 7v7, with a maximum roster of 12 players.

U11 and U12 play 9v9, with a maximum roster of 16 players.

U13 and older play 11v11, with a maximum roster of 18 players.

**How is the Coach chosen?**

All coaches must apply for a coaching position to the Travel VP and Coaches Coordinator. The factors considered include (but are not limited to) the coach's experience, temperament, and commitment. Coaches are recommended to obtain a US Soccer Grassroots 7v7, 9v9 or 11v11 license within 12 months of acceptance of a coaching position. Head Coaches not obtaining a Grassroots license within 12 months of acceptance of a coaching position may be replaced. The cost of licensing courses (Grassroots and National D) will be paid by HSC upon successful completion. All coaches must also complete a comprehensive background check and concussion awareness training.

**What is the commitment-level of parents/families to volunteer?**

Families of children participating in the Travel program are required to assist with preparing the clubs fields prior to each (Fall and Spring) season. Teams may be asked to attend league meetings on behalf of the team/club, picking up paperwork from one of the league offices, serving on a committee and/or completing field prep/maintenance prior to the weekend’s games.

**The most important objectives of HSC Travel Soccer are to:**

**Maintain a safe, positive, fun and challenging soccer environment for all players.**

**Develop and prepare players for the future - both on and off the field - by teaching soccer skills as well as important "life skills" including leadership, communication, character, teamwork, responsibility, time management, self-discipline, sportsmanship and respect for others.**

**Engage qualified coaches and trainers who provide the highest quality training and who motivate each player to work to his or her highest potential.**