



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are HOTC Elite Travel Tryouts open to all prospective players?

Regardless of what town you live in or what club you have played for, ALL players are welcome to attend tryouts for players born in the following years:

Girls: 2000-2004 (HSG) - **May 6th**

Boys: 2008, 2009, 2010 - **May 21st & 22nd**

Girls: 2004 (8th graders), 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 - **May 21st & 22nd**

Boys: 2000-2004 (HSB) - **TBD**

NOTE: BOYS Players 2004-2007 will be personally invited to tryout at specific training sessions.

Teams are selected on a year to year basis, all tryout participants have equal opportunity. Click here for: [Age Group Chart](#) (see 2018/19 season column)

Q: Is playing travel soccer expensive?

We feel that our costs are the best in the area, considering the caliber of staff, training and game facilities, league fees, insurance, tournament play, etc. **Heart of the City subsidizes 43% of the cost per travel player** compared to other travel soccer programs in Lake County. Costs are for the entire year and can be paid in installments. A year-long commitment is required.

Q: Is there lots of travel in Travel Soccer?

During each season (spring & fall), each team will generally play 8-10 league game in the fall and 8 games in the spring; half of these games are home games and half away. Our younger teams generally travel within a 10-20 mile radius for away games; our older teams generally travel between 10-30 miles radius for away games.

Q: Does the HOTC Elite have parents or team managers coaching the players?

All of our teams have professional coaches train and coach games. There will be instances where a coach has a conflict with another team or cannot get to a training session/game. In this instance, another staff coach will slide in to provide cover.

Q: Do your teams take part in winter training/games?

Yes, absolutely. We know that repetition is the key in developing highly skilled soccer players, therefore we offer training (2 sessions per team) and games (10 games) during the winter season. Winter program is included in the year-round fees.

Q: Do your teams travel to out of state tournaments?

Not all teams will travel to an out of state tournament; our competitive teams will be offered this opportunity should our staff deem it appropriate and beneficial to the players/team. Some of our HOTC Elite high school teams will travel to college showcase tournaments to improve their chances of being selected to play college soccer.

Q: Do all travel players get playing time?

All players will get playing time, but this question has its variables: Playing time for our younger players will be more spread. As players get older, all players will still get playing time, but more time on the field will be established based on the ability of your child, his or her commitment, work ethic, positional needs, skills sets that suit certain functions, etc.

Q: Will we know our team coach before we tryout? How do you decide Coaching Staff?

Coaching staff assignments are not made until after the tryouts. This avoids staff changes being made after the fact. After tryouts when we know how many teams, the age groups, make-up of the teams, etc. We can then best assign our coaching staff. Our staff assignments will be made by our DOC with certain criterias in mind, such as the personality of the team/coach, coaching license, coaching style, needs of the players on the team, coach experience, etc. This process will ensure your child's team is placed with the most suitable coach. That said - we will strive to have all coaching positions announced very soon after tryouts.

Q: Does the HOTC Elite have players "play up" an age group?

HOTC Elite currently have a number of players "playing up" an age group for the whole season. Our policy on "playing up" is that the player must be of exceptional ability, be physically and mentally able to play up, and would developmentally benefit from this experience. It is a decision made by the Elite DOC post tryouts. During the season, If a team is short of numbers, due to injury, etc, then we may slide in a player from another team or an age group below to play up for certain games or tournaments.

Q: Can my son or daughter still play with HOTC Elite if they play other sports?

We actually recommend younger children experience different sports. Unlike some other organizations, we believe that playing different sports is good for your child's overall well-being, social skills and cognitive development. The overload of sports that can be placed upon a young athlete, with the physical and mental demands, should be taken into consideration, as well as the time commitment.

Q: Can my son/daughter play recreation soccer with HOTC during the travel season?

For the 2018/19 travel soccer season players can only play recreation soccer or travel soccer. NOT BOTH.

Q: If my son or daughter has a conflict for his/her team's practice, can he/her attend another team's session?

Elite will offer your child to attend another team's session. It is important that your child is getting plenty of training time in to develop his or her game. You would have to contact your team coach a few days in advance on your conflict, so he and the DOC can work out an alternative training session that works for your child.

Q: How do you decide on which players make the teams during the tryout process?

HOTC Elite's professional coaching staff will evaluate all the players during tryouts. The criteria our staff use when evaluating a player is based on the four pillars of the game - Technique, Tactical, Physiological & Psychological factors. We don't just base our evaluation on here and now, we also take into consideration the potential of a player and how they would develop in time with quality training.

Q: When we will know if we made a team and which team after the tryouts?

Post tryout notifications will be made within days of the final tryout. All players that are offered a position on a team will be given 72 hours to accept. If we don't receive an acceptance from the player within 72 hours, your child's position will be offered to next player on the wait-list.

Q: If my son or daughter plays travel soccer but we opt out when the season starts, can we get a refund?

We budget for each team and the number of players on the roster to keep costs very reasonable. For this reason, no refund will be issued, unless there is a long term injury or illness.

Q: What if I don't make payment for my player in time?

You must contact the Heart of the City program administrator at our office if you're unable to make your payment for any reason. Your account will be held for 5 business days before your player is **marked ineligible for further travel play** (until your account is brought into good standing once more).

Q: If I have a complaint, where do I go?

If a complaint pertains to a team and/or coach, it is recommended you first try and talk to the coach to reach a mutual solution. If this cannot be achieved, then you may contact the Director of Coaching. If you are still not satisfied, contact the Director of Operations.

Q: What happens if a parent or coach gets verbally or physically abusive?

Please remind the parent or coach of the "code of conduct form" they read and acknowledged at registration. All comments directed towards the field should be words of encouragement and praise, not criticism. If the parent or coach continues to be a problem, any board member, group coordinator, coach and/or referee has the authority to ask that person to leave immediately and the offending person shall be immediately found to be in violation of HOTC Elite "**Parent Agreement**" policy. If the offending person refuses to leave, the referee has the authority to end play immediately and the offending team will forfeit the game.

Q: What are the safety rules?

Suspend playing/practicing **IMMEDIATELY** if there is **ANY LIGHTNING**.

Shin guards are mandatory (under socks) for games and practices. No jewelry may be worn for games or practices. Regular eye glasses without other forms of protection are not allowed - you must shield them in some way with goggles or something similar. Hoods may not be worn during play - they must be tucked inside the jersey. Jerseys must be tucked into shorts. If there is an injury on the field, we always err on the side of caution, and play will stop at change of possession while the injury is assessed. We will call an ambulance **ANYTIME A HEAD INJURY IS SUSPECTED!**

Q: I still have questions, who should I contact?

Send an email to our Director of Coaching. You will receive a response in a 36 hour period.

Julio Serrano

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Dean Smith

Director of Operations - dean@heartofthecitysports.org