

A.C. UNITED SOCCER TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

A.C. United Soccer Club is pleased to announce tryouts for the 2010/2011 season. The program is designed for players who want to play soccer in a more competitive environment against similar caliber teams from neighboring clubs. Contrary to urban myths and legends most travel games are within a 25 to 35 minute travel window and half our games are played right here in our own neighborhood.

Who is eligible? Any interested player is eligible to tryout for a travel team. You do not have to live within certain geographic boundaries. You must, however, fall within specific age ranges. Players **must play in their appropriate age division** if a team is offered for them unless the club determines that playing with older players is in the player's best interest from a developmental standpoint. This option is available on an extremely limited basis and must be approved by the coaches of the involved teams, the director of coaching and the Executive Board of Directors of A.C. United.

How do I get on a travel team? Tryouts for teams will take place from May 16 through May 23. While it is recommended that the players be at all tryouts, participants must attend a minimum of one (1) tryout to be considered for our Maroon teams. From these tryouts, our evaluation committee and team coaches will evaluate the players for selection. Teams will have rosters of 14-18 players.

How are tryouts conducted? All players should arrive 15 minutes early for their session. Players should come to tryouts properly attired for the weather with shinguards, soccer shoes, ball and water. Each session will have a minimum of two (2) independent evaluators at each tryout. Additionally the coach of that team (if determined at time of tryout) will assist the evaluators. Every effort is made to avoid conflicts of interest the evaluators may have with the group of players trying out. While no evaluation system is perfect, A.C. United believes this is the best way to objectively select teams for the club. Team selections will be posted on our website www.acunited.net and coaches will notify players as to when a team meeting will be held.

How does the club determine what teams to offer? Each year the Board of Directors of the club must evaluate the program, making preliminary decisions on what teams will be offered. This decision will use factors such as past year's participation, intramural players coming of travel age, coach availability and players anticipated to be returning to the program. In a perfect world, we would field teams in every age group, but this is not realistic. Each year, we may be forced to combine certain age groups to field a team. These decisions will be made from a standpoint of what is in the best interest of the **entire club**, which may not necessarily be in the best interest of a certain player or age group. If the turnout is large enough to justify a second team in an age group, we will make every effort possible to field the additional team. Hopefully we will also be able to field a middle school and high school intramural league team. This also depends on the number of registrants .

Does my child have to tryout for the team every season? Yes. Tryouts will be held each spring. With the training provided to our players, they are expected to progress and improve yearly. Each season, players assigned to the “White” developmental team will have an opportunity to be moved up to the “Maroon” team. Please keep this in mind as team selections are announced.

What is the Commitment? Players are expected to attend all games and as many practices as possible. You will find coaches more than willing to work with players to avoid conflicts, but the same cooperation is expected from the players and parents as well. There will generally be two (2) practices per week and a game on Saturday or Sunday. The club also expects that the player will fulfill their soccer commitment to A.C. United for the entire seasonal year. The club realizes that players get better by playing more, so it will not prevent players from participating as guest players for other clubs, but does expect the player to fulfill their commitment to their A.C. United team in the event of conflict.

How much will winning be stressed? Although A.C. United Soccer and its coaches do not promote a “win at any cost” atmosphere, it is our objective to field the best teams possible and win games. Your children will be trained regularly and encouraged by the coaches to play well. Winning is a by-product of training, conditioning and good play.

If you have any questions concerning the program, please feel free to contact Steve Heintz directly, or email Steve Heintz at acunited1@acunited.net.