

Introduction of U-7 and U-8 CRUSA Developmental Travel Program

CRUSA is dedicated to teaching children how to play and love the sport of soccer. In our recreational program, every child at U7 and below plays small sided games to maximize touches and playing time. Players in these age groups are also exposed to club trainers on a regular basis who emphasize fundamental, age appropriate ball skills and the fun of the game. Starting at the youngest ages we promote creativity on the ball and a positive environment for increased confidence and love of the game.

At the soccer age of U7 children and their parents can chose to stay within the recreational program or join the CRUSA Developmental Travel program. Players joining the Developmental Travel Program in the ages of U7 and U8 will be split into equal teams. Evaluation clinics will be held to determine the number of children and the ability of the player with the purpose of dividing all players into equal teams. A club supplied trainer will conduct training regularly and oversee all facets of the age group / gender including coaching education and competition decisions. Just as in the younger ages, small sided play, fundamentals and creativity will be emphasized. The element of competitive league / tournament games and larger team play will be introduced. This program is designed to increase the number of children who will eventually play at a higher level by teaching them all the fundamentals of the game and giving them all the ability to succeed in the sport.

CRUSA Developmental Travel teams will still share the structure of older CRUSA Travel Teams. Developmental Travel teams will have parent coaches and team managers. The CRUSA parent coaches at these age groups will work with the club provided trainers to instill an in the children, an appreciation for the game and the other children in the program. The CRUSA Developmental Travel teams will still have a team budget to handle expenses which are outside those things handled by the club for all teams (League fees, tournament fees, indoor training time etc.) Developmental Travel teams will take part in travel league play and “friendlies” against other area clubs and “in house” scrimmages. The focus of this program is individual player development within the group and not winning.