

## **Elk Grove Soccer, frequently asked questions**

### **1. Is there anything special we should do/know about assessments and how do I register?**

Yes: please bring a water bottle; soccer boots (cleats), shin guards and a ball

We strongly encourage all players/parents to register on the website. This will ensure your son/daughters participation acceptance. You may also register on the day of tryouts at the field but registration in advance will avoid waiting in line and any time delay.

### **2. What do the assessments consist of?**

An evaluation of your child's abilities through:

A. SMALL-SIDED - U12 and under consists of scrimmages, technical evaluations or whatever is deemed appropriate depending upon number of players attending tryouts.

B. FULL-SIDED (11v11) - U19 and under (to U13) consists of a combination of short-sided games and 11 vs.11 full-sided scrimmages and technical evaluations.

### **3. Will my child be assessed with other children of the same age?**

Yes, since teams are formed based on birth dates, your child will be assessed with other children of the same age and birth year.

### **4. Who are the evaluators for the assessments?**

Evaluators will be licensed coaches or other soccer affiliated professionals from the Elk Grove organization.

### **5. How long do the assessments generally last?**

Approximately 1- 1 ½ hours.

### **6. How often are the annual assessments held?**

See details on our website.

\* Elk Grove Soccer does reserve the right to adjust roster and team divisions based on numbers and needs of the individual player deemed appropriate by the DOC.

### **7. When will we be notified as to whether our child has made a team or not?**

After completion (or prior) of the last tryout date. Details will be relayed via a calling post and/or email from the club administrator and/or age group DOC, normally within 24-48 hours.

All players that are committed to playing need to have a parent/guardian/representative accept their position as soon as contact is made (details of this will be relayed in the email and failure to comply could result in a loss of position).

In the event that you have not received a communication 48 hours after the tryout process, please contact your age group DOC to see if there has been a communication. The age group DOC (Directors of Coaching) contact details are available on the club website.

### **8. Do I need to attend all assessment dates?**

Attendance at all assessments for your child's age group is strongly encouraged to give your child the best opportunity to shine.

### **9. Is there a chance my son/daughter won't make a team?**

Elk Grove Soccer has a level of play for everyone and you will be offered a level between Recreation, Premier, Elite, Platinum or US Development Academy.

**10. If my son/daughter is currently playing up, do I need to do anything?**

Existing players that compete in a higher age bracket may be given the option to continue (if developmentally appropriate) competing at that level. Due to the US Soccer birth year mandate this will be on a case by case basis. Players not currently playing up could potentially be given the option, should their age group DOC feel appropriate for the individual's personal development. We have to consider safety and level of development as with the new age ranges the discrepancy between ages could have a negative impact.

Players will be placed on teams based on ability in their particular age group. If there are enough players to construct more than one team, then two or more teams will be formed. Teams will be formed based on abilities.

If a player is going to play up an age group that player must meet the following criteria:

- It is in the best interest of the individual for his or her development to play up an age group.
- By moving this player ELK GROVE SOCCER is not diminishing the team they are leaving as well as the team they are joining.
- The player is one of the top three players in their particular age group and will make a positive impact on the team they are moving to.
- All player assignments must be approved by the age group DOC.

**12. What if my child has a planned vacation and is unable to attend one of the tryout dates?**

We strongly encourage all players to attend all dates to give themselves maximum opportunity to shine. We do understand however that sometimes vacations have been made in advance of notification and the staff will take every opportunity to view your child's performance on the date they are able to attend. If you can not attend any dates, please contact your age group DOC

U9-U12 - Dan James - [djames@elkgrovesoccer.com](mailto:djames@elkgrovesoccer.com)

U13-U23 Boys - Greg Rubendall - [Grubendall@elkgrovesoccer.com](mailto:Grubendall@elkgrovesoccer.com)

U13-U19 Girls - Ben Ormsby - [Bormsby@elkgrovesoccer.com](mailto:Bormsby@elkgrovesoccer.com)

## **Team Formation**

### ***1. I have heard there are different levels of play in year-round soccer. Can you please explain that?***

Elk Grove Soccer works under Cal North and US Club leagues. Elk Grove also has teams playing in Nor Cal Premier. Nor Cal Premier is a US Club sanctioned league providing teams in Northern California Premier Competition. Nor Cal Premier offers numerous levels of play, but most focusing on the competitive side of soccer.

Elk Grove Soccer are restructuring their teams to ensure there is a place in the club for all individuals. Teams will now be formed under the following levels: Platinum (top level for both boys and girls); Elite level (second tier); Premier plus (final tier competing in both a spring and fall season); Premier (final tier competing in a fall season only). Details and pricing will be explained further at the informational meetings.

### ***2. How many teams will be formed within each age group?***

If there are enough "year-round capable" children in the age group, Elk Grove Soccer will usually try to form more than 1 team. Teams are formed based on the rankings of each child in the age group. We will have 4 levels of play (4 programs) in the year-round program in order to meet all desires, needs and wants (as stated above). These will be separated as Development Academy (U12 Boys Only), Platinum, Elite and Premier (Premier plus). In the event that Elk Grove are able to form multiple teams in each age groups then players/teams may be assigned Elite 1, Elite 2, and Premier 1, 2 etc. etc. It will not necessarily mean however that a Platinum 1 team is better than a Platinum 2 etc. etc.

### ***3. Are there 11 players on the field for every age group?***

No.

2010-2007 birth years will play small sided games with less than 11 players on the field. The numbers and field dimensions will all reflect the mandate outlined by US Soccer.

2006-1999 birth years will play with 11 players on the field. 11v11, as it is commonly called in soccer, will have bigger size fields and goals to fall in line with the US mandate. The roster size generally stays around 14 to 18 players (U17-U19 ages can have a maximum roster of 22 players)

### ***4. Will children ever move back and forth between "levels" within a year?***

The DOC reserves the right to move players within the season. For example: during the season, if the DOC observes a player on a team who is outperforming a player on a higher division team, The players may be moved accordingly to place them in the developmentally appropriate environments and maximize their abilities to learn and flourish. This may be discussed prior with both player and parent and the team coach.

### ***5. Does this mean that a team may change personnel from year to year?***

Yes. Because the development of each individual child varies tremendously, some children may have become much stronger players since the last assessment day. It is the intention of Elk Grove Soccer to put together the strongest possible teams.

**6. So, if my child is currently playing on a top division team, is it possible that he/she will be placed on a lower division team next year?**

Yes, and this should **NOT** be viewed as a "step down", but rather a difference in rate of development.

**7. What if our coach and the parents on our team wish to keep the team personnel together from year to year?**

Each team personnel depend on the outcome of spring assessment, so it is unlikely that a team would remain entirely the same from year to year. The intention of Elk Grove Soccer is to form the strongest team possible each year. Since the teams are formed by the club and do not, per se, "belong" to the coach, ELK GROVE SOCCER tries to put together the strongest possible year-round teams in order for the players to compete at their highest possible level and to develop at their best possible pace. That would probably mean that team personnel will change from year to year even though Elk Grove Soccer have stated that they look to have minimal disruption with teams where possible.

**8. I have heard something about each team having a manager. Could you please explain that?**

Yes, it is necessary that each team have a "Team Manager". This person usually is a parent volunteer whose role is to help the coach with paperwork/logistics regarding the running of the team. Although duties may vary from team to team depending on that particular coach and manager, the business manager often handles setting up a team phone chain, taking care of preparing the paperwork for registration and tournaments, and maybe even organizing the team end-of-season party!

**Commitment**

**1. Is year-round soccer played only in the fall?**

No. year-round soccer is a 2-season sport. Each team is formed for an entire year: Fall and spring. In other words, tryouts in May 2018 will create teams for the fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019. (Premier level teams will play one season only)

**2. How many games are there during a season?**

There are normally 7-10 (depending upon age group and level) regular season games in both the fall and spring seasons. We are committed to making up games that might have been postponed due to inclement weather or poor field conditions. The number of games played may increase with participation in tournaments.

**3. How often are practices held?**

Practices are between 2-3 sessions per week pending on the level of team your child joins (Platinum 2-3 sessions; Elite 2 sessions; Premier 2 sessions; NPL 3 sessions, Development Academy 3 sessions).

**4. More than 1 year-round practice/week seems excessive. Can't my child attend just one?**

It is expected that players chosen for a Platinum team attend all practices and games. Elk Grove Soccer have structured their program to allow for flexibility for multi-sport athletes but also will cater for those players that strive for more.

### **5. What if my child cannot attend a practice or a game?**

There is definitely much more of a commitment involved in a year-round sport than you may have been used to when participating in a "Rec" sport. Players are expected to attend all games and practices, barring an illness, injury, or some other valid reason. (e.g., trips to the barber shop are expected to be scheduled around practices and games). Of course, the coach should always be notified when a player cannot attend a game or practice. The coach may elect to impose penalties for unexcused missed practices and games. Platinum level players may have the option to make up additional training sessions with other teams based on their level of play and tiered paying level.

### **6. My son/daughter plays "Rec" baseball/softball/lacrosse in the spring and therefore (s) he/she is interested only in Fall soccer. Is that o.k.?**

Year-round soccer is a Fall AND Spring commitment (exception for Premier level). If you feel that is not acceptable, maybe top level soccer is not for you and you should look towards one of Elk Grove Soccer's other level teams. Many kids, however, do play both "Rec" baseball/softball/lacrosse and seldom have conflicts. Elk Grove Soccer staff will make every effort push players to their respective level of play (in the 4 tier system) pending on their level of commitment.

### **7. Financially, what type of commitment is involved?**

The fees for year-round soccer will be posted shortly. There are other optional items as well, such as warm ups and jackets. Participation in tournaments would also increase the cost: i.e. tournament fees, and lodging and food, when applicable. Each team may also elect to contribute to their own team sub-account as well.

### **8. What is a Team-account?**

Team-accounts are separate team bank accounts - 1 for each team - held in the ELK GROVE SOCCER treasury. These funds usually go towards your team's trainer fees, tournament participation (see **Tournaments** section below) and other such activities.

## **Game Times**

### **1. When are the games played?**

Most games are played on Saturday's and Sunday's, although some may be scheduled for an occasional weeknight evening.

### **2. How far will we have to travel?**

Younger teams will normally play in their local districts. However, they will be expected to travel further afield when the team participates in State Cup. U9 and above, dependent upon your team's level of competition you might be expected to travel out of state for tournaments and throughout Northern California for competitive league play.

### **3. How is the schedule established?**

Schedules are assigned by the competitive leagues (NorCal/CYSA). Coaches and managers will be provided with a time frame in which to make adjustments if needed.

## **Tournaments**

### **1. What is involved in entering a tournament?**

Soccer tournaments are held at various times throughout the year. They are an excellent way to raise your level of competition. They are also fun and a great way to meet and compete with players from other parts of CA and sometimes out-of-state. The Directors of Coaching will pick the tournaments.

### **2. Where are these tournaments held?**

Actually, tournaments are held all over the country (even internationally). Travel to events will be based upon the level of competition your child plays in and the level of commitment they have. Younger teams will normally stay a little closer to home but for the older teams it is sometimes fun to go further "a field" and compete against teams would not normally meet in regular season play.

### **3. Are tournaments 1-day events?**

Sometimes, but more often they are 2-day events. Many times, a team will play 2 games on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Occasionally, there are games on Friday night.

### **4. This sounds like high intensity - is it?**

It can be, although for the younger teams, it's usually just for fun and technical development. There are, however, awards given at the end of the tournaments for first & second places and sometimes third.

### **5. How are tournaments allocated?**

The age group DOC will recommend a list of development specific tournaments to each coach. The coach will then pick a selected number from this list (number guidelines will also be relayed by the DOC). Any out of state (except Nevada) additional tournament requests must be made by the coach directly to the age group DOC. The age group DOC will then accept or decline the request accordingly.

## **Coaches**

### **1. How are coaches chosen?**

Coaches are chosen by the Director of Coaching. Generally, a parent who is interested in coaching will express an interest either verbally or in writing to the Director of Coaching. We strongly encourage all Elk Grove Soccer players to want to play for the club (and not just the coach) and to represent their club with pride.

### **2. Are there specific prerequisites needed for becoming a coach?**

There are requirements in place to become a coach. The organization will look at coaching credentials; past experience; college experience; playing experience; backgrounds; loyalty to the game amongst other things.

### **3. What else is required to become a coach?**

Certainly a great interest in teaching kids the sport of soccer. Also, however, an interview by the Director of Coaching is required. If you are interested in possibly becoming a coach, you should express your interest to the Director of Coaching. He will then tell you the exact procedure to follow, including how to obtain your "E" license.

**4. If I have concerns regarding my child's playing time or some other type of concern regarding the coach, how should I handle it?**

Any concern such as that should be directed directly to the coach (es) whenever possible. However, the alternative is to contact the Director of Coaching if things are still not resolved.

**5. How many coaches are there for each team?**

Usually there is one (1) Head Coach. Typically, there are also one assistant. The assistant/parent coach volunteer must be authorized by the age group DOC. They will also need to comply with club dress code and codes of conduct.

**6. When are coaches assigned/named to the teams?**

At Elk Grove Soccer we are striving to develop all of our coaches and to keep improving on the standards. We understand the importance of a coach to the team but we strongly encourage Elk Grove Soccer players to want to play for the badge and for the organization they represent. Players and parents should be proud to be part of such a great family!

## **Registration**

**1. Once teams/groups are formed, what is the next step?**

All players that are committed to playing need to have a parent/guardian/representative present at the meeting. You will be notified of the final roster through email (from the age group DOC) along with your coach details. Your coach will then set up his/her first team meeting prior to any tournaments or games. Managers and Treasurers need to be placed either on or before the first meeting. Guidelines for meeting content are provided by the club DOC for the coach/managers to follow. Failure to attend the meeting (or no written advanced communication) may be taken as non-acceptance to the program.

**2. What do I as a parent need to do to register my child?**

Parents will be asked to turn in several papers to the ELK GROVE SOCCER Registrar, as follows:

- A. A medical release form indicating that in your absence, the coach may take care of your child if so needed. These forms **MUST BE** notarized. There are several ELK GROVE SOCCER members who are notaries and this is usually not a problem.
- B. A player registration form and payment, which includes the child's full name, address, birth date, etc.
- C. A uniform order form and payment (Elk Grove Soccer offer online orders through the website).
- D. A **copy** of the child's birth certificate (if ELK GROVE SOCCER doesn't already have one). This will not be returned; it will be kept on file.
- E. A small picture of your child (usually the very small ones taken by the school photographer in the fall are the best size), which will be used on the child's "player pass" or card.
- F. 1x1 Photo (must not be black and white).

### **3. Where can I get all of these forms?**

Each person attending the team registration meeting will be given the information they need. This format makes it easier to have those medical release forms notarized, as well. Details of how to obtain will be relayed at the informational meetings.

### **4. Is there anything else I need to know about the registration process?**

Only that your child will be "carded". In other words, once the Registrar receives all necessary materials, small I.D. cards will be created and a small picture you submitted will be glued to the card. The cards will then be laminated and returned to the coaches. Further registration questions can be answered by contacting Jen Mattos ([Jmattos@elkgrovesoccer.com](mailto:Jmattos@elkgrovesoccer.com)).

### **5. What is the purpose of the I.D. card?**

These cards are necessary for participation in each game. The manager will keep these cards (the coaches are carded as well) and give them to each of the referee before the start of each game. Each team member is required to line up to have his/her card checked by the ref. (This is the time when the ref. will also check the child's shin guards and cleats to be sure they are regulation - safety is of the utmost importance). The players will then return the cards to the manager for safekeeping until the next game.

## **Uniforms**

### **1. Does each team choose its own uniform?**

No. There is a regulation uniform for all ELK GROVE SOCCER players, which you will probably be able to see samples of before ordering. Details for these can be answered by contacting Patsy Cosenza ([Pcosenza@elkgrovesoccer.com](mailto:Pcosenza@elkgrovesoccer.com)).