



SYSA Select Soccer



Winter/Spring 2008



What is select soccer?

Select soccer is a program where players are placed on teams that are commensurate with the player's ability, interest and commitment levels. Select-level coaches are much more likely to have a broader experience in playing, coaching and teaching the game. Select teams vary in commitment and ability levels - there are district teams, and premier teams.

As a parent, you want the best for your child. When it comes to finding a soccer team, remember that playing with the best and playing at one's best are not necessarily one and the same. It's important to find a team, recreational or select, where your player is able to find a balance between success and challenge.

Reasons a Parent Might Look Into Select Soccer

- My child wants to play at a higher level.
- My child wants to be more challenged.
- My child wants to play with equally talented players.
- My child would benefit from better coaching.

These are common reasons that motivated and talented players give for transitioning from recreation teams to play select soccer.

There IS one caveat:

If these are your PARENTAL interests (as opposed to your CHILD's interests), the motivation to play successfully at a higher competitive level may not be sustainable, or enjoyable for your child.



SYSA's Select Philosophy

The best soccer experience for kids occurs when they are playing against players of similar ability and commitment to the game.

As such, SYSA supports select soccer because it provides an option for players who have advanced beyond the competition available to them at the recreation level.



Find the Right Team for Right Now.

Each program, team and coach will have different philosophies and policies. Talk with players, parents, volunteers, and coaches who have been participating in the specific programs that you are looking at. Be sure the values of the program fit with what your child and you want. At that time you should decide which program works best for your player and your family.

Ask questions...then decide. The following provides you with some questions and considerations to take into account as you explore select soccer opportunities.

- How long is the soccer season?
- What is the program's philosophy on developing players? Do they make a commitment to working with the players they select? Is extra training available for the players, if desired?
- What is the cost?
- What sort of travel is involved during the regular season?
- What are the policies of the coach or club regarding holidays, playing time, family events, religious observations, etc?
- How many tournaments and when are the tournaments the club and team will participate in?
- What is the licensing level of the coach, and what is their instructional ability experience and ability?
- What is the turnover of players/coaches from year to year?
- Where does the team practice?
- Will carpools to and from practice be available to your family?

How Much Does It Cost?

Select soccer is more expensive than recreation soccer. Costs really depend on the team. Many teams pay their coaches. Some do not. Coaching fees and tournament entry costs are generally the bulk of the cost for select. Select soccer hard costs could run from \$400 to \$1,700 a year. But, you need to also take into account travel costs including driving, hotel stays, meals on the road.

Do a cost benefit analysis

Costs are more than just monetary. Time and travel should be considered as well. Benefits include added confidence, physical fitness, learning to prioritize time commitments, representing community and gaining a sense of achievement.

Participating in Other Sports and Activities

What if my child wants to participate in other activities and sports? This is one of the most important questions to ask. If your child wants to do additional sports and activities, you'll want to make sure that the coach and program you choose is open to working with and around your child's schedule.

What if we decide to wait?

It might be the right thing for your child; he or she may not be physically, emotionally or mentally ready to play at a more challenging pace. If they don't play select soccer now, but want to play more soccer, your child can go to camps or clinics where they will learn some of the advanced skills taught in a select program.