

So you want to be a Competitive coach? Where do you start>?

- 1) Fill out an application at our website. Before doing so, recognize the commitment. It is suggested that teams formed play the fall season (as many as 15 games or more with Tournaments), indoor, and Spring as well. There are costs for parents involved as well which is discussed below. Most coaches practice 3 hours per week plus 1 or 2 games per week in the fall. You will also be required to attend Competitive Soccer Committee meetings (at most a handful per year) as well as the CJSANED Scheduling Meetings.
- 2) Once your application is accepted, please help raise awareness of our open tryouts. If you are thinking of starting a team, you likely know a handful of players. However, you should publicize the tryouts. This will give your team depth and allow more players the opportunity to represent their town in a competitive sport. Volunteers from VYSA will help by offering a neutral opinion on which players will best help your team.
- 3) Following tryouts, coaches will be selected and work with comp committee to finalize rosters. We will help walk you through this. VYSA and CJSANED require every adult and coach registered with a youth soccer comp team to fill out and submit to a background check. You will be required to obtain a Coaches pass before Start of Fall Practice and games.
- 4) The league will assist in securing a location for your practice and games. Youth soccer travel teams typically practice once or twice per week and also require a location for home games.
- 5) Get as much help as you can from qualified coaches or enthusiastic volunteers. Running an independent soccer travel team requires a lot of administrative work as well as the on-field coaching responsibilities. Extra sets of eyes and ears are always helpful when managing youth players. A team manager is great way for you to focus on the team skills and player development. The manager can help with e-mails, scheduling, money, etc.
- 6) Costs – VYSA covers the cost of player passes and ref fees for your fall home games, through the \$60 registration cost. You will also be furnished with a first aid kit, corner flags, and two game balls. We have some supplies to share, but many travel coaches buy additional supplies with funds from families or fundraising. Families are responsible for costs of uniforms, team gear like goalie gloves and shirts, and tournament fees. First year start up costs could be as little as \$80 per player to as high as \$200 depending on your intent. Subsequent years are less since the kids usually get two or three years at least out of a uniform. Most years hold at least one and up to two fundraisers per year. This helps offset tournament costs, spring game referee fees, indoor fees, and fun equipment for the kids (warm-up suits, ballbags, etc.)
- 7) It is essential as soon as the coach and league confer on your team roster to pull those families together. Make them aware of any team rules. Make them aware of costs and fundraising

opportunities. Poll their interest in number of sessions etc. They may also weigh in on what the team buys with the raised funds.

Starting a team or coaching an existing team is a big commitment. It is also very rewarding and when done right fun for the kids, parents and the coaches. This is just a brief synopsis. The Town is rich with past and current coaches ready to 'coach' you when you get started.