Novi Parks Soccer Club (NPSC) Tryout Information

Thunder vs. Lightning:

- **Thunder** is the recreational program focused on development and fun. There are no tryouts for Thunder. Thunder teams generally practice **once per week**.
- **Lightning** is the select-level program that requires tryouts and offers a higher level of competition. Lightning teams typically practice **twice per week**.

All Coaches Are Volunteers!

- Coaches dedicate their time to developing players and fostering a positive soccer environment
- They are **not paid** for coaching these teams
- This means that **each team may be managed differently throughout the year**, and some teams may participate in more events (such as tournaments) than others
- Parents should **discuss with the coaches** what their intentions are for the upcoming year with the soccer team
- This will help families make the **best-informed decision** on whether the team is the right fit for their child

Open Assessment Trainings (OATs) & Secondary Tryouts:

- The week leading up to tryouts, some coaches may choose to hold OATs to give players an opportunity to practice and be observed in a low-pressure setting.
- Attending the OATs is highly recommended, but is not required and does not replace tryouts.
- Some coaches may also choose to hold secondary tryouts after the original tryout dates for further evaluation or to fill roster spots, but these are not required.
- Parents can contact coaches directly regarding the potential for secondary tryouts if their child will miss the primary tryout date.

Check-In Process:

- Players receive a **numbered bib** (must be worn on the back during tryout)
- Headshot photo taken
- Players directed to the appropriate field
- Early check-in is available during OAT days, as well as on the tryout date

Evaluation Process:

- Each age group has a **90-minute** tryout session
- Coaches evaluate players using **drills, scrimmages, and skill assessments**

Team Formation & Tiering:

- Teams are formed based on skill level and available roster spots
- Lightning Teams:
    - (1) Gold (highest tiered team)
    - (2) Blue
    - (3) White
- Max Roster Sizes:
    - U7-U8 (4v4): 8 players
    - U9-U10 (7v7): 12 players
    - U11-U12 (9v9): 16 players
    - U13+ (11v11): 18 players
    - *Coaches are not required to fill rosters to the maximum roster limits*

Fees, Commitment, & Additional Activities

Fees & Commitment Structure:

- The registration fee covers the **fall and spring seasons ONLY**
- **Uniforms are ordered separately** from player registration
- Teams are allowed to participate in additional activities, but these are **optional**
- Additional team expenses may include referee fees for MSPSP teams, as well as optional tournaments, winter training sessions, etc.
- These additional activities and expenses are coordinated between coaches and team families
- **NPSC does not manage any additional team activities or expenses**

Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP):

- MSPSP has age divisions from U13-U19.
- Coaches can request their team to be sponsored into MSPSP, with final approval from NPSC.
- NPSC does not increase registration fees for MSPSP participants compared to WSSL Select players. However, **MSPSP teams are responsible for all referee fees** (paid in cash on-site). Coaches and team managers must collect these fees from parents.
- MSPSP requires teams to cover half of the referee fees for every game, including both home and away matches.
- MSPSP coaches are required to hold a U.S. Soccer Grassroots or Class E License.

Extending & Accepting Offers:

- Coaches make **verbal offers** during or immediately after tryouts
- Players wanting to be on a specific team should make all tryout coaches aware, to aid them in making offers.
- To **accept an offer**, parents must:
    - Complete the **Player Registration Form**
        - Upload a copy of child's **birth certificate or passport** via **SportsForms**
        - Select **Novi Parks Soccer Club** at: **www.sportsforms.club/wssl** or https://www.sportsforms.club/msdsl.html
        - For **MSPSP** teams, complete the form here: **www.sportsforms.club/mspsp**
    - Register for the league at cityofnovi.org before the deadline

Multi-Age Division Tryouts:

- Players can try out for their age group and/or the next older age group, but not for age groups younger than their age group.
- Players may accept an offer from one Lightning team and still try out for another Lightning team. However, please communicate this to the coaches so they are aware.

Guest Players (Passcarding):

- When appropriate for their age, players are allowed to participate with other NPSC Lightning teams in addition to their regularly rostered team.
- Passcarding is allowed when a team is **short on players** (0-1 substitutes available)

Contact Information:

- **Novi Parks Recreation Supervisor- Sports:** Steve Fellhauer (sfellhauer@cityofnovi.org)
- **Novi Parks Admin Assistant:** Sean Penndorf (spenndorf@cityofnovi.org)
- Visit **cityofnovi.org/soccer** for more information