

Empire Competitive Soccer



Empire Soccer Club (ESC)'s mission is to provide a community-based soccer program where kids:

- Excel at the game of soccer
- Experience team growth and unity
- Have freedom to enjoy and grow from other sports and activities

How does Competitive Soccer differ from Recreation Soccer?

Competitive soccer is for kids and families that want more focused, long-term soccer than what our recreational program offers. Players must try out and be selected to play on a competitive team. Competitive soccer begins from 8 years old and can continue until players are 18 years old.

The goal of competitive soccer is to develop players and to learn the game at a higher level,

as a team. Competitive Soccer is not just about wins and losses, as this is not always a benchmark for learning. As our teams grow, we are very proud of their accomplishments: many Empire teams place in the top 3-4 of competitions on a regular basis.

What is the Time Commitment?

While all teams differ, the basic Competitive experience depends on time of year:

- Tryouts (c. May)
- Practices: twice a week, weekdays, starting in June.
- Summer 3's Academy: June-July (Sat/Sun)
- Games : typically on weekends,
 - Fall League: August- November. 8-10 games
 - Tournaments: 2-3 total
- Clinic ("Winter Blast"): January through February (Sat/Sun)
- State Cup (optional): late Fall-Spring
- Spring Clinics and/or Spring Leagues/Futsal/5v5s/Indoor(March through April)

Most teams try to do 2-3 tournaments a year. Some are local (e.g., Sebastopol), and some require overnight stays ("away tournaments"). Tournaments are opportunities for fun, deep

bonding experiences, including overnight stays away from home at hotels.

Where are Practices?

Rincon and Bennett Valley areas (Skyhawk, Rincon Valley Park, Galvin Park, etc.) and A Place to Play Park

Where Do Teams Travel to Play?

League Games: Sonoma, Marin, Napa counties

Tournaments: Santa Rosa, San Jose,

Sacramento, Manteca, Napa, San Ramon

State Cup: Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Manteca

What is Minimum Playing Time?

For league play, each player is guaranteed to play at least a third of the season across all games (meaning, may vary game to game). During tournament and championship play, a player time may vary depending on the coach's discretion.

How Do You Make a Team?

Tryouts are held once a year. Unless otherwise approved, all players must try out to be considered for a team. Tryouts typically are in May. If not selected for a Competitive team, kids may still join a Rec team and are not subject to late registration fees.

How Much Does it Cost?

Competitive Soccer is a bigger time and financial commitment than Rec Soccer, but with Empire these commitments are minimized. Costs break down into three categories:

Average Annual Cost (in ranges):

<u>Club Registration:</u>	\$335
<u>Uniform Kit:</u>	\$135
<u>Team Fee:</u>	\$250-\$350*
Total:	\$720-\$820

**This team fee reflects per player costs on a team playing Fall league with two tournaments with some social events. Actual teams fees depend on factors such as amount, location, and cost of the events that team elects during a year, and how many players there are on that team.*

NOTE: When there is travel out of the area for any event, there are extra expenses not covered by these fees: hotel room, gas, meals, etc.

Costs for Competitive soccer with Empire are far less than in other local programs. This is in part due to the fact that Empire is an all-volunteer organization at all levels, including our coaches (most of whom are, or are working on, licensed through US Soccer). Financial assistance may be available.

What do ESC fees cover?

ESC Registration

Registration fees are used for a variety of items: Insurance for the club, players, and coaches; Winter, Spring and Summer 3's Academies (ages 8 - 11); Field rentals and goals, nets, and field lines for practice and home games; and A head coach expense allocation for team-related expenses. (ESC registration fees do not pay for league play or tournaments—see below.)

Uniform

Uniform kits are ordered through our equipment supplier. Kits normally last at least 2 years. A kit comes with: practice jersey, home and away jerseys with players name and number on them, game shorts, game socks. (Players may choose to add and pay for more gear: Extra socks, a soccer bag or other apparel).

Team Fee

Team fees are set and used by each individual team for their soccer year. They can be used for expenses like: league and tournament registrations, home game referees, team social events, and other team related expenses. Different teams may want different experiences for their teams. For this reason team fees vary from team to team.

How Can Parents Help?

Parents are always welcome to become coaches and assistant coaches. Beyond coaching, ways parents can help include:

- Manage a team
- Team Treasurer
- Equipment manager
- Social Chair/Hotel Coordinator/Photographer

Contact info:

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More Information:

<https://www.empiresoccerclub.net/>

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