

NSSA Frequently Asked Questions 2009

To help our members with their inquiries here are some of the most commonly asked questions and answers. If you have any other questions please contact one of the in-house directors.

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Q: What is NSSA?

A: NSSA stands for North Suburban Soccer Association. It is one of the largest clubs in the state and consists of approximately 1200 players in our in-house program and about 600 in our traveling program.

2. Q: Who runs the NSSA in-house program?

A: NSSA is run completely by volunteers who donate their time and talents to direct our programs. In-house has a boys' director and a girls' director. Working with the directors are age group coordinators (AGCs) for each gender and each age group (U8, U10, etc.).

3. Q: How does NSSA determine what age group my son or daughter is in?

A: NSSA follows MYSA (Minnesota Youth Soccer Association) guidelines. MYSA guidelines uses August 1 as the cut-off date. Example: If a player turns 10 prior to August 1, they are a U10. If they turn 10 after August 1, they are a U9. NSSA pairs up age groups. U8 is 7 and 8 year olds, U10 is 9 and 10 year olds, U12 is 11 and 12 year olds, U14 is 13 and 14 year olds, and U18 is 15 through 18 year olds.

4. Q: How long is the season and how often are practices and games?

A: The NSSA season runs from early May (weather permitting) to late July. The culmination of the season is the in-house tournament (see Q: 10 below). Teams tend to have two practices a week for the first few weeks. When games begin, there will be one practice and one game per week. On occasion, there will not be a practice but two games will be held in one week.

5. Q: On what nights will my son or daughter have practice or play games and what is the cost?

A: Below are the fees and days that games and practices will occur according to age group. These are subject to change for field issues and scheduling conflicts.

Boys U7/8:	\$100	Mon - Weds	Girls U7/8:	\$100	Tues - Thurs
Boys U9/10:	\$115	Tues - Thurs	Girls U9/10:	\$115	Mon - Wed
Boys U11/12:	\$120	Mon - Weds	Girls U11/12:	\$120	Tues - Thurs
Boys U13/14:	\$135	Mon - Weds	Girls U13/14:	\$135	Tues - Thurs
Boys U15/18:	\$135	Tues - Thurs	Girls U15/18:	\$135	Mon - Weds

6. Q: What time will practices and games take place?

A: Games and practices are generally scheduled at 6:00 or 7:15 P.M. This may vary slightly depending upon number of teams, field availability and scheduling conflicts.

7. Q: What equipment is required?

A: All players should wear soccer shoes, must wear shin pads, and a water bottle is recommended. NSSA provides full uniforms (tops, shorts and socks). Players are EXPECTED to be in their full and proper uniform for games. NSSA will provide balls but it is not a bad idea for players to bring their own ball to practice.

8. Q: What size ball should we get?

A: For U8, U10, and U12, size 4. For U14 and older, size 5.

9. Q: Are there any training opportunities available for my son or daughter?

A: NSSA will have training for U9 and U10 in-house players during March and April at the National Sports Center in Blaine. More details will become available and you will be notified of dates and times.

10. Q: How does the season end?

A: NSSA has our in-house tournament taking place in late July. This is for U11-12, U13-14, and U15-18 age groups. There will be a Jamboree for the U8 and U10 age groups consisting of several short games as well as a party-carnival with food, and fun events.

11. Q: How are teams formed?

A: NSSA has guidelines for forming teams to help make reasonably balanced teams while still allowing players to play with their friends. One can view the team formation policy on the NSSA website. In short, the criteria are school, age balance, and friend request.

12. Q: When will I find out what team my son or daughter is on?

A: Teams will be formed by our volunteer AGCs and directors during the month of March. Coaches will be notified at the coaches' meeting in April. The coaches will call their players mid to late April. **YOU WILL FIND OUT WHAT TEAM YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS ON IN LATE APRIL.**

13. Q: Where do I find information about scores and standings?

A: NSSA follows MYSA guidelines by not keeping scores or standings for U8 and U10 age groups. For U12, U14, and U18, scores and standings will be available on the NSSA website.

14. Q: Does NSSA need volunteer coaches or other positions within the organization?

A: Yes, we absolutely do. Without volunteers NSSA would cease to exist. We are always in need of volunteer coaches. If you are interested in coaching your son or

daughters team or just coaching or even assisting, please contact one of the in-house directors.

15. Q: I'd like to coach or help, but I have never coached before or I know nothing about soccer. Is there help available?

A: This is not a problem-all coaches start somewhere. You are not alone and help is available. NSSA offers coach training and materials are available on our website. NSSA will be offering a Y clinic for new or inexperienced coaches in late March. Details will be coming soon on the website and coaches will be notified of these opportunities.