



heart of the city

www.heartofthecitysports.org



## 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 born in the following years are welcome to attend tryouts:

Girls: 2001-2005 (HSG) 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Boys: 2001-2005 (HSB) 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Teams are selected on a year to year basis (tryouts in May, season commitment in Fall/Winter/Spring). All tryout participants have equal opportunity. Click here for: [Age Group Chart](#) (see 2019/2020 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 80% 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.

Registration fees for our travel program range from \$500-\$750. Per the U.S. Soccer Federation, the 2018 national average to play travel soccer was \$2,500-5,000 per season. As a nonprofit organization, Heart of the City raises funds to offset as much of the actual program cost as possible so that youth in our community have the opportunity to play travel soccer.

### **Q: Is there a lot of travel in Travel Soccer?**

During each season (fall & spring), 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: What is the commitment to play with HOTC Elite?**

Players U8 through U14 are committing to play with HOTC Elite for the Fall, Winter & Spring season. HS Girls are committing to Fall & Winter season; HS Boys are committing to the Winter & Spring season.

NOTE: once a player registers for the new season, it is the club's discretion as to whether we grant a player release, if a release is requested. We will NOT grant a player release without all fees paid in full.

### **Q: Will we know our team coach before we try out? How do you decide on coaching staff?**

Coaching staff assignments are not made until after the tryouts, when we know how many teams and age groups, the makeup of the teams, etc. Our staff assignments will be made by our Director of Coaching with certain criteria in mind, such as the personality of the team/coach, coaching license, coaching style, needs of the players on the team, coach experience, etc.

### **Q: How do you decide 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 uses 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 will I know if I made a team?**

Post-tryout notifications will be made within days of the final tryout. All players that are offered a position on a team will be asked to come to the registration night, usually the following week. If we don't receive an acceptance from the player at registration night, your child's position will be offered to the next player on the waitlist.

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

All of our teams have professional coaches who train and coach games. If there is a situation where a coach has a conflict with another team or cannot get to a training session/game, another staff coach will cover for them.

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

Yes, absolutely. We know that repetition is 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?**

HOTC Elite high school teams will travel to college showcase tournaments where they can be seen by college scouts and improve their chances of being selected to play college soccer.

**Q: Do all 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 out. 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, skill sets that suit certain functions, the team's positional needs, etc.

**Q: Does HOTC Elite allow players to "play up" an age group?**

HOTC Elite currently has some 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 Director of Coaching post tryouts. During the season, if a team is short on numbers due to injury, etc, then we may substitute 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 beneficial for a child's overall well-being, social skills and cognitive development.

Your child can still play with HOTC Elite if they play other sports, however, an overload of sports can be stressful for a young athlete, due to the physical and mental demands of sports and the time commitments required. These factors should be taken into consideration when making that decision.

**Q: If my child has a conflict with his/her team's practice, can they attend another team's practice session?**

HOTC Elite will allow your child to attend another team's session if a conflict occurs. It is important that your child is getting plenty of training time in order to develop their game. However, you **MUST** contact your team coach when a conflict arises, so the player, coach and Director of Coaching can find an alternative training opportunity that works for your child.

**Q: If my son or daughter commits to HOTC Elite but then 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 a payment on time?**

You must contact one of Heart of the City's program administrators at our office if you're unable to make your payment for any reason (call 847-623-6200). 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 concern or complaint, who do I go to?**

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.

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

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 will be found to be in violation of HOTC Elite's "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. \*Please read about our Zero Tolerance policy

**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 within a 48-hour period. Julio Serrano, Director of Coaching - [julio@heartofthecitysports.org](mailto:julio@heartofthecitysports.org)