



## 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 400 players on 30 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 four levels: Premier, Gold, Silver and Bronze. CVSC will attempt to form at least one Premier, Gold or Silver team and at least one Bronze level team per age group

Premier, Gold and Silver teams play in the highest level of youth soccer available and require a significant time and financial commitment. These teams have a professional head coach provided by 24-7 UK Soccer Academy, the CVSC official soccer trainers.

Bronze level teams require less time and financial commitment than Premier, Gold and Silver teams. These teams have a volunteer head coach, usually a parent of a player on the team.

### ***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.



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### **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 February for the U9 to U14 age groups and in April 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 Competitive Program Director.

All CVSC Premier, Gold and Silver level player selections and alternates will be posted on [www.castrovalleysoccer.com](http://www.castrovalleysoccer.com) within one-week of the last tryout for each age group. Selected players will receive a follow up phone call from the head coach confirming the player's interest in playing on the team. Bronze level player selections will be posted as soon as the premier, gold and silver rosters are finalized. 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 a timely basis 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. Premier, Gold and Silver teams usually train 2-3 times per week beginning in April or May and continue training through January or February for younger age groups and March or April for the older age groups, with the older age group taking a break from November through February to allow for high school soccer. These teams typically play in 5-7 tournaments per year with one to two of these being travel tournaments that require overnight stays.

Bronze level teams train 2-3 times per week beginning in July with one of the weekly sessions led by a 24-7 staff member. Training ends in December. Teams typically play 4-5 tournaments per year with perhaps one of these being a travel tournament that requires an overnight stay.

League play for all level competitive teams begins in September and continues through early November. Fall League play for all Divisions begins in September and finishes in the middle of November. Teams will play half their games at "home" in Castro Valley and half of their games "away" in Alameda and surrounding counties. Premier, Gold and Silver teams may play Spring League with games on Saturdays or Sundays in April, May and June.



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### ***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 \$900 a Bronze Level team to \$1,500 for the year for a Premier, Gold or Silver team. This includes Club player registration fees, a non-refundable Competitive Program fee, professional coach and/or training 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 provide participate and 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 personal residence, school 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, AJ Barradas, at [compdirector@castrovalleysoccer.com](mailto:compdirector@castrovalleysoccer.com) or the CVSC Director of Coach and Player Development, Andy Hulbert, at [andy@24-7uksocceracademy.com](mailto:andy@24-7uksocceracademy.com). You can also visit the CVSC website at [www.castrovalleysoccer.com](http://www.castrovalleysoccer.com).