



Learn about Competitive Soccer



In our Competitive soccer program our teams play teams from different clubs (ages U9-U19). In competitive soccer, players try out for and receive an invitation to join the club. The things that typically differentiate competitive soccer from recreational soccer include the following:

- **Coaches** - In competitive soccer, coaches are licensed (or in the process of getting licensed), are paid by the club and have additional benefits like coaches development tuition covered.
- **Player Development** – As said, coaches are required to have a coaching license. The process of earning licenses includes specialized training for player development. This typically results in more structured, focused and high level team training than recreational soccer.
- **Playing Format** - The U9-U10 (7v7 format) and U11-U12 (9v9 format) years are very critical in the development of a soccer player. Players who decide to play rec soccer instead competitive soccer or skip a year will have a hard time to catch up and succeed in a more advanced environments later, specially when teams start playing the 11v11 format. It is critical players get age appropriate training with licensed coaches, train with good players and play against good opposition after they complete the academy years at Real SC or at other clubs' REC programs.
- **Tryouts** - Competitive soccer is a "cut" sport. Players are not guaranteed a place on a team. In recreational (Rec) soccer, there are no cuts. Tryouts can be held by any club in Idaho one week after Memorial day weekend. Check the specific dates for **this year at realsoccerclub.org/tryouts. We host Competitive tryouts in two separate locations: ADA county (for players in the Boise/Meridian and surrounding areas) & CANYON COUNTY (for players in the Middleton/Caldwell and surrounding areas). Check link above for exact locations. Our goal though is to have competitive teams in this 4 cities: Boise, Meridian, Caldwell and Middleton. We will add more cities in the future. Players from cities other than these 4 cities can join any of these teams.**
- **Competition** - In our Rec soccer program, you play other Rec teams in our club, 5v5 format. In competitive soccer, you will play other clubs in the District 3 League or in League America (a tear down from D3) Formats depend on age. **Tournaments (see table below).**
- **Length of season** - In Rec soccer families sign-up for each individual season (Fall and Spring). **In competitive soccer, families commit for the full year so the team can stay together from Fall to Spring (the outdoor league runs in the Fall and Spring)** (and indoor soccer/futsal being optional, but highly encouraged, in winter – see more below). Fall season runs approximately from the first or second week of August to the end of October and Spring soccer, from mid February to end of May. Practices are twice a week although some older teams may practice 3 times a week. Games are mainly Saturdays with some potential mid week games.
- **About Winter:** In Winter, participation is optional and decided at the team level. The winter season is not as involved as Fall and Spring but it is very important for a team to do at least one of the two 6-week sessions. Not being involved in soccer for 3.5 months (Nov through Mid February) and without touching the ball and developing the skills can make teams and player

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regress. Usually the winter season duration goes from 6 weeks to 12 weeks and it consists of futsal (5-aside soccer on a basketball court) or indoor soccer, with only one or no practice/week and 1 game/week. **The optional “indoor session 1” runs from the beginning of November to Mid December and the optional “indoor session 2” from mid January to the third week of February**

- **Fees** - You have enjoyed one of the lowest fees in the USA at our Academy Program and Rec. If you look at the different clubs in the area and in the country, you will realize Competitive Program fees are considerable higher than those in a Rec program. **The good news is that our competitive program Player fees are some of the lowest in these area!** So you have an idea what are the types associated to competitive soccer we have divided the expenses in different categories:

Our competitive program **Player fees** include:

Team fees are the costs associated with participating in various leagues/events. These costs include but are not limited to IYSA player/coaches fees, league entry fees, player cards, referee fees (if applicable), field usage and related items.

Club fees cover coaches development, staff pay, head coaches pay, guest pro coaches and directors' pay, professional equipment, coaches apparel, marketing, advertisement, social events, PO box, web platform, registration software, merchant fees and some other administration costs.

Note: The uniform fees are separate and paid directly in our online store when you buy your competitive kit. Other events decided at the team level (tournaments, futsal, indoor soccer, camps) are also separate and optional.

Competitive Soccer Fees at Different Clubs in the Area

CHECK THE LATEST FEE COMPARISON CHART AT: <https://realsoccerclub.org/fees-comparison/>

COMPARISON CHART - RECREATIONAL VS COMPETITIVE SOCCER

	Recreational	Competitive
Gender	Coed, Girls and Boys	Girls and Boys
Ages	U4-U9, U10-U15 Note: U9 players are eligible for competitive soccer too!	U9-U19 For an age chart see: https://realsoccerclub.org/age-chart/
Coaches	Volunteer Parents with support from a Technical Director	Licensed Coaches
Season	Players can enroll in Fall and Spring separately	U9-U15 A season consist of Fall, Winter (optional), and Spring Soccer. Fall – Training and games Winter – Indoor training and games (decided at the team level) Spring – Training and games U16-U19 A season Consist of Winter and Spring. Kids at this age generally play High School Soccer in the Fall. Winter – Indoor training /Futsal and games Spring – Training and games
Training & Games	1.0-2.5 hours/week. Minimum of 45' per week (U4-U5) & more as age increases (2.5 hours for U9s). Games generally on Saturdays.	3.0 – 4.0 hours per week depending on age. Typically, 2 days per week of practices like in the academy. Older teams may choose to train 3 times a week. Games generally on Saturdays.
Competition	Real Youth Academy & Rec internal league. (Other clubs may have their own internal rec program too but not all)	Boys and Girls – Compete in the IYSA District 3 League (D3L) vs other Competitive soccer clubs in Idaho.
Tournament	Real SC Academy & Rec teams participate in our end of season jamboree, both Fall and Spring.	Teams can compete in tournaments locally, and as they get older they may also travel out of state vs other competitive clubs. Tournaments, specially those which require traveling, are agreed upon by parents/guardians of the team players at the team level. Usually teams do not start traveling until they are older.
Fees	One of the Lowest in the country: https://realsoccerclub.org/player-fees/	Among the lowest in the area. See: https://realsoccerclub.org/player-fees/
Payment Plans	Not applicable. A very low fee paid in full.	U9-U15: 5 installments, June to October. U16-U19 (Spring only): 10 installments, June to March.
Tryouts	No	Tryouts statewide are in June, one week after Memorial day weekend. See https://realsoccerclub.org/tryouts/ at the beginning of May for more info.

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Notes:

Real Salt Lake is our Major League Soccer (MLS) Partner!

