



Desert Foothills Soccer Club

Information Sheet 2011-2012 Season

About the Desert Foothills Soccer Club

The Desert Foothills Soccer Club (DFSC) is one of the largest clubs in Arizona with over 1,200 players participating in recreational, developmental and competitive soccer. We are planning for over 75 teams in our in-house program, as well as, over 32 developmental and competitive teams in our Desert Elite Program for the 2011-2012 season. Our Desert Elite program begins with our youngest soccer enthusiasts at U7 and supports expanding interests through our U18 teams. Players in the DFSC Desert Elite Program come through the ranks of our recreational program which begins with our U4 Soccer Tots Academy, and from around the North Valley seeking the coaching, training and values the program has become known for in recent years.

Soccer activities are available throughout the year, including Spring Clinics (Advanced and Basic), Summer Residential Camp, pre-season School of Excellence, league play, Winter Developmental Program (in-house players) and our Winter Jr Elite Program which is a transition opportunity introducing young players to our staff and the excitement of skills training.

Desert Foothills Soccer Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing the best soccer instruction and character building experience for competitive and recreational youth soccer players ages 3-18.

Pro Coaching Staff

All players in the Desert Elite Program are trained by our professional coaching staff that includes nationally licensed coaches, former players, and selected professionals committed to developing our players. Currently, the DFSC Pro Staff consists of 14 coaches, including 8 full-time professionals. Our staff is organized under our Director of Coaching, with separate roles for Director of Operations/Player Development, Goalkeeper coaching, Athletic Performance training and Director of our College Prep Academy. We believe this diversity within our coaching staff provides DFSC players with the best chance to develop a more adaptable style of soccer and prepares them for playing at any level in the future.

Field Location

Our competitive players train and play at a variety of locations around the North Valley area including: Horseshoe Trails ES, Lone Mountain ES, Cashman Park, Reach 11, Paradise Valley Park and Desert Broom Park. Home game fields for teams in the Elite Program include Cactus Shadows HS, Horseshoe Trails ES, Desert Broom Park and Black Mountain ES. Additional locations are used for our in-house program, including Desert Willow/John Teets/Dynamite Parks.

Our Mission Statement

Our mission at Desert Foothills Soccer Club is to promote and develop excellence in youth soccer based on skill, sportsmanship, values, and player character. Our program provides an environment for natural player development and prepares them for life experiences, both on and off the field.

We focus on a uniform soccer philosophy throughout the club that emphasizes growth through positive reinforcement resulting in players achieving his/her fullest potential. We do not look for the next victory to measure our success, but in the total learning experience for each player, realizing that the team is much stronger than an individual.

DFSC Supports Three Levels of Soccer

Level 1 - Recreational: This is our in-house/inter-league program where teams are formed through open registration. There are no tryouts or skill sessions and there is typically one practice per week. These teams rely on parent volunteer coaches, and every effort is made to assure that equal playing time is achieved. Professional training is available on a limited basis. Under this program, DFSC hosted one of the largest in-house leagues in the Arizona, including participation from other local soccer organizations.



Level 2 – Developmental: This program is for players willing to make a more significant commitment than our Recreational level of play. Teams are usually formed through organized skill sessions where players of similar talent are identified and combined to form stronger units of play. These teams generally train twice a week with a professional trainer/coach and play in a competitive environment. In some cases, a parent coach is approved based on their experience and background. Season typically runs through February.

Level 3 – Competitive: This program is for top flight, competitive players where a serious commitment is required. Teams train a minimum of 3 times each week with a professional trainer/coach and play at the highest competitive level within the valley. They attend tournaments both in-state and out of state. Season typically runs through April or May.

Tryouts

The DFSC tryout process consists of 3 tryouts, during late spring. Two or three evaluators are assigned to each age group during the tryout session. Players are evaluated on soccer skills, athleticism, attitude, and teamwork in an objective manner. Tryout results and team selections are posted on the DFSC website at www.desertelitesoccer.com. All players must go through the process each season.

Our Season

Recreational – The season begins in September and ends in mid-December.

Developmental and Competitive - The season begins in August and will typically run through the end of February for our younger teams in the Desert Elite Program, and through April/May for those teams participating in post-season State Tournaments.

Training (Developmental and Competitive Only)

Training sessions are conducted by our professional staff and are typically one and a half hours in length per session, except for our U7/8 teams which train for 1 hour. Our Developmental teams under the age of ten typically train twice a week, while our competitive teams train a minimum of three times per week. DFSC's training and coaching curriculum includes the Coerver® coaching method (world's #1 Teaching Method,). We believe that team systems and tactics are important but they cannot fully compensate for poor control, inaccurate passing or other technical weaknesses. Ultimately, team organization is only as effective as the individual player. The philosophy is that the game consists of sequences of play between 2, 3 and sometimes 4 players in various parts of the field, and that team success is determined by player performances in these exchanges.

College Portal

To help our players extend their playing experience once they have graduated from club soccer, we have established the Desert Elite College Prep Academy (DECPA). The DECPA is designed for high school athletes in the U15-U18 age groups that are interested in playing soccer at the collegiate level. The program is devoted to preparing players both on and off the field so that they have the ability to demonstrate their skills to prospective coaches, and prepare themselves for playing at the college level.

Fees

DFAC fees vary, and are a function of several factors including level of play, experience of the coach, length of the team season, and team commitments. The DFSC Registration Fee consists of both a base club registration fee (early registration is \$105-\$125) and a registration for the Desert Elite Program (u7 thru u9 - \$85; u10+ - \$135), which totals between \$190-\$260. Team fees for training/coaching/tournaments for a typical U7-U10 team and most developmental teams fall into a range of \$60-\$100/mo (typically 6 months), where training/coaching cost for an older U11+ team \$70-\$105/mo (typically 7 to 9 months). Additional misc. fees may include uniforms, tournaments and team events. Each team is slightly different depending on team expectations.

Uniforms

Each player is required to purchase 2 Adidas game jerseys, (one red, one white), one pair of black Adidas shorts and 2 pairs of white Adidas socks. DFSC has a uniform agreement in place with Eurosport for team direct ordering, as well as, Adidas. Players are also required to purchase red training t-shirts for practices and other events.

In summary, the Desert Elite Soccer Program strives to:

- *Foster development through soccer, and help provide life skills essential for personal growth*
- *Afford players the opportunity to maximize their potential*
- *Recognize that not all players' life priorities will be soccer and only soccer*
- *Create a program based upon "possession" soccer, and "complete ball-mastery"*
- *Provide an atmosphere where kids can enjoy playing soccer!*

Parents, players and coaches should feel confident that key areas of development "technical, tactical, academic, personal and social" are the primary concern in each and every decision the club makes.