



Common Questions & FAQs

1. What levels of play does PA Classics offer?

PA Classics offers a wide range of levels. We offer a Futures Program that is for players 3-7 years of age. This program is designed to introduce the game of soccer to kids with a fun environment conducive to learning. After 7 years of age, players then either move into our Recreational Program or into our Travel Program. Our Recreational Program is called Penn Legacy Rec. This program is for players 8-18 years of age who love the game and want to keep playing, but do not want the commitment and/or competitive level that comes with the Travel Program.

Our Travel Program has multiple levels. The levels are based on an individual's ability compared to other players of the same age within the club. The different levels also have different levels of commitments both financially and time wise.

Our three Travel Program levels are Academy, Elite and Premier. Academy being the highest level of travel we offer and Premier being the lowest level of travel we offer. All of these levels are provided with professional paid coaches.

At all of our levels, travel teams will compete at the highest level that their team is able to participate in. Once our Academy teams turn U13, they then participate in the US Soccer Development Academy League which is the highest level of soccer offered for youth players in the United States. There are only 3 clubs in the state that have this status for boys: U13-U19. Those clubs are PA Classics, FC Delco and the Philadelphia Union. On the girls' side, only PA Classics and Penn Fusion have been given entry into this level of play.

Our Elite and Premier teams will compete in leagues such as APL, EDP or CPYSL based on the level of the team.

2. How many tournaments will we participate in?

The number of tournaments is based on the level of team and the age group. U9s and U10s will go to 6 events. U11 Academy and U11-U15 Elite teams will do 7 events. U16-U18 Elite teams will do 8 events. The focus at the U16 and older age group is on college exposure, so that is why they will do more events than the other ages. U19 will do 6 events. They do less since at the U19 age since most of the players have already made their decisions on colleges, etc. U11 – U18 Premier teams will do 5 tournaments.

U13 and older Academy teams do not do the same number of events as the Elite and Premier teams. The Academy teams will do less events because their league games are year-round starting at U13. More information about the development Academy can be found on the US Soccer Development Academy website www.ussoccerda.com.

3. What is the US Soccer Development Academy?

The U.S. Soccer Development Academy strives to develop world-class players by providing elite, driven youth talents with development environments, which meet the highest standards, that empower them to reach their full potential. The DA program impacts everyday club environments by setting standards that ensure every DA player trains in a world-class environment and compete in more meaningful games. Clubs competing in the DA commit to uphold Academy standards and maintain the best possible environments to optimize player development. For elite, motivated players, the Development Academy provides a pathway to develop and reach the highest level of competition.

DA competition begins at U-13 and runs through U-19. The number of teams competing in the Academy decreases as the age increases, therefore the number of player spots decreases. This ensures the most elite players continue competing against each other, which provides optimal development and more meaningful competition.

The Development Academy strives to identify the top talent of all soccer players in the nation. All players participating in the DA have the opportunity to be seen by U.S. Soccer National Team scouts as well as college coaches and scouts at all DA games. Hundreds of scouts attend the Development Academy Showcase events, providing multiple opportunities during the season for all players to be seen.

4. How far away are most tournaments?

One of the benefits that PA Classics has been able to bring to Central PA is our ability to host many events. This allows our PA Classics teams and other clubs in Central PA to attend quality tournaments at our complex which will save on travel costs. Depending on your age group, you can expect to attend 3-4 events at our fields. Depending on your age group, that leaves 2-4 events that would be outside of Lancaster County. Typical events would be in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Maryland or New Jersey. The U16-U18 age group may do 2-3 events that require hotel stays in New Jersey or Virginia. These events are attended to try and gain college exposure for players. The information above is just general guidelines as to what to expect. Specific questions can be asked of your coach before you commit to a particular team.

5. Is my child allowed to play middle school and high school soccer?

Elite and Premier team players are allowed to play middle school and high school soccer. During the middle school ages, you will also have club ball during your middle school season, so you would just need to communicate with your coach on certain conflicts you may have due to the middle school season. There is no programming during the high school season for Elite and Premier teams, so players are able to concentrate on high school ball during the Fall and then begin PA Classics immediately after the high school season.

Academy players U13 and older are not allowed to play middle school or high school soccer. These are the rules of the US Soccer Federation. These are not PA Classics rules, but we do follow the rules handed down from US Soccer.

6. Is my child allowed to play other sports in high school or middle school?

Yes, Elite and Premier team players are allowed to play other sports. Each family needs to consider whether they are putting too much on their child's plate, but we do not have a rule against doing other sports. You will need to communicate with your PA Classics coach as to what your conflicts are and what your coach's expectations are; but with good communication, it is possible to play other sports. U13 and older Academy players are allowed to play winter sports since this is a bit of a down time for the Academy teams. U13 and older academy players are not allowed to play Spring sports. There simply is not enough time to do both.

7. It seems that PA Classics is more expensive than other clubs in Central PA? We want to play, but are not sure we can afford it.

Yes, it does cost money to play at a high-level club and most high-level clubs in Central PA have similar fee structures. At PA Classics, we provide exceptional facilities including our own grass and turf fields; experienced, professional coaches; and multiple tournament entry fees. When comparing soccer club fees, we would recommend that you make sure you compare facilities, coaching, number of tournaments and how much training your child will receive for the cost.

8. Do you offer financial assistance?

Yes, we do offer financial assistance. We do not want money to stop a family from participating with the club. Our assistance is not based on how good a player your child is. It is based on whether you need the assistance financially. So, if you are in a situation where you simply don't have the funds to participate, then you just need to contact us about it before committing to a team. Contact Steve Klein with any financial assistance needs at steve@paclassics.org.

9. Does PA Classics use team managers?

We do not use team managers for a variety of reasons. We feel that if the coach is being paid, then he or she should be able to handle the communication for the team. Not using team managers also keeps politics out of team dynamics. If a parent is doing the coach's organizational work, then it is much harder for a coach to be objective when it comes to playing time for that player and ultimately team selection. We just feel that a team operates the best when you have a coach that is on top of things and is engaged with the running of a team.

10. Is it true that you rotate coaches with teams every couple of years?

Yes, we typically rotate coaches with a team every 2-3 years. We rotate coaches because we feel that kids need to experience different coaches. All coaches have different styles of play, drills and communication. Players may not continue to be challenged and energized if a player has the same coach for their whole youth career. Players need fresh starts with new and different coaches as new coaches may see qualities in a player that a previous coach may not see. It is true that for some players it is comfortable to keep the same coach for 5 and 6 years, but that doesn't mean that it is in their best interest. Players are going to get new coaches in high school and in college, so they need to be prepared and learn to work with and adjust to different styles and personalities.