



COLORADO FUSION SOCCER CLUB

YOUTH SOCCER FOR DENVER & AURORA

WWW.COLORADOFUSION.ORG : 303.399.5858

U8 to U9 Transition

Hello Parents and Coaches,

We are looking forward to having your child advance to U9 soccer next fall and continue playing in our Academy Program. Our goal is to provide a great option for your child to continue to play soccer at a level that is most appropriate to ensure that they continue to have fun, that he or she develops as a player and that they can continue to enjoy all the benefits of the world's greatest game.

We hope that the following information will provide you with answers that will help you make the best decision for your child.

Why stay with the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club?

- **The Fusion Philosophy**

The Colorado Fusion age appropriate curriculum focuses on technical training that will enable our players to compete in different soccer environments, whether it is at the club or school level, select team soccer or a pick-up game in the park.

We train our coaches to create an atmosphere where winning is important but player development is paramount. Games are used to continue the player education process, rather than being the sole barometer of success. Coaches are expected to develop a passion for soccer in every player, measure their performance and provide regular feedback on their progress toward age specific exit goals. Our training will prepare our players to perform at their highest levels, develop a strong work ethic, learn to function as part of a team and develop a positive self-image that goes beyond winning and losing. We aim to prepare our players for lasting success on and off the field.

- **Community Club**

Our teams are community based and home grown, and they reflect the full diversity of our community. We believe strongly in making soccer accessible to everyone who is interested in playing. Our programs are affordable and our grant program provides need-based financial support for those players who lack the financial means to play soccer at both the competitive and developmental levels.

- **Loyalty and Consistency**

Our coaches are carefully selected and embrace our club philosophy. Many have been coaching with Fusion for many years and enjoy developing our players as athletes and individuals.

U9 Colorado Fusion Program:

Team Formation

Teams will remain intact from the U8 season, and roster size should be around 10-12 players. Players may be added (by either the coach or the club) depending on need, and players will be placed according to location. U9 teams will be playing in the 6v6 format, consisting of five field players and one goalkeeper.

Time Commitment

Teams will have 7-8 games per season (Fall/Spring), and they will train two times a week for 60-75 minutes.

Financial Commitment

\$205.00 for the year (Fall/Spring)

\$155.00 for a single season

\$60.00 for the club mandatory uniform

\$50.00 additional fee for the year for Cross Quadrant

Coach Training Provided

Coaches need to attend pre-season meetings to pick up team packets, and the club will also provide coaching clinics for Academy coaches.

Competition Level

For this age group there are 2 levels:

- *Fusion In-House leagues* - this is where you were playing last season, and is the most appropriate league developmentally for 99% of our teams. Teams will be divided into strength based leagues (A Flight and B Flight) and play games in Denver and Aurora.
- *Cross Quadrant* - this is a front-range league where you will play the best teams from the front-range area. This league is very demanding and also requires a fair amount of travel. Cross-Quad teams are required to participate in the Fusion Premier Training program.

Fusion Premier Training

FPT Individual: At this age the U9 players have the option to sign up for the Fusion Premier Training program. This is for players who are looking for additional skills training and preparation for competitive soccer. Fusion staff coaches run the sessions, which take place on Friday evenings at Lowry. The program consists of 16 sessions per year, 8 per season, and the cost is \$150 per player for the full year or \$110 per season.

FPT Team: Fusion Premier Training Team requires the whole team to sign up. A Fusion staff coach will be assigned to the team and conduct 16 sessions per year, 8 per season in accordance with the team's schedule. The cost is \$1,200 per team per year or \$700 per season. These spaces are very limited, and are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the main difference between U8 and U9 soccer?

The roster size grows, and the game goes from 4v4 with no goalkeepers to 6v6 with a goalkeeper. Players also use throw-ins, rather than kick-ins, to inbound a ball. The field size goes to 50 x 35 yards.

How are players assigned to U9 teams?

Teams remain intact from U8, and if needed, players will be added to form 10-12 player rosters. Players are generally assigned to neighborhood teams to allow players to play with their friends and share rides to practices and games. Returning players are re-assigned to their previous team unless the player requests a team change, or their registration form is *not received by the posted deadline*. Requests to play on a specific team will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with club guidelines. All player movements require program director's approval. Team coaches may not add, transfer or remove players without club approval.

What additional training opportunities are available for U9 players?

The Fusion Premier Training program consists of a combination of technical and tactical topics with emphasis on technical development of the players. The curriculum will cover important topics such as dribbling, finishing, passing, receiving, shielding, 1v1s, heading, combination play and individual and small group defending.

The F.I.T. Program offers customized training sessions for individual players and small groups (up to four). Additionally, our summer and winter camps offer a variety of technical and tactical skills training. Please check our website for details.

Are there any guidelines for playing time?

All players should at least play half a game as long as they are participating in all training sessions. Coaches may adjust playing time due to behavior issues.

Are club uniforms required?

Yes, Fusion club uniforms are required for U9 and older teams. They will be available for \$60 at Soccer Stop in Aurora, I-225 and Parker

We look forward to working with you to continue your child's soccer education. Please feel free to contact Terrance Gunnells, our Director of Academy programs for our U9-U10 players, if you have additional questions: terrance.gunnells@coloradofusion.org.