

Welcome to SSA Marquette Travel Soccer

Our mission is to offer the best experience possible for your son or daughter as they progress from recreational soccer to competitive soccer, and to help them develop as they grow. With this in mind, it is important for everyone, players, parents, and coaches to have a clear understanding of what can be expected from travel soccer.



SSA Marquette Travel Soccer is home to players who are looking to commit a little more to the sport, and want to be a part of a competitive environment where they can develop and excel. Teamwork is a huge focus at all ages, and respect for each other as a team member is of the utmost importance.

The expectations vary for different age groups with regards to playing time, but there are some guidelines that are common to all ages. Playing time will be dictated by a few different factors, these include:

- Attendance at practice.
- Being on time for practice and games.
- Effort in practice and games.
- Physical fitness and skill.

With these things set as a foundational guide, we look to responsibly build and develop each player. We have established three distinct groups to help develop players throughout their age groups, with each stage building on the last. As a Club team we recognize that we are responsible for developing College level players of the future. We aim to continue this by developing players appropriately from the youngest age until they outgrow the program.

U8 to U10:

This level is played with 6 players on a side which includes the goalkeeper. At this level, positions and positioning will be a primary focus as well as being able to do the fundamentals of dribbling, footwork, and defense. Each player will play and learn all the positions except goal keeper. Those players interested in playing goal keeper will be expected to attend goal keeper training outside of regular practice time. By the time a player leaves this level they should feel comfortable with the ball at their feet, be able to make cuts and maneuvers with the ball while moving, and execute a defensive play against an opposing player. Passing will also be introduced and physical fitness will be emphasized.

U11 to U12:

This is played with 8 players on a side which includes the goalkeeper. This level will build off the first level and players will start to find their fit at whichever position they excel. Players in this level will be able to execute cuts and maneuvers at full speed and fine tune their shot accuracy as well as power. Passing will be emphasized with possession soccer introduced. Players must learn the offsides rule and continue to master their defensive skills.

U13 to U18:

This is played with 11 players on a side which includes the goalkeeper. This level will build off the first two levels and is where players should start to master their skills. Possession soccer and passing are heavily emphasized here. Teamwork, while important in all levels, is extremely important here as this level is played on the large field where players have to trust and rely on each other.

Playing up:

We do not encourage players playing up for any reasons, whether it be for natural ability, siblings, transportation or any other circumstance. If a player is far better than the rest of the team, the whole team will feed off those skills and be forced to elevate their game. SSA Marquette Travel Soccer has specific guidelines on player movement among teams and all policies and guidelines will be followed in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising and a player needs to be moved. Note: some players are “grandfathered” into the teams they are currently on.

Although winning tournaments is the ultimate goal for Travel Soccer teams, we do not aim to win at all costs. We teach our players to play with integrity. We believe that while many soccer games will be won and lost; integrity can only be lost once. Respect for self and each other, the coaches, parents, and the opposition is an important factor in what we teach, and as such we also believe that discipline off the field leads to discipline on the field. That is why hard work and attendance at practice also dictate playing time. It is no coincidence that the players who take discipline seriously are often those most committed, and therefore the ones who work hard, in turn leading to more playing time.

Also, please remember that SSA is a non-profit organization and our coaches, managers, executive board and travel committee members are unpaid volunteers. Most coaches have been trained professionally and have a coaching license for the age group they are coaching.

We are excited to include you in our SSA Marquette Travel Soccer family and look forward to helping each child develop and become better soccer players. Competitive soccer will raise your heartbeat, and take on an emotional rollercoaster of victory and defeat, but hard work is often rewarded with success; and from the youngest to the oldest, players who work hard will improve, and better players will rise to the top.

See you on the pitch,

Randy Byma

Randy Byma,
Director of Travel Soccer
Superiorland Soccer Association