



Welcome  
to Empire  
Soccer  
Club  
Comp Info  
Night 2024

# *What is Empire Soccer Club?*

- We are the largest club in Santa Rosa, and probably Sonoma county. We have over 1000 Rec kids, and 600-650 Comp players with 38 teams.
  - We are part of Santa Rosa Youth Soccer League (which consists of Empire, SRS and United)
- We are the only club in Santa Rosa that has both Rec and Comp soccer players.
- We believe strongly in allowing kids to play multiple sports, and in being an affordable option.
- We believe in the strength of parent coached teams, but also know the value of professional coaching.

# Academy Program

- Designed for U9 through U12 (2014-2011) players.
- Academy teams will play league (fall and \*spring), tournaments, and playdates. (Playdates are one day mini tournaments). Academy players also get Winter Blast included with their fee, and usually a summer program.
- Fees: Club Fee is around \$295 for returning players and \$320 for new players. , and Team Fee is similar. Our Nike Jersey Kit is under \$120.
- Specialty training is provided (ie., keeper training, Summer Strike Camp, Winter Blast).
- Team Sizes: U9/U10: play 7v7 and roster 10-12. U11/U12 play 9v9 and roster 12-14. Multiple teams do occur (currently two in several age groups).

# *What is the difference between Rec and Comp Soccer?*

- Rec Soccer starts at U6, and runs from Aug-Oct. Rec Soccer has no tryouts, and is offered at a very low cost.
- Rec Soccer has league games, and includes one local tournament (City Cup).
- Comp Soccer has tryouts based on multiple factors. Not all players will make a Comp Team.
- Tryouts are in late May (?). Practice usually starts in June, and runs through November. Most teams take a break in the winter, and some will play Spring League in March. Most Comp Teams play multiple tournaments (though we ask our younger teams to travel no more than an hour if possible).



# *How do Empire Comp Teams Perform?*

- Our teams play from Bronze to Gold/Premier.
- We win multiple tournaments and leagues. The previous Halloween, our teams took 14 first, second and third place finishes. This is common, but winning is the byproduct of time and training.
- Although most of our coaches are parents of a player, we have a growing number of coaches with no players on their team. They simply love the sport!
- Our coaches get club training and many of them have years of playing and coaching experience. We see the results on the field.

# Older Ages

- U13-U19
- Tryouts most likely in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May. Tournaments through the summer and Fall. Fall and Spring League. College Showcases for older ages.
- Competitive Tryouts in May.
- Fees: Club Fee are around \$200 for returning players and \$230 for new players. Team fee average is \$300. Nike Uniform Kit is around \$120.

# Club Philosophy

- With our Academy teams, player development is far more important than simply winning. Players will enjoy the game longer when they learn to play as a team, and working as a team is the long term goal of team sports. However, winning is a good byproduct of player development.
- As players age up, and playing at the proper level, winning becomes a more important end product of good training and hard work.
- However, we treat our club and teams as part of a community, and believe that good sportsmanship and strong relationships is an essential lesson.



# Coaches and Coaches Training

- ▶ Our coaches are mostly parents. We have a few teams that are coached by coaches with no kids.
- ▶ Our coaches are all interviewed, and go through on going coach training and background checks.
- ▶ We currently have over 33 teams playing comp soccer, but our growth is dependent on parents. Comp coaching is an amazing experience, but it takes a dedicated individual.
- ▶ We are always looking for good coaches! Our most important goal is a healthy environment for kids to learn the beautiful game of soccer, develop healthy habits, discipline, and respect for the game! Interested? Talk to one of us.



# What Next?

- Tryouts start early May. Current Plan:
- Watch for email or check [empiresoccerclub.net](http://empiresoccerclub.net)
- Go to [empiresoccerclub.net](http://empiresoccerclub.net) to view new information and to register for tryouts. There is no money paid until team selection.
- We encourage all kids to tryout. If a player does not make a comp team, there are no late charges to join our Rec program.