

REC SOCCER FAQ

Q. How are players assigned to age group?

A. Why is my child playing Under 10 when he/she is currently 8 years old? It may seem confusing. If you keep two things in mind, it really is quite simple. Ages are set as of August 1st and are set for both the coming Fall and following Spring. For example, a child who will be 9 on June 15th is no longer under 8 on August 1st. This child will be assigned to U-10 (Under 10) for Fall and for Spring. Age group assignments do not change between Fall and Spring. U4 is an exception allowing new 3 year olds in the Spring. CSA follows the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association rules for age assignments.

Q. When can a child play U-4?

A. CSA offers an Under 4 soccer program. A child must be 3 years old by February 1 to play in the U4 Spring Program. For the Fall program a child needs to be 3 years as of Sept. 1st.

Our U4 program is different than our other age divisions. Instead of the children practicing and playing a game, they come on once per week for a 45 minute instructional session. 3 year olds do not have the attention span to play an hour long game and practice for an hour during the week. We provide an Adidas soccer jersey and an award.

Q. Can I request a coach or a team for my player to play on?

A. There is a special request / comments area when registering online. All special request are considered but are not guaranteed. Siblings will be placed on the same team as long as they are the same gender and age group and that they were requested by one another. Please note on the request if you would like your child to play up an age division to be with a friend or sibling.

CSA tries very hard to have evenly distributed teams and in order to do this, not all requests can be honored. Please note due to the volume of players and requests, requests made after registration by email or phone are not accepted.

Q. Do you have to have prior experience to sign up for recreational soccer?

A. No, recreational soccer is open to all players, regardless of experience or skill level.

Q. Are the teams coed?

A. Yes and no, teams are gender specific. Girl's can play on boy's teams, but not vice versa. The only time that CSA will put together a coed team, is if there are not enough participants in a specific age group, this happens usually in the U14 -U18 age group, but if the boys and girls do need to be placed together to form a team, all parents will be notified first and given the option to remove their player from the program.

Q. Can my child play down an age division?

A. Yes, but we would need a note from your doctor or detailed explanation stating why your child is unable to play at his or her age level. The CSA Coaching Director will then need to review the request and either approve or disapprove of it. A child cannot play down an age division to be with a friend or sibling. There must be a medical reason why a child cannot play age appropriately.

Q. What is the policy on playing with your age group v. "playing up"?

A. Players are divided into age groups from 8/1 to 7/31 each year. Players are generally encouraged to play age appropriate.

Exceptions occur when an unusually strong player no longer feels challenged. Parents can then request that their child "play up" with the next higher division.

Please be careful when requesting a friend/coach that is older. We try and place your children together which can move your child up an age division and your child might not be ready for difference in size & skill of the older division.

Q. If I am on a team for the fall, am I guaranteed to be on that same team for the spring?

- A. The only way CSA can guarantee a child on the same team as the season prior is if they 1-register during the early registration period and put down the coach as a coach request and 2-that the coach is coaching again. Many times a coach's work schedule may interfere with volunteering/coaching; therefore your child is placed on a different team. We do our best to keep those kids together, even though the coach is different.

Q. What are the criteria that teams are created upon?

- A. The team formation process for CSA changes during the progression through the age levels.

The U4 program is generally organized around randomization and friend requests, while U6 and up are organized around a combination of friend/coach/school requests and ratings from player evaluations.

CSA tries to recognize the desire by children and parents to keep some friendly faces on each team, but can only do so if the requests are made at the time of registration. Naturally, some changes will occur as new kids enter the mix and kids move to club.

Q. My kid is on a team with nobody s/he knows. Why?

- A. When registering your child, parents have the opportunity to request a coach or practice night. Age Group Coordinators try to form balanced teams while attempting to meet as many requests as possible. Coordinators try to account not only for coach, friend and carpool requests, but also night's children are available to practice. Unfortunately, not all requests can be fulfilled. Late registration players may not be accommodated.

Q. What is the recommended roster size?

- A. Generally teams carry a roster which makes sense under the circumstances balancing playing time, player availability, and coaches.

Fourteen to eighteen players for 11v11, ten to fourteen players for 8v8, eight to ten players for 6v6, seven to nine players for 4v4 and nine players for 3v3. Our 3v3 (U6 Program) divides each team into 2 game fields which is why we roster a higher number of players. If a roster has less than the minimum, this is often due to a player dropping the team and not notifying the league so they can replace the player. We depend on coaches to inform us if a child has not shown up for practices and games.

Q. Our team needs more players, can we pick up players?

- A. No, if your team is in need of additional players, please contact the registrar to see if there is anyone on the waiting list that can be placed on the team. All players must be registered and paid through CSA in order to play. Teams can not pick up any players without the approval of the registrar. Players need to be registered and insured before they can practice or play in games.

Q. Can my player switch teams?

- A. Once the teams are drafted, players cannot be moved off a team onto another team. If you forgot to put your special request in, then no, you will not be switched.

Q. Now that I've registered my child for soccer, when will I hear back from the league?

- A. You will receive an email confirmation of your registration when you register and pay online. A calendar of all the important dates is posted on the Recreational Homepage. In August you will receive a reminder to attend player evaluations and instructions on what to expect next. The next direct contact parents will receive from the league will be from a coach contacting them to arrange the first practice and parent meeting as well as an email with your coaches contact information; approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the soccer season.

Once rosters are announced to coaches (after the coaches' meeting), your coach will send you information on how to access your child's schedule game schedule which will be posted on the Recreational Homepage.

If a coach has not been assigned to your team, CSA will be emailing the parents on the team to see if someone would be willing to coach.