



PSC Travel FAQs

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Q: What are the dates for the 2023-24 tryouts?

A: Saturday, May 6th at the club's Green Acres Soccer Complex 445 Sydney Rd. For each tryout, players should check in at the field 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time. Tryouts will start promptly and run for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Players should only show up at the time that corresponds with their birth year and gender. Players must pre-register for the tryouts. [If you are new to our club, click here to get started.](#)

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Q: What is the purpose of tryouts?

A: The Piscataway Soccer Club (PSC) holds tryouts to help place players interested in playing competitive soccer for PSC into the appropriate levels of play. Our club values the individual development of each player in the club and try-outs are an important part of the process. Placing players at the appropriate level of play helps them maximize their potential and contribute to their team.

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Q: What are coaches looking for?

A: Coaches are looking for players whose skill set aligns with the club philosophy. They are looking for players who have skills and abilities on the field that meet the demands of the game. Coaches are looking for players who show the athleticism, work rate and the desire to play the game with the skills to play soccer at a competitive level. They also look for players who are coachable and work well in a team atmosphere.

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Q: How does PSC select players for teams?

A: Tryouts are typically held in May and are open to all players of appropriate age and gender, regardless of club affiliation. Once completed, teams will be formed based on ability. Specific [detailed information](#) is posted on our website.

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Q: Why is it called “travel” Soccer?

A: Piscataway Soccer Club offers travel soccer teams for ages 7-19. The teams are selected based on ability and *travel* outside of Piscataway to nearby towns to games throughout the Mid NJ region.

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Q: Who can try out for a Piscataway Soccer Club travel team?

A: Anyone. This includes Piscataway Soccer Club recreational players, and players from the surrounding area.

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Q: How much does it cost to play Travel and when is payment due?

A: The cost for PSC Travel is \$540 for the year. This does not include the cost of the uniform kit, which is around \$90. A deposit of \$100 is due when you accept an invitation to secure your spot on the team after tryouts. The full fee is due no later than 11/1. PSC offers various payment plans. Some teams will utilize a pro-trainer twice-a-week, which adds \$200 to the yearly registration fee. Travel team players may have the opportunity to participate in fundraising to reduce the cost of playing travel soccer.

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Q: Who runs the travel teams?

A: The Piscataway Soccer Club (PSC) will assist the team in its formation and will set up the administrative structure necessary for play. The PSC will select a qualified coach to teach skills, run practices, and coach games. Each team needs parent volunteers to be coaches, assistants, managers, etc. Please consider volunteering time to your child’s team!

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Q: How do I volunteer to be a parent-coach or team manager?

A: Simple. You can apply online, within your account, from the *VOLUNTEER* tab. You can also reach out to our club Travel VP for more information by emailing PSCTravelVPJS@gmail.com

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Q: When will we find out who the coach is?

A: Professional coaches, parent-volunteer coaches and team managers will be assigned in early August and will start to contact the team as soon as they are assigned.

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Q: What league will my team play in?

A: Most of our travel teams play in the [Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association \(MNJYSA\)](#) league. Our more advanced and committed teams will compete in the [EDP](#) league.

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Q: When do practices and games begin?

A:

- **FALL** - Professional fall practices usually start the first or second week of September. ALL PSC Travel teams will participate in our Fall Classic Tournament, which is held annually the weekend after Labor Day. The fall league starts the following weekend and ends before Thanksgiving.
- **Winter (indoor)** - Teams practice in January thru early March.
- **SPRING** - Professional spring practices usually start the first or second week of March. The league usually starts mid-March and ends early June.

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Q: Where are practices held?

A: PSC uses several practice locations but most sessions are at: Witherspoon Soccer Complex, Piscataway HS stadium (turf), and the Green Acres Soccer Complex. We have a [full list of fields and addresses](#) on our website under the Field Status tab.

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Q: Do you provide goalkeeper training?

A: Yes, goalkeeper training sessions are provided thru our training partner. [Sign up here](#).

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Q: What equipment do I need?

A: Aside from your uniform (see the uniform section below), you will need cleats and shin guards. Goalkeeper gloves are optional.

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Q: What happens if I have a conflict with training times or matches?

A: Speak to your team coach and/or manager as early as possible to inform them of the conflict. All of our teams use [TeamSnap](#) for scheduling, attendance and communication. It can be accessed via the TeamSnap app, or their website. With it, parents and players can mark their availability for practices and games. This is very useful when trying to arrange matches and communicating with your coach/manager to provide dates and times when you may have a conflict.

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Q: When are games played?

A: Most Travel games are played on Sundays (although U8's play on Saturdays). Game times are not consistent and they will change based on many factors. You will be provided with a full schedule at the start of the season with dates and times via your TeamSnap app. Keep in mind that schedules are subject to change.

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Q: Where do we play HOME games?

A: Games are usually played at the following locations:

[PHS Turf](#) - 11v11 (U13 and up):

[Green Acres Soccer Complex](#) - 9v9 (U11 and U12), and 7v7 (U9 and U10)

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Q: How far do we need to travel for AWAY games?

A: Most away games are within 30-40 minutes, if not closer.

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Q: How do I order a uniform?

A: The club is updating our uniform kits starting June 2023.

- Returning players: Uniform colors remain the same, so order a new kit if they have outgrown their current one. You can order your uniform kit from our partner's [website](#) at any time.
- New players: will need to order the "Main Kit" as listed on the website. They will need their **assigned** number to do this - emails with their number and with the website details will go out the week of the invitations. Players cannot just pick a uniform number on their own.

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Q: What sort of commitment is required for parents and players of the travel team?

A: Everyone involved in travel soccer recognizes that serious commitment for young players is difficult. However, being on a travel team requires both the child AND THE PARENT understand that this activity is a commitment. Neither the player nor the team can develop to full potential without that commitment. The commitment is for 1 calendar year and begins on 8/1 each Summer, though teams typically don't start practices for a few weeks after this.

For most travel players, only religious commitments, school, and school athletics take precedence over travel team practices and games.

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Q: How much soccer are we talking about?

A: Typically, beginning several weeks prior to the season and continuing throughout the season, travel players attend practices twice weekly. There are approximately 10 weekend games during the fall and another 10 in the spring. The travel games are typically played on Sunday, but may be re-scheduled (due to weather, etc.) to another day.

In addition, some teams may select to compete in local and regional tournaments each fall and spring. All teams participate in our PSC Fall Classic Tournament, which is held annually the weekend after Labor Day.

During the summer, teams may practice, and players are strongly encouraged to attend Piscataway Soccer Club training sessions.

In the winter, teams may practice indoors (probably only once a week) and may participate in indoor soccer leagues. As teams mature, players may participate in regional tournaments on several weekends a year.

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Q: This sounds like too much soccer, is it?

A: Travel soccer is not for every child or every family. However, what players and families who make the commitment find is that their skills (and confidence) improve by leaps and bounds; they make new friends; and the travel environment can be a lot of fun. Winning is not the ultimate goal of Piscataway Soccer Club (player development is), but players and families alike love the feeling of accomplishment that comes from the success that flows from dedication to the sport.

Parents need to think about whether their child is ready for the experience. But, if so, the child will learn that success does not come easy; hard work pays off; and winning isn't everything. These are life lessons that we all must learn and travel soccer is a good way to learn them.

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Helpful hints for players

Look to take charge of your situation. Come prepared to work hard and play soccer to the best of your ability. Look to play positions you are comfortable with but be open to suggestions by a coach. Be prepared to ask a coach questions should you have any. Get yourself involved in the game and want the ball.

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Helpful hints for the parents

Tryouts can be a stressful time. Make sure your child is prepared to play. Ensure they have the necessary equipment, have had a healthy meal and are in the right mindset. Do not put any added pressure on your child to make a particular team. This is their opportunity to tryout, let them enjoy it and help them take ownership. This is not the parents' try-out so please do not get involved in telling them what to do or criticizing their efforts on the field. And PLEASE, no coaching from the sidelines.

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