



FC Lake County Tryouts / Frequently Asked Questions

- **Pre Tryout Evaluations**

Does a new player need their clubs permission to attend an FCLC Pre Tryout Evaluation?

No. The tryout is for the NEXT season and NOT the season currently in place.

Players only request a “release to train” should they wish to try out for the current season, be within the league transfer deadline dates and be competing in the designated league the club is participating in.

What is the concept of a pre tryout evaluation?

Should a player be searching for alternate options for the next season and be considered for a specific level of team at FCLC, this is an ideal opportunity to be evaluated by the current team coach at one of our designated ability levels. A player (and family) can also get an understanding of how our coaches deliver a training session using our club curriculum, philosophy and game model, while comparing ability levels within a smaller setting.

If I attend a pre tryout evaluation, do I still need to attend the open tryouts?

YES. At the open tryout week, all new and existing players across the entire age group tryout together. This gives each coach working within the age group an opportunity to compare and contrast each player to effectively assess the level of play and project team placements prior to making any final decisions.

Who is eligible to attend a pre tryout session?

For the **2025-26** season tryout, players born **2016 and older** and who have current travel level experience.

Boys: YSSL, NISL/NPL, MWC, ECNL, E64

Girls: IWSL, NISL/NPL, MWC, ECNL, E64.

- **Open Tryout Week**

Do we have to pay to try out?

NO. All our tryouts are FREE to attend, but do require online registration prior to attending.

If I am an existing player and currently playing for FCLC, do I still need to try out?

YES. All players wishing to be considered for a space on our **2025-26** teams must pre register and attend tryouts. *These tryout sessions also “replace” our regular team training sessions for the week, so all players still need to prepare for their remaining season league and tournament games.*

What can I expect at these tryout sessions?

Players will run through a series of activities designed to assess a player's technical and physical abilities, along with their general game understanding and ability to receive instructions and guidance. Players will be asked to move around groups so our coaching staff can evaluate players with and against each other across the whole age group.

U8 (2018) & U9 (2017) Tryouts

With the majority of children coming into these age groups being new travel soccer, our main aim is to make each child comfortable in a new environment. Our activities will use a simple play based format, allowing children to interact with the ball as much as possible. Our coaches will assist players with limited coaching to continue to teach them correct technique within the session. (At the U8 level and assuming we have multiple teams, we may aim to create balanced teams for the fall and first half of the winter season, and then create ability specific teams for the second half of the winter and into the spring season)

How do the two tryout field sessions differ?

Within the first session, players will be assessed as individuals, with our coaching staff utilizing small and medium sized fast paced activities. The second session involves larger format game based activities with players assigned into groups based on known current ability levels (existing players) and projected ability levels based on our understanding from session one. In session two, players will be evaluated based on how their skill set and understanding may fit into specific positions/areas of the field and where our various teams may be looking for players to fit into our designated player profiles and game model.

Goalkeepers should bring gloves to BOTH tryout sessions and will be asked to play in goal toward the second half of tryout one and for the whole of tryout two. (Players at the younger age groups who may also want to play on the field and not a Full Time Goalkeeper are able to play both on the field and in goal as much as possible).

Please note: Any **FULL TIME GOALKEEPERS** "assigned" to a team aged U11 (2015) or above season will receive a 40% discounted rate. **Please note: This cannot be combined with any financial aid packages.**

Should my child attend both tryout dates?

YES. With large numbers of players trying out, it is important that our coaches have the ability to evaluate players on multiple occasions so we can attempt to gather the most information possible and a comparison between existing and new players. Often new players to FCLC may be nervous trying out for the first time and in an environment where they may not know many other children, so we want to make them as comfortable as possible while they are on the field. After all, we do recognize that children are playing soccer primarily for enjoyment and hope to develop their enthusiasm and passion for the game as they get older!

When will team placements be announced?

Communication on team assignments for **2025-26** shall be sent by our Boys and Girls Directors **72 hours** after the **FINAL** tryout session.

Please note: New players may be asked to attend an additional session with one of our teams the following week, should we need to see a player in a smaller environment, before making final decisions.

- **2025 - 26 Season Team Packages**

How do I know which team package my child will receive in the new season?

Within the official invitation to join the club (and team) for the 2025-26 season, the email will contain the specific package classification (and team).

Starting in 2025-26 will have THREE primary packages: Select, Elite & Elite Plus. The Select level packages are standard across the club starting at U8, while the Elite & Elite Plus packages start at U11 and differ based on the exact level of play.

For example an “Elite Plus” level team will compete in a regional league USYS “Midwest Conference” (MWC) as well as in the NPL league in Schaumburg (One season) and participate in the state competition. An “Elite” team is classified as a higher level YSSL/IWSL team with additional tournaments in their programming.

You can find a general overview of the Select and Elite packages on our website under “**Programs**”, or in our 2024-25 Parents Handbook located in the “Resource Center>Documents” section.

An overview of the team package (along with cost) will be provided to you when you receive the official offer to join.

How large will the team rosters be?

- **11 v 11 Teams (2013–2007/08):** Maximum of 18 players
- **9 v 9 Teams (2015–2014):** Maximum of 16 players
- **7 v 7 Teams (2018 to 2016):** Maximum of 11 players
- U8 (2018) boys teams will compete in 5v5 league play during the fall season, so roster sizes will be 7-8 per team.

When does my child start with their new team?

All year round (and High school girls) will officially start with their newly assigned team in August 2025. (High school girls will end mid February and all year round players compete from August to June). High School Boys teams will start in Nov/Dec after the completion of their High School season and play winter and spring.

When and where are practices?

Team Practices will take place on weekday evenings traditionally (**Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday**) in **Gurnee and/or Grayslake**. Select level teams train twice a week with an optional extra skills clinic on Friday’s.

Elite level teams will train three days a week (Friday’s for Elite pool sessions). Elite Plus teams playing NPL (mid week league in Schaumburg) will only train twice per week so we can protect players from burnout and better assist with a child’s physical and mental recovery in between training sessions and games.

Practice times are traditionally 5:00 to 6:30 pm or 6:30 to 8:00 pm Monday to Thursday and 5:15 to 6:30 / 6:30 to 7:45 pm on Friday’s. (All Friday Elite / High School sessions are held at Alleghany Park, Grayslake).

U8 teams have 75 min sessions due to their age level and typically run 5:00 to 6:15pm / 5:15 to 6:30pm.

Training session schedules are announced in July. (Tournament assignments will be announced with the training schedule)

Do we offer Goalkeeper training?

YES. All Goalkeeping sessions are FREE to attend in both outdoor seasons (Fall and Spring) and are offered as an optional extra in the winter season (turf session).

When will we see a game schedule?

Game schedules are not released until after each league creates its seeding and sends a draft schedule. (This usually happens one month prior to the start of the season). Parents are asked for any black out dates prior to coaches and team administrators finalizing the game schedule and we try to work around as many conflicts as possible. Players should expect games to be played Saturday or Sunday for all age groups)

How far does a team travel?

Most teams will play an EIGHT game league schedule per outdoor season (Four x Home & Four x Away). Away games will be dependent on the age and level of play. All Elite & Select level teams play in leagues based on geography and competition. Winter games will take place at one central location each week and at one of the following locations: Round Lake Sports center (U8 to U12 Select), Canlan/Lake Barrington (Select 1, Elite & Elite Plus), Canlan/Libertyville (extra league option)

Uniforms?

New players joining for the 2025-26 season will be required to purchase the Mandatory SELECT or Mandatory ELITE/ELITE PLUS & HS Package which includes:

- 2 x jerseys
- 1 x pairs of game day socks
- 1 x pair of "white" game day socks (Elite Plus)
- 1 x pair of shorts
- 1 x training Pinnie
- 1 x training shirt
- 1 x training jacket (Elite, Elite Plus and all HS age teams)

Coaching Staff

Comprehensive profiles for all our 2024-25 season staff can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://fclakecounty.com/coaches/>

We proudly boast SEVEN US Soccer "C or higher" licensed coaches, three established full time Directors and 21 staff coaches working within our Academy program as well as with our teams.

Coaching assignments are determined by our **Technical Director, Boys & Girls Directors** and will be announced to teams within **30 days** prior to the season starting. Please note that assignments are subject to change after the initial announcement.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact one of the following:

- **ACADEMY & GIRLS DIRECTOR: Matt Bohman**
 - Cell: 847-460-8662 / Email: mbohmann@fclakecounty.com
- **BOYS DIRECTOR: Steve Mason**
 - Cell: 847-970-8935 / Email: smason@fclakecounty.com
- **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Jamie Martin**
 - Cell: 847-840-8429 / Email: jmartin@fclakecounty.com