



# 2026 / 2027 TRAVEL PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is Travel Soccer?**

Travel soccer is for boys and girls ages 7 and up who desire to compete at a higher level. Travel players go through a tryout process and are selected to be on a team.

Participation in our club is governed by Indiana Soccer Association rules. Copies of our club policies, as well as Indiana Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules are located on our website.

### **When is the travel season?**

Travel players are committed to a full year which includes both the fall and spring seasons. 8U - 14U teams play in the fall (typically August through early November) and the spring (typically March through early June). 15U+ teams play in the spring only. Players remain on the same team for the full year.

### **How much travel is required?**

Travel distance can vary depending on the league and division. Tournaments are at the discretion of the coach and can be local (Louisville area) or out of town which may include an overnight stay. Teams make every effort to find affordable hotel 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.

### **When does the season start and end?**

The full-year program begins in late summer and includes both a fall and spring season. Winter training will also be required. Players that register with the SIU travel program are committed to the club for the entire 2025-2026 travel season (with the exception of high school players with the birth year 2011 and older that compete with their high school program in the fall of 2025 per Indiana High School Athletic Association policy).

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

Typically travel teams practice 2-3 times a week for 1.5-2 hours per session. Most teams have approximately 6-8 league games and number of tournaments per season is based on age. Teams may also schedule "friendlies" or scrimmages at the coach's discretion. Some league games may be scheduled on Sundays. During a tournament, Sunday play should be expected.

### **How much does travel soccer cost?**

Refer to the fee schedule on the SIU website for fee information.

### **What can I expect with tournaments?**

Soccer clubs or civic organizations host tournaments. Tournaments provide a great opportunity to play teams from states across the Midwest. Typically, tournaments guarantee a minimum of three games depending on the size of the tournament and number of teams. Tournament entry fees are covered by the club; all other travel expenses are covered by the player (hotel, food, etc.).

### **Is playing time equal?**

Playing time is a coaching decision. There is no guarantee that players will see equal playing time as many variables determine how much time a player will realize in a game.





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

No. We represent all Southern Indiana.

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

Tryouts are held annually in June. Each prospective player is assessed by coaches based on a variety of activities where players are evaluated for skills and understanding of the game. Coaches select players based on performance in relation to the four pillars of soccer (technical, tactical, physical, and psycho- social). Rosters are posted on our website after tryouts. Players selected must register and pay the appropriate fees by the deadline to secure their spot on the team.

### **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 and one year can make a big difference. Our recreational program is always open to players of all ages.

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

Players play within their appropriate age divisions. Moving players from one team to another or playing up in age is not common and any player placement decisions are made by coaches with the approval of the Director of Coaching.

### **Are uniforms furnished?**

Uniforms are furnished and new uniforms are purchased every two years (in even years). Players pay for their own uniforms and fees are in addition to player fees.

### **What is required for registration?**

All players are required to provide a birth certificate (or equivalent proof of birth) and headshot type photo. Players who live outside Indiana must receive permission from their home state soccer association to play for an Indiana team. Additional details about registration are provided once a player has been offered a spot on a team.

### **Is there a conflict with playing middle or high school soccer?**

Absolutely not! We encourage our players to play for their schools. High School players only play travel soccer in the spring per state rules. Middle school players can play both travel and middle school soccer in the fall. However, discussions should be held with coaches about potential scheduling conflicts.

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

SIU is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and has a governing board of directors made up of volunteers who have been elected to board positions. The board meets monthly to conduct the business of the club. Each team has a Team Manager in addition to the coach. The Team Manager coordinates the activities of the team but are not involved in coaching or coaching decisions.

