



***Developmental Player Policy  
U8 – U14 Age Groups  
Travel Program***

While Travel Soccer is considerably more competitive than traditional recreational programs, travel age groups U8-U11 are considered to be fundamentally developmental by both Sparta Soccer and MCYSA. The primary focus of the training that occurs within these age groups is to develop field awareness, foot skills and an overall love of the game.

Sparta Soccer Club allows for Developmental Players to be rostered to teams U08-U14 under some conditions. The “developmental” status is to be discussed with Parent Head Coach and the player’s parents / guardians and the board, and is to be agreed upon by all parties prior to a player being accepted onto a team. This document must be completed and turned in before a position is offered. For a small-sided team, the developmental status will not be given to more than 2 players on a roster. The intention of this policy is to accept players on the travel team who exhibit skills that, with structured development and strong training, have the potential to become skilled future players and for allowing players that desire to stay at the travel level for the purposes of further development.

Following are the details of the Developmental Player Policy:

- 1) Developmental Players are required to attend all practice sessions of the team to which they are rostered.
- 2) Existing rules regarding playing time during games do not apply to Developmental Players. The coaching staff may utilize developmental players based on discretion.
- 3) Developmental Players will be given the option to also play in our Recreation Program while being rostered to a Travel team. If this option is chosen, all fees associated with both the travel team and the recreation team must be paid. Wherever possible, the developmental player should attend the regularly scheduled Recreation practices as well. It is required that a list of developmental players be supplied to the Town Program.
- 4) If a coach is willing to take more than the minimum required number of players (12 small sided and 16 full sided), the board may if deemed appropriate allow a coach to designate additional players as developmental. If a full sided roster is over 18 any player above the 18th player (up to 21) would automatically be designated as developmental players if approved.
- 5) Developmental players will be required to pay the full registration fee and will pay ½ of annual training fees provided the teams are in excess of the minimum rosters requested (12 small sided and 16 full sided),
- 6) Developmental Players will be evaluated after each season. These results will be shared with the parties involved.
- 7) The Board reserves the right to designate players as developmental in hardship situations for the benefit of both teams within our club where deemed absolutely necessary.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Age group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
SSC Board Member