

# WHY PLAY SELECT SOCCER FOR SOUTHERN INDIANA UNITED?

Playing select is not for everyone. Select soccer players need to be committed players seeking to improve their playing skills and knowledge. Select soccer requires more practices, more travel, and a greater financial commitment (registration fees, uniform cost, overnight travel expenses to name a few). The main benefits of Select soccer are: (1) experienced, licensed coaches and trainers; (2) player and skill development; and (3) high level of play and competition.

## **Isn't playing select soccer expensive?**

Compared to recreational soccer, select costs more. However, we feel that the select soccer program offers more value to the player. Partial grants are available if financial assistance is needed. Many teams do team fundraisers to help with the costs. Also, the club collects the fee payments in two installments to help ease the burden of a lump sum payment. Players pay a flat fee at the beginning of the season that covers the cost of tournaments, insurance, registration, equipment, referee fees and coaching expenses.

## **When is the select season?**

There are two seasons during a calendar year. Our U-9 through U14 teams play a Fall season which begins in mid-August and ends in early November. The Spring season begins in mid-March for all age groups and runs until early June. **PLAYERS COMMIT TO AN SIU TEAM FOR THE SEASONAL YEAR, WHICH IS BOTH FALL AND SPRING.** Players are NOT allowed to switch teams until both the Fall and Spring seasons are completed.

## **What about travel?**

Select teams do travel. Most of the travel is within a 50-mile radius, some further. Some tournaments are local (Louisville) and do not require overnight stays such as in Evansville, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Bowling Green. Teams make every effort to find discounted and affordable motel accommodations when overnight stays are required. Players and family members alike will tell you that traveling with the team is fun and lasting friendships are made. For our U-10 age division, limited travel is involved and these teams will play in only one tournament.

## **What is the U9-U10 Academy?**

Anyone who signs up for our U9-U10 Academy program (coed) is automatically placed on our Academy team. Emphasis is on player development and not winning. Our Director of Coaching, who holds the National Youth License, is the coach of our Academy team. The Academy season is the same as the other Select teams (runs both Fall and Spring) but no tournament play is involved (hence the lower cost). The Academy travels to Columbus or Indianapolis 4 Saturdays during each season and plays two games per Saturday against other Academy teams from around Indiana. The schedule may vary from season to season, depending on the number of Academy teams who register with the state.

## **What are tournaments like?**

Tournaments are hosted by other soccer clubs or civic organizations. They provide a great opportunity to play teams from states across the midwest. Typically, you are guaranteed a minimum of three games depending on the size of the tournament or number of teams in your age division. Normally, trophies, plaques or similar awards are given to the first and second teams. Most tournaments offer a host of offerings such as vendor booths, t-shirts, pictures and exhibition games. The Club likes to travel together to the same tournaments that are selected by the VP-Select and Director of Coaching. However, they do listen to input from individual teams based on level of competition and player availability.

## **Do you play on Sundays?**

Some league games may be scheduled for Sunday afternoons. During a tournament, Sunday play can be expected. Most all tournaments provide a list of area churches and worship times. Some tournaments host non-denominational services at the fields as well.

## **What is the time commitment?**

Typically select teams practice 2-3 times a week for 1½ to 2 hours per session. Most of our teams play in the Kentucky Select Soccer League; some play in Indiana leagues. Most teams will have 8-10 league games and then play in 2 tournaments per season (except for our Academy and U-10 age divisions). For the U9/U10 Academy, teams practice twice each week and travel as far as Columbus, IN or Indianapolis for league games (4 Saturdays per season, consisting of two games each Saturday). Sometimes, our teams schedule "friendly" or scrimmage games to get more experience on the field.

### **Playing time, is it equal?**

Select soccer is competitive. Coaches try to provide ample game time for all players, however it is not always equal depending upon the game situation. However, training is focused on each and every player and their development. Our coaches are experienced and while they may want to win, they are sensitive to the needs of the players.

### **How is SIU organized?**

SIU has a governing board that consists of a President, several Vice Presidents, Secretary, and other commissioner positions. The board meets monthly to conduct the business of the club. Each team has a Team Manager. The Team Manager coordinates the activities of the team and is the liaison between the team and the SIU Board. They are not involved in coaching; however, they may serve as a liaison between the parents and the coach.

### **How about the Coaches?**

The Club is very proud of its coaching staff. All coaches have a minimum of an "E" license, some have their "D" license or higher and receive ongoing training and oversight by the Director of Coaching. Some of our coaches coach at the high school level. Several of the coaches have also played at higher levels.

### **How are you chosen to play?**

Annual tryouts are held each year in June. Each prospective player is assessed by multiple coaches based on four components: Technical ability (passing, receiving, dribbling); Tactical ability (decision making with and without the ball); Physical ability (speed, agility, strength, power); and Psychological (composure, coachability). SIU coaches will select the best players for each team. Players trying out will receive a phone call shortly after tryouts informing them if they have been selected for a team. Teams will be posted on the website, at which time they must complete the necessary forms outlined in the Select Fact Sheet. Any U9 and U10 players will participate in our Academy Program (there are no cuts with our Academy Program). Players will be placed on teams in their age level based primarily on their soccer skills. Moving players from one team to another or playing up in age will be viewed as the exception to the rule. Any player placement issues should be addressed with the VP-Select or the Director of Coaching. **ONCE PLAYERS ACCEPT A POSITION, THEY ARE COMMITTED TO SIU FOR THE SEASONAL YEAR (FALL AND SPRING).** Those who do not make a team are encouraged to play Recreational or Recreational-plus soccer with SIU and try out again next year. In order to be placed on a Recreational or Recreational-plus team, players need to register online [prior to July 15](#).

### **What if I am not chosen for a team?**

Unfortunately, not everyone will make a team. While it is disappointing, you are encouraged to keep trying. Players develop differently. One year can make a big difference. Our recreational program is always open to players of all ages for both seasons.

### **Must I play in my age group?**

Players play within their appropriate age divisions. "Playing Up" is the exception to the rule and is a decision made by the Director of Coaching with various factors weighing in the decision.

### **Do I have to live in New Albany or Floyd County to play for SIU?**

No. We represent all of southern Indiana, not just Floyd County.

### **Are uniforms furnished?**

The Board selects the uniforms for the club. All teams should wear the specified uniform. Players pay for their own uniforms which consist of two jerseys, shorts, socks and practice T-shirt. The average price is \$90. Typically uniforms are changed every two years.

### **What's a player card?**

All players and coaches registered with SIU through Indiana Youth Soccer Association are issued a U.S. Youth Soccer Association member pass (player card). The card has the player's or coach's photo, birth date, team information, member identification number and signatures of the cardholder and registrar. The card must be stamped and signed by a IYSA designee to be valid. Players must have a valid player card to play; referees check these prior to every game. Players who live outside Indiana must receive permission from their home state soccer association to play for an Indiana team.

### **Is there a conflict playing high school soccer?**

Absolutely not. We highly encourage our players to play for their schools and fully support their endeavors. That is why our older teams, U15 and above, do not train and play select soccer in the Fall. You will note that the majority of standout high school players are or have been a part of SIU.

