

# Frequently Asked Questions



ROCKFORD RAPTORS FC

This document provides answers to common club questions that we receive. Browse the sections below to find the information you need.

## General Questions

### **Q: What is club soccer?**

A: Club soccer is a competitive level of soccer that is unique from school and recreational soccer programs. Teams are formed through Tryouts, and these teams compete in local, state, and national leagues, as well as tournaments. Our club soccer teams have licensed coaches, along with a more structured training and player development program.

### **Q: What's the difference between club and recreational soccer?**

A: Recreation soccer is open to everyone and focuses on fun, learning, and participation. Club soccer requires a tryout, involves higher competition, more commitment, and focuses on player development and competitive play.

### **Q: How do I know if my child is ready for club soccer?**

A: Players who have a love for the game, who are looking to move to the next level are perfect candidates for the club program. If your player has the ability to handle competition and coaching, along with a readiness for more structure and commitment, we highly recommend trying out!

### **Q: How much does club soccer cost?**

A: Costs varies widely from each age, as well as what league their team participates in. The fee usually includes registration fees, league and home hosted tournament fees, year round training sessions, and general coaching fees.

\*\*Uniforms are not included in the program cost, and is an additional fee to be paid by you.

### **Q: Is club soccer year-round?**

A: Our Rockford Raptors Club Program is year round, starting in August, and running through June of the next year. Throughout these months, we will have a fall, winter, and spring season for training and games. We will have holiday breaks built in throughout the season.

\*\*Boys & Girls who attend high school will be on a 9 month season, and their leagues will be played in that time frame.

**Q: What age does club soccer start?**

A: Our competitive Raptors program starts at the age of 8U. If your player is younger, and looking to get more of a structure than the recreation program, we do have a Junior Raptors program, which is the bridge program between recreation and club. For more information on our Junior Raptors program, please reach out to Rhody Johnson: johnsonrhody@gmail.com

\*For the 2026-27 season (starts in August), the teams are based on player birth dates/grades.

**Q: What's expected of parents?**

A: As a club, we stress the importance of lifting players up. This starts from the parents end, with making sure they are communicating respectfully with coaches, providing support and transportation, meeting payment deadlines, and overall being a positive influence.

**Q: Is there financial aid?**

A: Yes, we do offer financial aid, under specific circumstances. We have a financial aid application that all families are welcome to complete, and then our Financial Director will review and determine if you qualify or not.

## Tryout Questions

**Q: Who can try out?**

A: Tryouts are open and available to all players interested in our club program (for the ages we offer).

**Q: How do tryouts work?**

A: Players will register through the tryout link provided. Once registered, they will attend the tryout session for their age group (2026-27 season is based on Player DOB). Players can attend all tryout sessions available for their birth year. Coaches evaluate skills such as ball control, passing, shooting, speed, and other important soccer skills. Every player will be evaluated by a licensed coach, and once tryouts conclude, our Director of Coaching will work on placing players on the correct team based on the coaches evaluations. This usually takes place about a week or so after the final tryout date, and you will be notified of a date to expect your child's results by.

\*It is not mandatory to attend all sessions for your child's birth year, just recommended to attend all if you are able to.

**Q: What should my child wear/bring to tryouts?**

A: Players should be bringing their soccer ball and water bottle to each tryout, along with wearing soccer cleats and shin guards. We will specify a certain color jersey to wear in a message sent out

the day before/day of that tryout.

**Q: What happens if my child doesn't make the team?**

A: If our coaches and Director of Coaching believe your child is not ready for the club level and isn't a good fit for the club program, you will receive a message.

**Q: How are teams formed?**

A: Teams are usually formed by birth year and skill level. Our club has multiple teams for each age group, including: ECNL, ECNL RL, Pre-ECNL, National League Premier 2, and State Teams. Players will be placed on the team best fit for them by our coaches and Director of Coaching.

**Q: Where can I find tryout dates?**

A: Visit our club website or social media pages.

## Contact Information

If you have a question that is not answered in this document, please contact us at [raptorsfcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:raptorsfcinfo@gmail.com) and include your child's name, DOB, and soccer experience.