

Ancient City Soccer Club FAQs for 2021-2022 Competitive Team

Selection & Evaluation Process (Tryouts)



1. Why Ancient City Soccer Club?

While Ancient City Soccer Club (ACSC) is small compared to many of the clubs in Northeast Florida, we try to do things differently. Our commitment to ‘service, character, and community’ through the game of soccer is the foundation of how we operate. In the past year, we have helped organize and support a league we believe will give our top competitive teams a pathway to play high level teams statewide, regionally, and beyond. We focus on developing the player, not just winning a game. Most importantly, our culture is different. We want this to be a place where families, players, and coaches can all see the priority of our shared values.

2. Why do we have tryouts?

Tryouts are the official formal process of forming teams for the upcoming seasonal year. It helps us finalize and determine the placement that benefits the players development. This process will also help us determine the number of teams and coaches we will anticipate for next season. Players are selected for teams based on their performance and soccer development during tryouts and previous seasons played. Also, additional evaluations made by coaches throughout a player’s soccer career are considered.

3. Who is eligible to tryout?

Any player from within Ancient City Soccer Club (ACSC) - Academy and Recreational programs - along with any player from outside the club, is welcome to attend tryouts. All players are encouraged to attend all tryout sessions and there is no cost for coming to the tryout.

4. What age do tryouts begin and what age group is my player in?

We start forming competitive teams for players born in the year 2011, who are categorized as U11 (U11= under age 11 for that group), and continue up until our oldest players, born in 2003, who are categorized as U19 (19 and under) age group. Also note that the format “U followed by age” means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger. Please see the chart below to determine your player’s appropriate age group:

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							

5. When do tryouts occur?

Tryout will take place May 1st in World Golf Village (Palencia Park) and May 2nd in St. Augustine (Gamble Rogers Middle School).

All players should always arrive at least 20 minutes before the scheduled start time of the session and plan to check in each day at the registration table. We will post a tryout schedule on our website once a final schedule has been set. If you move to the area after tryouts have taken place, please contact our club administrator for information on how to be evaluated: info@staugustinearmada.com

6. My son or daughter wants to play up an age group. Is this possible?

Starting in the calendar year of 2020, any player wishing to play up an age group must seek permission from our Competitive Director as they will be placed in our ACS Player Identification Program (PIP). The current head coach will be asked for input and the Competitive Director will conduct a period of observation and analysis during training sessions and games. All players playing up are evaluated individually as each situation is unique and therefore evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The family will be provided written feedback along with the opportunity to sit with the Competitive Director in person to discuss the final outcome. Any player deemed fit to play up an age group by the Competitive Director and current coach is someone considered, in the staff's professional opinion, to become a *significantly impactful player* on the team they wish to move to. The guideline on this topic moving forward is that if your child played an age group up one year, it does not automatically mean he/she will play an age group up the next season. **If you are considering this - or if your child played up an age group last season - you must submit a PIP request prior to tryouts.** Please send an email with the players name and birth year along with "PIP Request" in the subject line to: acscompetitivedirector@gmail.com and our Competitive Director will start the process and evaluation. Please include any relevant information on the player you think is needed.

7. What happens if I am out of town or unable to attend tryouts?

All players who are unable to attend should adhere to the following protocol:

- Pre-Register for tryouts on our website
- Email the Competitive Administrator at info@staugustinearmada.com with your child's date of birth, current team, and/or playing level

Missing tryouts is not ideal, but our staff does try our best to accommodate those players who miss tryouts.

8. What should I bring and wear to tryouts?

All players need to bring a soccer ball, cleats, shin guards and water to each tryout session. All players will be given a tryout number at registration. The player must wear the tryout number to all tryout sessions, and therefore should be kept between multiple sessions (if needed). Players should wear a white top (no jerseys please), dark shorts, and dark socks.

9. Who is evaluating the tryouts?

Our Competitive Director will oversee the entire tryout process along with 1-2 additional Directors or coaches. Our Competitive Director will facilitate the evaluation of the age group to ensure players are properly placed. Our Competitive Director will approve the final team selection process for each team.

10. What occurs at each tryout?

We ask that all players wanting to tryout to pre-register on our website - www.ancientcitysoccer.com. Players/parents will check in their son/daughter at the tryouts, and each player will receive a number to wear during the tryout session. Players are then sent with their age group to an assigned field. From there, players are randomly grouped together to begin the tryout session. (Note: players may be grouped together for strategic reasons by coaches to evaluate specific aspects of players' ability.) Our vision with the tryout process is to allow our players, after a brief warm-up activity, the chance to play in a game-like environment as much as possible. This allows the competitive staff to evaluate the player in the best environment to properly place them with the appropriate team.

During the tryout process, parents are asked to remain on the bleachers, near the picnic tables, or in a designated area marked off for spectators. Parents are not to talk to or distract their son or daughter during the evaluation.

11. When are selections made for each team?

The Competitive Director will have a brief meeting with all parents at the conclusion of tryouts to answer any questions. Official team invitations will be sent by email within 24-48 hours. Players will have 48 hours to accept their offer. If a player has not made one of our competitive teams, he/she will be notified by email within 24-48 hours as well.

12. Is there a parent's meeting after tryouts for new teams/players?

Accepted players will be sent a player packet by email that details important dates, contacts, and information for their particular team. Prior to the start of the competitive season, all players will have a meeting with their individual coach and team manager to discuss expectations and details for the season. Our Competitive Director will also be on hand to answer any questions regarding the upcoming season.

13. What does it cost to play?

Ancient City Soccer competitive registration fees for 2021-2022 are as follows:

U11-U12 (9v9) teams: \$1,100 registration + \$250 tournament fees = **\$1,350/year***

U13+ (11v11) teams: \$1,345 registration + \$250 tournament fees = **\$1,595/year***

***This is an all-inclusive cost this year that includes everything but the uniform kit. There will be no additional fees collected throughout the year. A soccer "year" is August 1st-May 31st.**

14. What is our tournament policy?

Tournament participation is mandatory. The club will attend two tournaments per season (two for fall & two for spring). Prior to the fall and spring, the tournaments for that season will be announced. Our goal is to make sure families know the dates well in advance. We try to have all our competitive teams attend the same tournament, but there are certain situations where that may not be the case (ie: older teams attending college showcases while younger teams attend a different tournament). We participate in one local and one regional tournament in the fall and again in the spring for a total of four tournaments. Total fee for the tournaments is \$250/player. **This fee is included in the registration cost for the year.**

15. What does the tournament fee cover?

The \$250 tournament fee covers the registration for each tournament as well as the coaches' travel expenses (gas, lodging, food). Hotel stays for the player (if applicable) are not included.

16. Is the uniform kit included in the price of registration?

Competitive uniform kit costs are *not* included in the registration price. A complete uniform kit is between \$225-240 and is ordered directly from WeGotSoccer. Uniforms are on a two-year cycle and will therefore be changed/updated every two years. We are entering our first year (2021) with all new Adidas kits. Returning players will get the option to keep their current player number. Incoming players will be assigned a number.

17. Does Ancient City Soccer Club offer financial aid?

ACSC is pleased to offer a Financial Aid (Scholarship) Program for soccer athletes who are in need of financial assistance in order to play soccer. With the help of sponsors and fundraisers we believe all children should have the opportunity to play if they are in need. To apply for Financial Aid, please email Justin Carlson at: jccarl2713@gmail.com

18. What fees does ACSC scholarship/financial aid program cover?

Financial aid will cover field usage and registration fees (total cost minus the tournament fee). Financial aid DOES NOT COVER uniforms, tournament fees, travel expenses, camps, clinics, any extra training, etc.

19. Do you have a process to help U15-U19 players play at a higher level (college and beyond)?

Yes! We have introduced the new Ancient City Soccer Player Development Pathway in which players choose their level of aspiration and we match that with a specific Individual Development Plan (IDP). This means we plan a road map for players who want to achieve their potential and get recruited in college and play professionally or internationally beyond that. We will be holding optional parent meetings for you to come and find out more. Additionally, we partner with [The Pro Player](#) to film all of our 11v11 home games through VEO technology. Players and parents will have access to the game film within 24 hours of the game being played.

20. Do you have competitive teams in World Golf Village? If so, where do they train and play?

Yes! We have competitive teams in World Golf Village. They train twice a week on the fields next to the Murabella Amenities Center. Their home games are at Gamble Rogers Middle School in St. Augustine, while their away games are at various fields throughout St. Johns, Duval, and Clay County. Over the next few years, our goal is to grow the number of competitive teams offered in the WGV area and be able to play home games within that area.

21. Who should I contact if I have additional questions about tryouts, the teams, uniforms, or anything else regarding our competitive program?

Please contact our Competitive Admin at: info@staugustinearmada.com