



COMPETITIVE SOCCER PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Homewood Flossmoor Soccer Club (HFSC) competitive soccer program?

A: Boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 17 who love the game of soccer and want to be the best soccer player they can be.

Q: How are players selected to become part of a HFSC competitive team?

A: Each potential player is evaluated by our coaches and trainers to determine the player's current skill level. The coaches and trainers work together to ascertain which team would be best for the player based on his or her skills and the needs of each team. In some cases, it may be necessary to have a player come back for additional assessment sessions with a specific team to determine if the player is a good fit for a team.

Q: What is the commitment for a player and parent if they choose to accept a position on a HFSC team?

A: The club, team and player will be committed to each other for one (1) year. The "competitive soccer program year" runs from August 1st to June 30th. Players are expected to attend all practices and games. Each year players are re-evaluated in the spring to determine which team is the best fit for their skill level. Ideally, the Club wants players to commit to both the Fall and Spring sessions but realizes that this is not always possible with the many interests that attract a child's attention in the world today. The HFSC desires to retain all players once they become part of the club.

Q: What does it cost per year to play with the HFSC?

A: In an effort to guarantee a consistent level of development and play while keeping costs a minimum, the club has determined that the cost per player will range from \$200 to \$300 per season. This cost includes the club registration fee and training fees. Training costs are based on an average of two (2) training sessions per week. If teams participate in tournaments then the cost to participate will be more than the amount indicated above. Additionally, there will be an initial purchase of a uniform once the player joins the club. Uniform costs are usually no more than \$100 and include a pair of shorts, a home jersey, an away jersey and a pair of socks.

Q: What is the refund policy?

A: League registration and training fees are non-refundable, except in the case of a season ending injury, serious illness, or relocation of more than 15 miles. Playing competitive soccer requires a commitment level above that of a recreational league. Therefore, a higher level of financial commitment is required.

Q: Do all teams use a trainer?

A: Yes. All practices are conducted by certified trainers who are some of the best in the southern suburbs.

Q: How often do teams practice?

A: On average a team will practice twice per week. Each practice session is ninety (90) minutes in length. Older, more competitive teams may practice as many as three (3) times per week.

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Q: When are the games played?

A: Games are usually played on Sundays between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. However, occasionally, games must be rescheduled due to tournament participation or weather related cancellations. These rescheduled games are generally played on Saturdays between 10 am and 5 pm.

Q: How long is each season and when do they start?

A: The fall season is ten (10) weeks long and the spring season is eight (8) weeks long. Training sessions begin two (2) to three (3) weeks prior to the start of the season. The fall season usually begins after Labor Day and runs through mid-November. The spring season starts in mid-April and runs through mid-June.

Q: What is the travel distance for away games?

A: Most games are played within a twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) minute drive from the Homewood-Flossmoor area. However, some games are further away. Each season, half of the games are played at home and half are played away. As a result, the actual amount of travel is minimal.

Q: Are there different levels of competition?

A: Yes. The boys teams play in the Northern Illinois Soccer League (NISL) and the teams are placed in a division based on their prior year record and seeding tournament play. The girls teams play in the Illinois Women's Soccer League (IWSL) and are placed in a division based on their record from the prior season. Each league offers between four (4) and eight (8) levels of competition for each age group. Team placement is reevaluated at the end of each season so that all teams are playing at a level that is appropriate for each team.

Q: How many tournaments does each team participate in?

A: Tournament participation is at the discretion of each coach. Many teams will participate in at least one tournament per season. Most tournaments are played over the course of a single week-end and are held locally. Teams usually play a minimum of three (3) games but can play as many as six (6) games in a tournament if they qualify for the championship game. Tournaments provide a venue for building team spirit and offer the opportunity for improved play over a short period of time.

Q: Does the HFSC provide any camps or clinics?

A: Yes. Each summer the club hosts a camp in partnership with the Chicago Fire of the MLS. The camp is usually held the first full week of August. This camp is conducted by high level trainers and offers an opportunity to improve existing soccer skills, learn new ones, and develop team unity all while having a good time. Although participation in this camp is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged. The fee for the camp is approximately \$90.

Q: Why play competitive level soccer?

A: In order to advance as a soccer player, regular professional training is essential. Fundamental soccer skills are best learned before the age of twelve (12). While skills continue to develop through junior high and high school, the earlier a player starts to get good training the better. Recreational level soccer is great for fostering a love and understanding of the game but it doesn't provide the necessary training or competition to develop the skills required to play at the high school level. If a player has the desire to play at the Varsity level in high school or beyond that at the collegiate level, then playing competitive level soccer is a necessity.

Q: I still have questions, who should I contact?

A: Girls should contact Dave Dougherty. He can be reached via email at compgirls@hfsoccerclub.org or by leaving a voicemail at 708-402-8100. Boys should contact Wardell Glass. He can be reached via email at compboys@hfsoccerclub.org or by leaving a voicemail at 708-802-2697.