



## COMPETITIVE PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Thank you for considering the Castro Valley Soccer Club's ("CVSC") Competitive Program for your child. This Program provides your child to play soccer at a higher level than the Recreational Program can offer. The purpose of this document is to provide prospective and returning players with information about the CVSC Competitive Program so they can make an informed decision about the upcoming season.

Whether a returning player or someone considering competitive soccer for the first time, most people have the same basic questions:

### ***WHAT IS THE CVSC COMPETITIVE PROGRAM AND ITS PHILOSOPHY?***

CVSC's Competitive Program is comprised of approximately 450 players on 35+ Competitive teams, which represents about 25% of the CVSC membership.

Soccer is first and foremost a game, therefore competing is important. However, CVSC also believes it should be fun and enjoyable for both the players and their families. CVSC's Competitive Program emphasizes developing a player's passion for soccer while they learn how to play the game both as a well rounded individual and as a quality member of a team.

Fundamentals (ball mastery) are stressed at the younger age groups. Winning is a secondary consideration. As players mature and progress, decision making and tactics are introduced with winning becoming a greater consideration.

CVSC's Competitive Program's mission is Total Player Development in a family-friendly environment. We want our players and teams to be successful both on and off the field.

### ***WHAT LEVEL TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE?***

Competitive teams can play at six levels: NPL, Premier, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper. CVSC will attempt to form at least one NPL, Premier, Gold or Silver team and at least one Bronze or Copper level team per age group. However if we can form more teams then we will strive to do so.

### ***HOW ARE COMPETITIVE TEAMS FORMED?***

CVSC Competitive Teams are formed using a player tryout process. CVSC's goal is to form teams at all age groups. However, team formation is dependent upon the number and quality of players that attend tryouts and commit to play for the CVSC team they are selected.



## COMPETITIVE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND COST SUMMARY



### **WHAT IS THE TRYOUT PROCESS?**

Tryouts are organized, operated and managed by 24-7 UK Soccer Academy on behalf of the CVSC. Tryouts take place in January and February for the U8 to U14 age groups and in May for the U15 to U19 age groups. Players interested in participating in the CVSC Competitive Program must attend at least one of the tryout dates for their age group. Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactics
3. Fitness and Athletic Ability
4. Psychological Component (attitude)

Player evaluations and selections are made by the 24-7 staff, in conjunction with the CVSC Director of Player and Coach Development and CVSC Competitive Program Director.

All players will receive a follow up phone call from the head coach confirming the player's interest in playing on the team. Following the phone call from the head coach, players selected for competitive teams will have one week to register on-line with CVSC to secure their place on the team. **Failure to register on time may result in a player being displaced from a CVSC Competitive team.**

### **WHAT IS THE TIME AND TRAVEL COMMITMENT?**

The time and travel commitment will vary depending upon the team's age group and level. Teams usually train 2-3 times per week beginning in July and continue training through November (U8-U10 teams), December/January (U11-U13 teams). Spring Season starts in March and will continue through May when next tryouts take place. The older age groups are taking a break from November through February to allow for high school soccer. Teams typically play in 3-6 tournaments per year. Number and locations of tournaments will vary with the team's age group and level.

League play for all level competitive teams begins in September and continues through early November for Fall League and begins in March and continues through May for Spring League. Teams will play half their games at "home" in Castro Valley and half of their games "away" in Alameda and surrounding counties.

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?**

The cost will vary depending upon the team's age group and level. You can expect your child's cost to be anywhere from approx.. \$1500 for a U9/U10 team to \$2,000 for the year for a U11-U19 team. This includes Club player registration fees, a non-refundable Competitive Program fee, professional coach fees, tournament entry fees and other miscellaneous costs. A team budget for the season will be presented at your team's first meeting with player registration and program fee information available on the CVSC website at time of tryouts.

CVSC has a variety of payment methods available including check or credit card payment plans. You do not need to pay the entire amount up front unless you choose to do so. You may also use fundraising or sponsorships to help offset your child's cost to participate in the program. CVSC will also have a limited



number of financial aid opportunities for those players and families demonstrating a financial need and commitment to soccer and CVSC. Families who are awarded financial aid will be required to volunteer a specific number of hours to support various CVSC events and or activities.

### ***WHAT IS MY CHILD'S SOCCER ALTERNATIVE TO COMPETITIVE SOCCER?***

Competitive soccer requires a high level of commitment from the players and families who participate. The decision to play at this level is a choice that needs careful consideration. Even if a player is skilled enough and is selected to a competitive team, the choice to play competitive soccer may not be in the best interests of the player and/or his or her family. For those players and families who cannot commit to the time, travel, financial and volunteer requirements of Competitive Soccer, CVSC offers the option to play at the Recreational level. For Recreational Soccer, players are either assigned to teams by the Club based on residence, school, *experience level*, or via a player draft by coaches in the U16 and older age groups. Recreational teams usually practice one or two times per week beginning in August and finish in November. Players are guaranteed 50% playing times and the focus is on a fun soccer experience with minimal emphasis on game results. Coaches are usually the parent of a child on the team.

### ***IF WE CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITIVE PROGRAM, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?***

The higher level of commitment required by the CVSC Competitive Program provides a stable and consistent atmosphere for players to improve to their fullest potential from season to season. All players will improve in different areas at different rates during the stages of their development. Each team will ebb and flow as they grow together to meet their full potential. Our professional coaches are trained to guide players and teams through the ups and downs of a season as well as keep them on a path toward a successful season, both as individual players and as a team. The Recreational Program provides for a short soccer season. While there are many exceptional volunteer coaches in the Recreational Program, there is no guarantee your child will have the consistent commitment from the other players on the team.

For more information on CVSC's Competitive Program, please contact the Competitive Program Director, Christof Sommerhalter, at [compdirector@castrovalleysoccer.com](mailto:compdirector@castrovalleysoccer.com) or the CVSC Director of Coach and Player Development, Andy Hulbert, at [andyh@24-7uksocceracademy.com](mailto:andyh@24-7uksocceracademy.com). You can also visit the CVSC website at [www.castrovalleysoccer.com](http://www.castrovalleysoccer.com).