

The Strongsville Soccer Organization Travel Soccer Program



What's it all about?

Information to help you decide if travel soccer is right for you and your child

Travel Soccer is a program designed to help develop the skills of younger (age 14 and under) soccer players beyond what would typically occur in the Strongsville Recreation Soccer program. The Travel program emphasizes player development and skill learning. Boys and girls teams are each formed in age groups U8 through U14. The 'Stangs Program was started in 2006 to specifically address the needs of the youngest players: girls and boys in the U8 and U9 age groups. See the Spotlight on 'Stangs section below for details.

Who is eligible to tryout for the Strongsville Travel Soccer program?

A child must be a resident of Strongsville or expect to be a resident by the start of the season. The Tryout Schedule lists the birthdates for the various age groups.

Can my child play on a Strongsville Travel team and also another soccer team?

It's important for younger players to develop together as a team but that's difficult if there are distractions and conflicts with other soccer commitments. Therefore, the organization maintains a policy that at ages U8, U9 and U10 children may not play for any other (i.e., non-Strongsville) team. At U11 and older also playing for "club" or "premier" teams is permitted.

**SPOTLIGHT
ON...**

'STANGS

The 'Stangs is Strongsville Soccer's program specifically designed around the needs of our U-8 and U-9 players who are just beginning to explore soccer at the "next level". The goals of the program are to foster a love for the game, learn to play the game, and improve soccer skills. Every child who attends the two required tryout sessions will be placed on a 'Stangs team and every player will play a minimum of one-half of each game.

The 'Stangs is managed by Director of Coaching, Simon Spelling and Director of Administration, Linda Marguglio. The non-coaching aspects of organizing each team are handled by a volunteer parent, Team Manager. Team Managers are eligible for consideration as Head Coaches once the teams progress to the older age groups of the travel program.

Coach Spelling has over 20 years experience as youth, high school and college coach. As a player he earned Collegiate All-American honors at the University of Akron and is a member of the University of Akron Hall of Fame. Coach Spelling holds a USSF National "A" coaching license.

Players in the 'Stangs program receive training from a dedicated Head Coach rather than a parent volunteer (as with our older ages of the travel program). Every 'Stangs Head Coach is a former collegiate player and holds an age-level appropriate coaching license from the USSF. Head Coaches direct the weekly team practice sessions, conduct a footskills training session each week and handle coaching at all league games. Coach Spelling works closely with all coaches and teams to ensure the children learn to play the game correctly, are receiving proper skill instruction and are developing a passion for the game.

If you would like to volunteer as a 'Stangs Team Manager or have questions about the program please contact Linda Marguglio by phone (440-572-3373) or email (LAM207@adelphia.net).

'Stangs Parent Meeting: *There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, May 29 at the pavilion by field #4 at 6:00 PM. Complete details of the program will be discussed. If your child will be participating in the 'Stangs please plan to attend.*

What's a typical Travel Soccer season like?

The Fall and the Spring seasons consist of 8 games (usually one per week) and two practices per week. Games are usually played on Sunday afternoons but there might be 2 or 3 played on a weeknight (especially at the older ages). Most teams also participate in one or more indoor soccer sessions during the winter months.

How much travel is involved?

Each season (Fall and Spring) teams play 4 home and 4 away games in their respective league. The home games are played at the Ehrnfelt Soccer Complex on Foltz Parkway. The away games are played at the fields of the other communities. Many are within a short driving distance (Brunswick, Berea, North Royalton) and others are somewhat farther away (Westlake, Bay Village, Solon). Generally, teams will also enter 2 or 3 tournaments each season. These are usually local tournaments but each Labor Day the U10-U14 teams enter a tournament requiring an overnight stay.

How are the teams selected?

Players are assigned teams based on evaluations at tryouts and with input from the Head Coach of the players current travel team (if applicable). For the younger age groups (and also for many of the older age groups) "professional evaluators" (experienced soccer coaches and trainers) are employed to help determine the appropriate team to which a child is assigned. Generally there are 2-4 teams for each age group depending on the number of children who attend tryouts.

How is playing time during games handled?

In the U8 & U9 'Stangs program each child plays a minimum of one-half of every game. The Head Coach has discretion in disciplinary cases or other special situations but those are rare at this young age. For the U10 through U14 age groups there is no "guaranteed" playing time but Head Coaches are directed to distribute playing time fairly and try to even out game to game variations over the season.

What type of commitment is required?

It's expected your child will arrive on time for all practices, games and tournaments unless you have notified the Head Coach in advance. If a child has a schedule conflict with practices on a consistent basis it's expected that parents will adjust the conflicting schedule so at least one practice each week can be attended.

Since this is a volunteer-based organization we need to rely on help from parents to keep things running smoothly. We'll be asking for your help with things such as working at the concession stand, being a field marshal at a tournament and helping to check-in players at tryouts. We also need volunteers to be Team Managers, Assistant Coaches and at the older ages, Head Coaches.

How much does the Travel Soccer program cost?

The exact cost varies slightly from team to team. However, some reasonable *estimates* are provided below. In addition to these expenses each Strongsville travel soccer family is required to purchase two tickets to the Strongsville Soccer Reverse Raffle held in February. Tickets are \$40.00 each and can be resold if you are not able to attend the event. The money raised becomes part of the Capital Improvement Fund and is used to improve our fields and facilities.

<u>Uniforms:</u> First Year Players: \$75	<u>League Fees:</u> SSO Registration Fee: \$60 per season Indoor League Fee: \$50 per session
<u>Coaching Fees:</u> 'Stangs: \$110 per season (Fall & Spring) U10-U14: \$55 per season (Fall & Spring) Indoor Training: About \$55 (Optional) Crossroads Soccer Camp: \$105	<u>Tournament Costs:</u> Two Local Tournaments: \$30 each One Overnight Tournament: Entry Fee \$30, Hotel/Meal Costs \$150 (only U10 and older teams travel to overnight tournaments)
<u>Reverse Raffle Tickets:</u> Two tickets (\$40 each) per family	