



SIU TRAVEL SOCCER PLAYER INFORMATION PACKET

Travel Soccer

Travel soccer is for boys and girls ages 8 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. There is a greater time and financial commitment involved than recreational soccer.

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.

Coaches

SIU is immensely proud of its coaching staff. Shane Stuber, our interim Director of Coaching, played soccer at Georgetown College and has over 30 years of coaching experience, including as a coach/evaluator for KY ODP. He is currently on the soccer coaching staff at NAHS (6 years) and SIU (4 years). All our travel coaches have completed their Grassroots course through US Soccer, and most of our coaches have completed their D license or higher. All coaches receive ongoing training and oversight from our Director of Coaching. In addition, several of our travel coaches also coach at local high schools and some played collegiately.

Tryout Process and Team Selection

In accordance with Indiana Soccer rules, tryouts are held after the spring season to form teams for the upcoming fall and following spring seasons. Tryout dates and times may be found on our website, www.siusoccer.com.

Players are expected to participate in two tryout sessions unless other arrangements are made with the appropriate age group coach.

SIU coaches make player selections. 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 (passing, receiving, dribbling), tactical (decision making with and without the ball), physical (speed, agility, strength, power), and psycho-social (composure, coachability).

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.

Players are placed on teams by birth year. Playing up in age will be viewed as uncommon exception and requires approval of the appropriate age group coaches and the Director of Coaching.

IMPORTANT: 9U-14U players are required by Indiana Soccer rules to remain a member of their assigned team for the entire year (fall to spring). A player who accepts a position on a team for the fall is committed to play in the spring as well. By committing to a team, a player agrees to pay fees in full by the due date for each season. Fees not paid by the due date will incur a late fee and players will be ineligible to play until payment arrangements have been made.

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Registration for Players Selected for Team

Following tryouts, rosters are posted on the SIU website. Players who are selected for a team will receive a registration link from our Director of Registration. Players must register as soon as possible, but no later than the deadline, using the link provided and pay a deposit by credit or debit card. Payment plans are available by contacting our Director of Registration.

As part of the player's initial registration process, players need to:

1. Upload proof of birth document (birth certificate, passport, driver's license) to their profile in system.gotsport.com. Proof of birth is required to verify age group placement. Once uploaded, the document is encrypted and accessible only by the club administrator or Indiana Soccer.
2. Upload a head shot photo, similar to one used for a driver's license or passport. A photo is necessary for each player's player card. Indiana Soccer requires each player to have a player card to play in games and tournaments. Player cards are maintained by team managers and are the property of the club and Indiana Soccer. Photos need to be updated every two years.
3. Provide a signed medical release to your team manager. (Your manager will provide this form to you.) Team managers maintain these forms in case an emergency medical situation arises when a parent or guardian is not present. SIU requires an updated medical release every year.
4. Kentucky residents must complete the online Out-of-State Player Form, found at www.kysoccer.net. Click on ADMIN and then FORMS.
5. Upon completing the registration, a minimum deposit of \$200 is required.
6. Positions on teams may not be held if registration is not completed by the deadline.

Fees

Refer to the fee schedule on the SIU website for fee information. Fees are paid each season (fall and spring) and cover team and club expenses such as coaches' salaries and travel expenses, tournament entry fees, referee fees, league entry fees, field maintenance, and equipment. There is also an additional fee for the uniform kit.

Grants

A limited number of grants are available to players based on need. Players in need of financial assistance must complete the Work-Play Grant Request Form and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval. (All applications are treated confidentially.) Applications must be made prior to each season (August 1st deadline for the fall season, February 1st for the spring). Players must register and pay a \$25 deposit to be considered for a grant.

Other Costs

Occasionally, some teams may be assessed additional fees to cover practice field rental expenses, which are not included in registration fees. Players may also choose to purchase ball bags, hoodies or extra socks, but it is not required. Teams may hold fundraisers to pay for items.

SIU apparel/spirit wear may be ordered from Kratz Sporting Goods via its website (www.kratzsports.biz). The Kratz online store for SIU is open periodically throughout the year. Dates the store is open will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

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Practice/Games

Team managers and coaches will inform players of practice times and locations (usually 2-3 times per week, lasting 1.5 to 2 hours each) via the TeamSnap app. Teams can expect to play 6-8 league games per season. Teams age 10U and older also participate in tournaments, which may include an overnight stay. Coordination of practice, games and tournaments are handled by the team manager and coach.

It is important that players attend all practices, games and tournaments unless excused by their coach.

Team Manager

Every travel team has a team manager, who is usually the parent of a player. The team manager is the ultimate communicator and facilitator for the team and coordinates the activities of the team. The team manager provides you with the logistics needed to have your player where they need to be for practice, games and tournaments. Team managers are not involved in coaching and do not make coaching decisions.

Leagues

Most of our travel teams play in the Indiana Soccer League (ISL) with the exception of some younger teams who play in the Kentucky Amateur Soccer League (KASL), based in Louisville. League placement is a coaching decision. Each team is placed in a division based on its prior season record. Schedules depend on the number of teams in each group and the opposing teams' location. SIU has only limited control of the game schedules. The leagues determine the number and location of games.

Volunteers

SIU's success depends on active participation from our players and families. Volunteers are needed to fill our Board of Directors, various commissioner positions, team managers, assistance with field lining, and other roles. Please consider volunteering. If interested, please contact a member of the current Board of Directors.

SIU Board of Directors

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. Each board member serves a two-year term; offices are staggered with the election of President, Vice President – Select Division, Vice President – Referees, and Vice President – Fields on even years; and Secretary, Vice President – Recreational Division, Vice President – Registration, and Vice President – Finance on odd years. Please see our website for our current Board of Directors.

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all who wish to attend. Meeting locations are posted on our website.

For more information about our travel program, please visit www.siusoccer.com or visit our Facebook page "[Southern Indiana United](#)".