

YOUTH SOCCER TRYOUT E-GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Presented by:
ALABAMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

As we approach tryout season, parents and players will soon be forced to make decisions about which club to play for in the upcoming season. While this decision may be easy for a select few, many people stress over the various questions they must ask and answer before making a decision. Even more, a number of people do not know where to start. This article aims to provide a guide to some of the questions you can ask when making a decision about a club. We can categorize areas to consider into the impacts on your family, impacts on your child's character, and how your child will develop as a soccer player.

Let's start with the family side. Asking questions aside from "can we afford this?" will set you up for a positive experience during the season, avoiding potential conflicts by asking the right questions beforehand..

- Can we afford the club fees, team fees, uniform fees, and the travel associated with this team?
- Does the team's schedule align well with the other activities our family is already committed to?
- Is my child's motivation aligned with the commitment level required to participate with this team?

Getting the right answers to questions like these helps you maintain a healthy family life!

On the character front, you will want to know if the club and the coaches working with your child's team have the character you want to see in your child. While you cannot predict if these individuals will behave the way you want in the future, the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. Therefore, try to find out the following:

- Does the club have a clear mission statement that the directors know and can tell you? Can you see clear proof that this is lived out on a daily basis?
- Does the club have a clear list of core values and principles that you see exhibited on the fields?



- Are the club's coaches all SafeSport certified and up to date with other Safesoccer certifications?
- What does the lawnchair grapevine have to say about this club and coach? While not everything you hear should be trusted, you can at least learn something you could ask about.

Learning who will be spending quality time with your child several times a week is vital to making sure your child develops into the person you have envisioned and want to encourage!

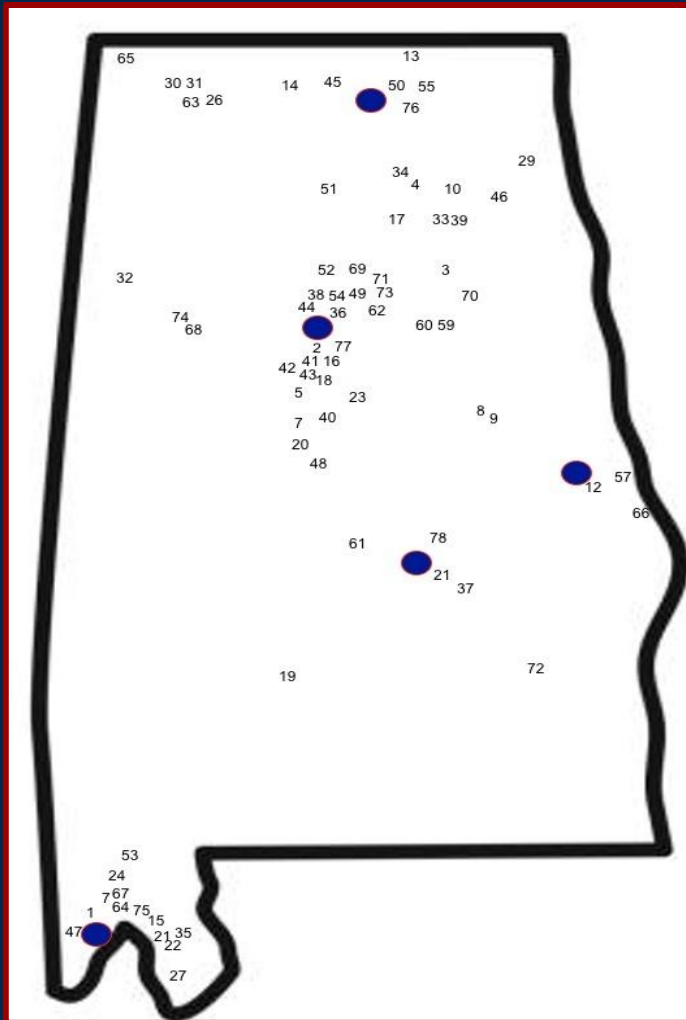
Finally we get to the sporting side. While the family and character side are of vital significance, the sporting side is, after all, why you are looking to join a club in the first place. Let's look at the key questions to ask:

- Does the club have a clear developmental pathway that they can show you and provide evidence of other players advancing through?
- Can the club detail what they expect your child to learn in the upcoming season?
- What level of licensing does the coach have? Can he or she show clear evidence of always looking to learn and improve?
- At what level of competition is the team playing? Does it align with my child's current performance level and where my child aspires to be?
- At what level of player will my child's teammates be? Is this level appropriate for where my child is in his or her development?
- What is the club's policy on:
 - Playing time - does it align with my child's level of motivation
 - Additional training opportunities
 - Guest playing with other teams
 - Financial assistance provided to help with club costs
 - How does the club handle family conflicts to ensure a balance between family and soccer?



A soccer club is like a soccer school and should be organized to help your child reach their full potential. Asking these questions and others like them will help you pick the best club for your family, your child, and his or her soccer development.

YOUTH SOCCER CLUBS IN ALABAMA



CLUB MAP - DIRECTORY

#	CLUB NAME	#	CLUB NAME
1	- AFC Mobile	40	- Helena Huskies Soccer Club*
2	- Alabama FC	41	- Homewood Soccer Club
3	- Alabama FC East	42	- Hoover Soccer Club
4	- Alabama Rush Soccer Club	43	- Hoover-Vestavia Soccer
5	- Alabaster Competitive SC*	44	- Hueytown Youth Soccer Club
6	- Alabaster Parks & Rec*	45	- Madison Blaze Soccer Club
7	- Alamo FC	46	- Marshall United FC
8	- Alex City YSL	47	- Mobile United Futbol Club
9	- Alexander City Club Soccer	48	- Montevallo Youth Soccer*
10	- Arab Uknighthed	49	- Moody Soccer Club
11	- Arsenal Christian Soccer Academy	50	- North Alabama SC
12	- Auburn Soccer Club	51	- North Central United FC
13	- AYSO Alliance	52	- North Jefferson Soccer Club
14	- AYSO United	53	- North Mobile County Soccer Club
15	- Baldwin Rush	54	- North Star Soccer Club
16	- Birmingham United SA	55	- NOW FC
17	- Blount County Youth Soccer	56	- Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church
18	- Briarwood SC	57	- Opelika Soccer Asso
19	- Butler United FC	58	- Pelham P&R Youth Soccer*
20	- Calera Parks & Recreation*	59	- Pell City FC
21	- Capital City Streaks/Alabama FC South	60	- Pell City Parks and Recreation
22	- Central Baldwin FC	61	- Prattville United SC
23	- Chelsea Soccer Association	62	- Revolution Soccer Club
24	- Citronelle Youth Soccer Academy	63	- River City United SC
25	- City of Calera Youth Soccer	64	- Saraland Soccer Academy
26	- Club Independent	65	- Shoals Soccer Club
27	- Coastal Kickers	66	- Smiths Station United Soccer Assoc.
28	- Daphne Rangers Academy	67	- Soccer4Life
29	- DC Inferno	68	- South Tuscaloosa Soccer Club
30	- Decatur City Futbol Club	69	- Springville Youth Soccer Asso
31	- Decatur Soccer	70	- Storm F.C.
32	- Demopolis River City	71	- Total Futbol Club - Alabama
33	- East Alabama Soccer Association	72	- Troy United FC
34	- EYSA/Alabama Rush	73	- Trussville United SC
35	- Fairhope Soccer Club	74	- Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club
36	- FC Birmingham	75	- Union 10 FC
37	- FC Montgomery	76	- United Soccer Club
38	- Gardendale SC	77	- Vestavia Hills Soccer Club
39	- Gasden Park and Recreation	78	- Wetumpka United SC

*Former Member

COMPETITION DIRECTORY



LEVEL OF PLAY	GRASSROOTS PATHWAYS			PERFORMANCE DRIVEN PATHWAYS		ELITE PERFORMANCE DRIVEN PATHWAY
PROGRAM TYPE	RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING	YOUTH ACADEMY PROGRAM	COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING	ADVANCED COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING	ELITE YOUTH PROGRAMMING	PRO-PLAYER PATHWAY
PROGRAMMING OFFERED	ASA Futures Leagues Adult Leagues TOPSoccer	ASA Youth Academy	ASA - Alabama State League	USYS: Midsouth Conf. US Club: ECNL-RL, NPL, SSCL	USYS National League US Club: ECNL-Boys	MLSNext GIRLS ACADEMY US Club: ECNL-Girls
AGE GROUPS	U5-U19, Adult	U8 - U12	U13 - U19	U13 - U19	U13 - U19	U12 - U19
COMMITMENT LEVEL REQUIRED	Low	Average	Average	Above Average	High	Very High
PRACTICES PER WEEK	1-2	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-4	4+
TYPICAL GAME FREQUENCY	1 per weekend	1-2 per weekend	1-2 per weekend	20 per season	30 per season	40 per season
TRAVEL REQUIRED	Local	Local	State	Regional	Regional to National	National
SEASON LENGTH	12-16 Week Season	12-16 Week Season	12-16 Week Season	12-16 Week Season	16-32 Week Season	32-48 Week Season