



COLORADO FUSION SOCCER CLUB

PASSION... COMMITMENT... EXCELLENCE

Fall 2011/Spring 2012 Intermediate Program

Concept

We want to provide our intermediate U11 players the best environment for developing their skills and passion for soccer by offering an 8v8 league. Our teams will consist of 10-12 players, training either by themselves or with another team as a training group of 20-24 players with two coaches. For games, each team will be scheduled separately for home and away games.

Small-sided soccer has been adopted by 49 out of 55 state soccer associations in our country. It is an integral part of the recently published [USYSA Youth Soccer Curriculum](#) authored by former U.S. Men's National Team Captain and current U.S. Soccer Youth Technical Director Claudio Reyna.

Practically speaking: When you watch 10 year olds play 11v11 on an adult size field, it quickly becomes apparent that no player can hit a corner kick to the far post; no goalkeeper can reach the crossbar and no kids can run up and down a 120 yard long field for 60 minutes as the game demands. The games are often decided by "boot and shoot" tactics where a kid with a big foot boots the ball down field to a kid who can outrun everyone and roofs the goalie with his shot. Last year's two Fusion Challenge boys' teams finished with combined record of 10 wins, 19 losses and 7 ties; the girls' teams finished with 4 wins, 29 losses and 3 ties. And while we are not result-driven, we do understand that players need to experience winning. Our style of play and approach to the game would produce better results on a smaller field.

Why not move all the U11s to 8v8? We are pushing the state youth soccer association to follow the lead of almost every other state and to move to a small-sided format for all teams through U13. It will take some time to move to this format. In the meantime, we have some players who should compete at the Premier and Classic levels. If we do not place those U11 teams into those leagues for next fall, they would have to start at the Challenge level once they enter the CYS competitive league. That's why we have to put up with 11v11 for those teams, for the time being. This should be different by next year when CYS plans to implement small sided games at the U11 level.

Why now?

Colorado Youth Soccer plans to implement small sided soccer for U11s by next year. We feel that we should share those benefits with at least some of our players now. There are several interested clubs who want to make this happen now **and I have received approval from CYS** so we can advertise this playing format with all the clubs and include it in the SW Quad Inter-League and other local youth soccer leagues.

Who will run the program?

I will manage and oversee the program. Nick Kirchhof, a new assistant coach with the DU Men's team, will be the staff coach responsible for the day-to-day operation of the program and will be involved with practices, games and staff training. He holds a NSCAA National License and has six years of club coaching experience. Here's the proposed staff for the intermediate program:

U11 Boys Metros (one team): Chris Bartley

U11 Boys Dynamos (one team): Nick Kirchhof

U11 Girls Metros (two teams): Nando Ramirez and Kevin Frusti

What does it mean to you? Your child will be training as a member of a large team guided by two coaches and with support from the Fusion and Rapids staff, each team will compete in 8v8 games on Saturdays where we'll maximize playing time for everyone by keeping the game rosters to 11 or less and where the players will benefit from more touches on the ball, more chances to score and more involvement with their teammates (**see SSG Study posted on our website**). At U12 these players will be much better prepared to take on 11v11 soccer. Keep in mind that most U12s around the country continue to play 8v8.

By not registering these teams as competitive with CYS we can save fees and pass those savings on to you. The yearly registration fees drop from \$780 to **\$525 per player**. The uniform package will be significantly lower than the usual \$300 and will include items that you can wear when moving into 11v11 competitive teams next year (projected cost is \$120).

Do we have a choice? If enough families opt to play 11v11 competitive, we'll form another traditional Challenge level team with the regular fees and uniform package as advertised. Those of you preferring to play 8v8 will be able to follow that path. We believe that this program is worth the extra effort and work it will take from our staff because it provides a new, developmentally appropriate program that will be beneficial to your children.

Feel free to contact me about joining this program. Thank you for your patience and involvement in this process.

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