



U9-U10 Expectations

We, at NSSC, want our players to enjoy a positive sports experience, and we strive to create the best environment to cultivate lifelong soccer players. Soccer not only offers young children a great opportunity to compete, but also the chance to learn great life lessons. We cannot set upon this journey alone and appreciate your support. For our part, we have appointed coaches that have played or are licensed or in the process of becoming licensed in the sport of soccer. These coaches and advisors know how to best develop the players and skills. This is our position on the development of these young athletes...

- **FUN** No matter what the age, fun should be the first priority. Everyone must work hard to create an environment where the players WANT to be there. There is still no telling whether or not your child is the next Pele, so do yourself a favor and let your child develop at their own pace. Forcing the “will to win” by screaming at your mini superstar will only detract from your child’s experience and will lead to player burnout and loss of love for the game.
- **BE A SPORT** Coaches and adults have to set an example. Show respect for the opponent, the referee, the coach, and your child’s teammates.
- **TRAINING** Emphasis will be on technical ball skills, attacking moves, small sided games, and running and coordination skills.
- **SEASONS** Accepting a position on a travel team is a Fall and Spring commitment. A typical Fall season will have practices starting early August with games starting in mid-August and running through the end of October. A typical Spring season will have practices starting in mid-March with games starting in early April and running through early June. There may also be optional indoor training opportunities and indoor soccer league games during the winter.
- **ATTENDANCE** When you accept a position on a travel team, there must be proper commitment. Attendance at 2 practices per week, games, and at least 1 tournament is expected. There is a lot to be gained and learned from competing in other sports... but soccer has to be given at least equal commitment as the other in season sport. This can be worked out with the coach before the season begins. NSSC enthusiastically supports multi- sport athletes. Please keep in mind play time may be tied to attendance.
- **PLAYING TIME AND FIELD POSITIONS** There is an expectation at this age of minimum 25-30% playing time in a league game. We are at a developmental age and want to give every player the opportunity to grow. Tournament playing time is not guaranteed. If you want to find out specifics please to address this with the coach before season begins. Coaches decide what player will play in what position, but they are encouraged to give players the chance to play different positions.

- TOURNAMENTS are on weekends with games on both Saturday and Sunday. There are some tournaments in the local Quad City area (including Muscatine) and teams may also travel to tournaments that require overnight lodging and associated travel expenses.
- FEES: Uniform: ~\$100 for shorts and (2) jerseys
League/Club: \$150 for the fall season & \$150 for the spring season
Tournaments: \$35-\$55 per player per tournament. The number of tournaments will vary per team but each team is expected to play at least 1 tournament per season. Travel Expenses for teams traveling to out of town tournaments (hotels, meals, fuel, etc)
- RESULTS Winning is always an important goal, but NOT at the expense of developing skills and having fun... Learning, practicing and using skills are the top priority.