

# 2023/24 Loudoun Soccer Travel Player Placement FAQs

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Q. At what age can my player be considered for a Loudoun Soccer Travel team?**

A. Age groups are organized by birth year (U9 is for players born in 2015, U10 for 2014, U11 for 2013, etc.). For the 2023-2024 soccer calendar, players born between January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2015 are eligible for Travel soccer.

### **Q. How do I request for my player to play up an age group?**

A. Please contact John O'Hara at [johara@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:johara@loudounsoccer.com) for play-up requests.

## REGISTRATION

### **Q. How do I register?**

A. Players are registered online. Current and former Loudoun Soccer players should log into their Club account at [www.LoudounSoccer.com](http://www.LoudounSoccer.com) by clicking on the "LOGIN" link at the top of the page. Individuals new to Loudoun Soccer will need to create an account by clicking "REGISTER" at the top of the page. A registration troubleshooting guide can be found [here](#).

Registration for placement does not guarantee selection to a Loudoun Soccer Travel team.

### **Q. My player is already registered for NVA Talent ID. Does he/she also need to register for Loudoun Soccer Travel?**

A. NVA ECNL is an entirely separate program from Loudoun Soccer Travel. Players interested in both the NVA ECNL program and Loudoun Soccer Travel Player Placement must register for both programs. (Players selected for an NVA ECNL ID session will be contacted by the ECNL coach with next steps.)

### **Q. Is there a fee?**

A. There is no fee to register for placement with Loudoun Soccer Travel.

## PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS

### **Q. Who attends player placement?**

A. Players, including current Loudoun Soccer players, must attend at least one placement session; players are encouraged to attend both sessions.

**Q. How many placement sessions do I need to attend?**

A. All players are expected to attend at least one session.

**Q. What happens if a session is cancelled?**

A. In the event of a cancellation for inclement weather, players will make up the placement session on the rain date provided for that group on our [Player Placement page](#). Parents should consult the Club website for confirmation before attending. Cancellation information will also be announced on our Twitter (@loudounsc) and Facebook pages.

**TEAM FORMATION PROCESS**

**Q. What is the selection process for returning Loudoun Travel players?**

A. Age Group coaches (current, incoming and outgoing), in consultation with our Technical Staff and Age Group Coordinators, will work to place all eligible and returning players on a developmentally-appropriate team. **Our commitment is to place all returning players on a team in their age group for the 2023-2024 seasonal year if possible.** (Players also will be evaluated based on how they performed over the past eight months, as we value their past performance over one or two placement sessions.) The best combination of players will be selected to the highest level team in the age group, followed by the remaining teams in the age group in order of team level.

**Q. What is the selection process for players new to the Loudoun Travel program?**

A. Players from the Loudoun Soccer's Recreational program or from other clubs will be placed using one or more of the following methods: placement session performance, advanced scouting, prior experience/knowledge, etc. Registration for Loudoun Soccer Travel does not guarantee your player will be offered a 2023-2024 roster spot.

**Q. How will I be notified of team placement, and how do I accept my player's roster spot?**

A. The coach who will be offering your child a place on the team will contact you directly. Families are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to discuss their soccer options before invitations are extended, so that your player may respond immediately. Because the team formation process usually includes several teams and multiple players, an immediate response to an offer helps ensure all families are contacted as promptly as possible. Families may be afforded 24 hours to accept the offer; failure to decide within that timeframe may result in rescinding the offer and extending it to another player.

Families of players not offered spots will be notified by email. If you have not heard from one of the coaches within one week of the final placement session for your child's age group, please email [travelinfo@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:travelinfo@loudounsoccer.com).

**Q. My child has accepted a place on a team. What happens now?**

A. Confirmed players will receive an email from Loudoun Soccer with an invitation to register. Registration and the initial payment of Club fees are due within 72 hours of the player acceptance email, as it will serve as confirmation of your child's commitment to the Club, their team, and their coach. Your coach will contact you with further information regarding team meetings and administration.

**Q. What happens if I register but the team does not form?**

A. In the unlikely event that a team does not roster enough players to form, accepted members will be notified as quickly as possible and receive a prompt refund of any Club fees paid for the 2023-2024 seasonal year.

**TIME COMMITMENT**

**Q. What is the time commitment required for Loudoun Travel Soccer?**

A. Loudoun Soccer Travel teams practice year-round, which typically includes training two to three times weekly, weekend games during the Fall and Spring seasons. Most teams observe a reduced schedule during the Summer and Winter months. Breaks are scheduled throughout the year, and older players are permitted to play High School soccer.

**Q. Which leagues does Loudoun Soccer participate in?**

A. Loudoun Soccer Travel teams compete in Elite Clubs National League - Regional League-Virginia (ECNL-RL), Elite Development Program (EDP), and National Capital Soccer League (NCSL).

**Q. How far will I have to travel for league games?**

A. League games vary based on the age of the teams, as well as the divisions in which they play. U9-U10 (**NCSL**) teams typically play in the DMV area, with average travel 30-60 minutes for away games. **NCSL** U11-U19 teams cover a similar territory; on rare occasions, away games requiring 90-120 minutes may be scheduled.

Teams playing in **ECNL-RL** at U11-U19 will play most league matches in Northern

Virginia with some potential one-off league matches requiring more distant travel (Richmond, Williamsburg, VA Beach).

Post-season play or playoffs may increase the distance teams are required to travel.

**Q. When will the travel teams begin to practice?**

A. Although some teams may train once or twice shortly after team formation, the majority of summer pre-season training will begin in early- or mid-July (post July 4), with additional sessions added in August. Families are NOT expected to adjust their vacation or travel plans to attend summer training.

Individual team schedules will be provided at a later date. Players who are looking for additional training should consider optional summer camps and clinics provided by the Club.

**FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

**Q. What are the fees associated with playing Travel soccer?**

A. Expenses for Travel Soccer include Club fees (the majority of the money collected, which includes league play, coach salary, support staff, fields and facilities, and other similar expenses); team fees (collected at the team level by each team's treasurer), which pay for tournament entry fees, winter league, out-of-town coach reimbursement (e.g., if tournament participation requires a hotel stay for the coach), and team-specific equipment (e.g., a popup canopy or bench, etc.), among other expenses.

Families are also responsible for individual expenses, like uniforms, equipment, personal travel, and any supplemental programs they may choose for their player. A schedule of Club fees can be found on our [Travel Fees](#) page. Club fees are determined by the age group and team level.

**Q. How are fees charged?**

A. Club fees are payable to the Club, either as a one-time fee, or in 4- or 9-monthly installments. Installments are charged on the 10th of each month until paid in full. Team fees are collected by the team several times a year so that tournament registration fees and other time-sensitive team expenses can be paid promptly. Individual fees vary (uniform and equipment, individual traveling costs, etc.) depending on the team's calendar.

**Q. Will I need to purchase a uniform?**

A. Uniform kits are ordered on a two-year cycle; Fall 2023 marks the beginning of a new two-year cycle. All Travel players—new and returning—must purchase a uniform kit. The uniform kit typically includes two game jerseys, two shorts, three socks, two training tops, and a warm-up top. Optional items (backpacks, warmup pants, etc.) are also available for purchase.

**Q. Does Loudoun Soccer offer financial assistance?**

A. Loudoun Soccer is committed to ensuring that all players can participate in our programs regardless of economic status. As such, Loudoun Soccer offers a Financial Assistance program to help qualified families offset Club fees. Financial assistance awards are for a single seasonal year, and must be applied for annually. Financial assistance covers Club fees only; families receiving financial assistance are expected to pay full team fees, as well as uniform fees (at a discounted rate).

Funding levels for the program are set anew each year, through donations and fund-raising efforts, and as such are limited. Therefore, submission of an application does not guarantee that assistance will be provided; the number of players receiving assistance and the percentage of fees covered will vary each year depending on funds available. The application deadline for the Travel program is June 2, 2023. Applicants should submit their information as early as possible in the application window to maximize their chance of an award.