



## **SPORTING ARKANSAS TRYOUT INFORMATION AND FAQ**

### **WHO SHOULD TRY OUT FOR SPORTING ARKANSAS?**

Are you a player that wants to get better and train with top players, teams, and coaches? Then you should tryout with Sporting Arkansas. If you are ready to commit to take charge of your soccer career. Please note competitive soccer requires much more of a commitment than recreational soccer. Competitive soccer players need to be focused and highly motivated. They must possess a strong desire to learn the game from experienced coaches and to surround themselves with other focused and highly motivated players.

### **DO RETURNING SPORTING ARKANSAS PLAYERS NEED TO TRY OUT?**

Yes. All players must try out each year.

### **HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR TRYOUTS?**

Online registration is available through the Sporting Arkansas website ([www.sportingarkansas.com](http://www.sportingarkansas.com)). We strongly encourage you to pre-register for two reasons. First, it helps facilitate an easier check-in on the first day of your tryout. Secondly, it helps the coaching and evaluating staff to more properly prepare their sessions. If you are unable to register online, walk-up registrations are allowed. Anyone that registers at the field must have a parent or legal guardian present to complete all registration forms.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?**

All players should bring their soccer cleats, shin guards, a water bottle, an appropriately sized soccer ball and weather-appropriate training clothes. Please be sure to print, sign and bring your medical release/liability waiver with you to the first session. Please plan to arrive 30-45 minutes prior to your first session and 30 minutes prior for the following sessions.

### **WHAT TEAMS ARE HAVING TRYOUTS IN MAY?**

Players of all ages that wish to play with Sporting Arkansas in the 2018/2019 season should plan on attending tryouts. Sporting is planning on forming teams in the following age groups and will host tryouts for them on May 22nd, 24th, and 30th. Additional tryout dates may be required by age group coaches.

#### **Boys Teams:**

*19U – Players born in 2000 & 2001*

*17U – Players born in 2002 & 2003*

*15U – Players born in 2004*

*14U – Players born in 2005*

*13U – Players born in 2006*

*12U – Players born in 2007*

*11U – Players born in 2008*

*Actual teams formed be at discretion of Sr. Staff*

#### **Girls Teams:**

*19U – Players born in 2000*

*18U – Players born in 2001 & 2002*

*16U – Players born in 2003*

*15U – Players born in 2004*

*14U – Players born in 2005*

*13U – Players born in 2006*

*12U – Players born in 2007*

*11U – Players born in 2008*

*Actual teams formed be at discretion of Sr. Staff*



## **WHAT ABOUT ACADEMY EVALUATIONS?**

All Academy players (returning and new) will need to go through the evaluation process before they are accepted into the academy. We encourage all Academy age players to attend as many days as possible. If you are unable to attend let us know and we will arrange a later evaluation time.

## **WHAT DO THE COACHES LOOK FOR DURING TRYOUTS?**

All players will be evaluated based on their technical and tactical ability as well as their physical abilities. Players who exhibit a strong work ethic and who display a respect for the game, coaches and fellow players will show well. Performance, development, attitude, and commitment levels throughout the last season(s) will also play a major factor in any decision.

## **I WAS ON THE TEAM LAST YEAR DO I NEED TO TRYOUT / WILL I MAKE THE TEAM AGAIN?**

**All** current and new players are required to attend tryouts or notify the staff if they can't attend tryouts if they want to play with the Club next year. No one is guaranteed a spot on a team from one year to the next.

## **DO I HAVE TO ATTEND ALL OF THE TRYOUT SESSIONS?**

This is a very popular question each year. The simple answer is...YES. The more sessions you attend, the greater the opportunity you have to exhibit your skills to the head coach and the staff of evaluators. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you attend each of the sessions in your age group. If there is a major and unavoidable conflict with the dates and times of your age group sessions, please contact the DOC or the team head coach at your age group. In some circumstances, a supplemental session may be scheduled. It is imperative that, even if you are planning to miss a sessions or sessions, you still register online! When you are attending the second and third night of tryouts, please make sure that your player number is the same as on all previous nights.

## **WHAT IF I AM SICK OR IF I HAVE TO MISS TRYOUTS?**

In the case of all unavoidable conflicts, please contact the team head coach or the DOC. He/she will advise you on how best to proceed.

## **HOW WILL THE TEAMS BE FORMED?**

Teams will be formed based on ability and number of players trying out. The player pool will be evaluated and teams formed based on the ability to compete within the clubs designated leagues and pathways. Sr. Staff will evaluate each age group and form complete teams where we are able to.

## **HOW ARE SPORTING ARKANSAS TEAMS STRUCTURED?**

Sporting Arkansas will have various levels of teams in age groups as needed based on the discretion of the SR Staff. These teams will be based on the ability and expectations of the staff for that age group.

Category 1 teams: Premier / Blue designated teams. These teams when formed will represent the club at the state level and the regional level. These teams will play in the APL and NPL whenever available to them. Tournaments will be based on development and ability. Expectations are players will be committed to up 3 nights a week of team training weekly throughout the season (exceptions may apply based on game schedules etc. at discretion of the coaching staff). Travel expectations should include multiple trips per season throughout the region. They are expected to compete in the state championship and subsequent tournaments that follow including Regional and Nationals should they qualify.

Category 2 Teams: Black designated teams. These teams when formed will represent the club at the state level and potentially some regional level events based on performance. These teams will play in the APL and potentially other designated structures including the NPL where/when they meet qualification for the NPL. Expectations are that players will be committed to 2 nights a week of team training weekly throughout the season (exceptions may apply based on game schedules etc. at discretion of the coaching staff) Tournaments will be based on development and ability. Travel expectations should include several



or more trips per season throughout the region. They are expected to compete in the state championship and subsequent tournaments that follow including Regional and Nationals should they qualify.

Category 3 Teams: Yellow designated teams. These teams will be on as needed basis at the discretion of the SR. Staff. These teams will play in the APL. Expectations are that players will be committed to 2 nights a week of team training weekly throughout the season (exceptions may apply based on game schedules etc. at discretion of the coaching staff). Travel will be minimal, primarily within the APL structure.

### **WILL THERE BE MORE THAN 1 TEAM PER AGE GROUP?**

Yes, when possible, there will be more than one team per age group, per gender. Team formation will depend on a number of factors including the number of players at tryouts and their skill level. We want to make sure we are able to give all players a great pathway to achieve their developmental goals and will make teams based on whether we feel we can fulfill that goal with developmentally appropriate teams for the players.

### **CAN I PLAY FOR AN OLDER TEAM THAN MY BIRTH YEAR TEAM?**

One of the goals of our club is to make sure that each player is placed on a team not necessarily based on age but on ability. It is in every player's best interest, from a soccer development standpoint, to play with players of like-ability. If you want to try out for an older age group than your birth year the following is the procedure: If you are not sure what age is your correct age please see the [Age Group Chart](#).

#### **SPORTING ARKANSAS PLAY UP POLICY:**

##### **ALL NEW PLAYERS TO THE CLUB**

##### **CURRENT SPORTING ARKANSAS PLAYERS NOT CURRENTLY PLAYING UP:**

*You must attend at least the 1<sup>st</sup> night of tryouts with your proper birth year age group. After the complete first night of tryouts if you want to attend a tryout for a team **1 year older** you may. Teams will be picked by ability and development potential. Because you have attended a tryout with an older team there is no guarantee that a position will be offered on that team. Players wishing to tryout more than 1 year older than their birth year will need special approval from Sporting Arkansas SR Staff to do so.*

##### **CURRENT SPORTING ARKANSAS PLAYERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY PLAYING ON A TEAM ABOVE THEIR BIRTH YEAR TEAM IN THIS CLUB:**

*These existing players may tryout with their current team and/or the team in their proper age group. Consulting your team coach and the SR Staff if this is still the best option for the player is recommended*

### **WILL THE ALTERNATE PROGRAM (REDSHIRT PROGRAM) STILL BE IN EFFECT THIS YEAR?**

While we will not specifically be targeting "redshirts" or alternates in the same manner as last year, Sporting Arkansas will use alternates where needed and appropriate this year. Alternate positions will be offered to players with the expectation that they may or may not be called upon to play in games at any time throughout the year. Alternates will have access to the assigned teams training sessions as well as any standard programming that other players have access to. Alternate players will follow the same club fee schedule as would apply to the team they are offered a position to. Team Fees would be adjusted based on participation. Uniforms will be the responsibility of the players.

### **WHAT IF I DO NOT MAKE A TEAM? WHAT ARE MY OTHER OPTIONS?**

Unfortunately, not all players will make a team. There are options that we can help you with, available to those that are not offered a position including our partners at Bentonville Parks & Rec and private lessons. We will be happy to get you information on both of those opportunities if needed.

Link to BPR Soccer Program Registration: [Bentonville Rec Soccer Link](#)



## **I AM INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOR SPORTING ARKANSAS BUT I CANNOT AFFORD IT. IS THERE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OFFERED?**

Yes! Details are on our [Financial Assistance Page](#).

## **WHEN WILL I HAVE TO COMMIT TO THE TEAM AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMMIT?**

We understand that this is a very big decision for the everyone involved. We ask that every player that is trying out for a Sporting Arkansas team be ready to commit to the team upon receiving an offer as soon as possible. This will speed up the process for everyone else in the age group. Acceptance of a roster spot is confirmed ONLY when the registration process is completed and Club Fees (or arrangements) are received.

### **The Commitment Process:**

- Within ten days of the last tryout a communication will be sent either offering a position on a team, explaining where we are in the process of selecting teams, or a communication that your player did not make a team.
- In the communication will be instructions on how to register, pay club fees and the timing needed to get this done to accept and lock in the position on the team.
  - Needed information will include but may not be limited to the following for the registration process:
    - Parent / Player information
    - Birth Certificate
    - Proof of Medical Insurance
    - Medical Release Form
    - A current digital picture of your player (Must no more than 1 month old)

Please note the following:

- Preferred method of communication will be email. Please make sure that your contact email is clearly indicated in all forms when registering. Phone # will be secondary communication method. If you do not hear from us within the ten days please email us at [operations@sportingarkansas.com](mailto:operations@sportingarkansas.com)

## **HOW MUCH WILL IT COST IF I MAKE A TEAM? DO I HAVE TO PAY ALL AT ONCE?**

This varies by team. All fees are published on the [Financial Obligations Page](#). Sporting Arkansas will work with you in a variety of ways to help make the registration process and fee payments affordable to you.

## **WILL I NEED TO PURCHASE A NEW UNIFORM THIS YEAR?**

Sporting Arkansas uses uniforms for a 2 year cycle period. If you purchased all the required pieces last season and they still fit then players under normal circumstances will be able to use them again this year. If you are new to the club then you will be required to purchase a uniform kit in order to participate.

Please see [Uniform Info Page](#)

## **WHAT WILL THE TRAINING KIT BE THIS YEAR AND IS IT MANDATORY?**

**All Sporting Arkansas players** will be required to wear the clubs training kit to all training sessions indoor or out. We are modifying the training kit slightly this year to help make it more cost effective for families by wearing navy socks and shorts (this is part of the mandatory uniform package that you already need to purchase) Failure to abide by the training kit can affect playing time, team status, and evaluation status.

The training kit entails the following pieces:

Sporting Arkansas LIGHT BLUE Training Top.

NAVY Soccer Shorts

NAVY Soccer Socks

Shin-guards

Appropriate Soccer shoes for training (Indoor or outdoor shoes depending on surface)



# AGE GROUP CHART



## Birth-year registration and season matrix

Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Birth Year</b>									
2020									
2019									6-U
2018								6-U	7-U
2017							6-U	7-U	8-U
2016						6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U
2015					6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U
2014				6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U
2013			6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U
2012		6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U
2011	6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U
2010	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U
2009	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U
2008	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U
2007	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U
2006	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U
2005	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U	
2004	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U		
2003	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U			
2002	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U				
2001	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U					
2000	17-U	18-U	19-U						
1999	18-U	19-U							
1998	19-U								



## FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

### 2018/2019 Sporting Arkansas Fees are broken into 3 categories that are payable to the club:

- **Club Fees-** This fee covers facility maintenance & upkeep, coaching salary costs, administrative costs, included programming fees, & player registration and insurance fees. They are collected once per year (payment plans and scholarships are available to apply for) and are mandatory for final placement on a team (pending team offer)

Classic Teams by age Club Fee				
Age Group	Birthyear	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3
11U	2008	\$795	\$655	\$400
12U	2007	\$795	\$655	\$400
13U	2006	\$795	\$655	\$400
14U	2005	\$795	\$655	\$400
15U	2004	\$655	\$655	NA
16U	2003	\$655	\$655	NA
17U	2002	\$655	\$655	NA
18U	2001	\$655	\$655	NA
19U	2000	\$655	\$655	NA

Academy Ages Club Fees		
Age Group	Birthyear	All Teams
8U	2011	\$375
9U	2010	\$375
10U	2009	\$375

**Cat1 Teams:** Premier or Blue Designated Teams

**Cat2 Teams:** Black Designated Teams

**Cat3 Teams :** Yellow Designated Teams

**Academy Teams:** All Pay Same Fee

- **Team Fees –** This fee covers entry fees, ref fees, coaching expenses etc. These fees are collected in the fall and spring are based on what events/leagues the team participates in. They are mandatory for participation on the team. These are in addition to the club registration fee and will be communicated to you by the team manager at the beginning of each season
- **Uniform Fees –** This fee covers the uniforms and training kit that every player must have in order to participate on our teams.
- **Other Fees**
  - **Travel Fees-** All travel fees are the responsibility of the players and families. Sporting Arkansas does everything it can to keep costs such as travel, hotel and other costs to a minimum based on group planning.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sporting Arkansas has made a commitment to raise the standard of soccer in NW Arkansas. In keeping with the ideal, we feel that no player with the appropriate skill and dedication to play should ever be turned away because of lack of financial means. As a club, we do everything we can to assist. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence. Please note, awarded scholarships are applied only to Registration Fees, or portion thereof. *\*Uniform & Team Dues not included.*

### Each Player seeking scholarship assistance will need to do the following:

- Fill out the Sporting Arkansas Scholarship Form
  - (Please note this form will be available by paper copy and electronic copy)
  - You must provide 2017 Tax Return return information.
- Please bring/mail ALL documentation to Sporting Arkansas office: 11301 HWY 72 W, Centerton, AR 72719 Deadline to apply is June 15, 2018
- Players receiving scholarships are expected to show the utmost commitment to the team and club as well as volunteering in 2/3 Sporting Arkansas Events where volunteers are needed
- More information will be posted to the website at a location that will be shared in the welcome/commitment letter

## UNIFORM INFO

### UNIFORM KIT

Following Pieces are mandatory

- Adidas Navy Jersey
- Adidas Navy Shorts (*Same shorts for the training Kit*)
- Adidas Navy Socks (*Same socks for the training Kit*)
  
- Adidas Sky Blue Jersey
- Adidas Sky Blue Shorts
- Adidas Sky Blue Socks

Following Pieces are Suggested

Adidas Bag & warmup

**UNIFORM ORDERING LINK WITH PRICING INFO WILL BE PROVIDED UPON ACCEPTANCE ONTO A TEAM**

### TRAINING KIT

–Following Pieces are mandatory

- Sporting Arkansas Light Blue Training Shirt (*one will be provided to you*)\*\*
- Adidas Navy Shorts (*Same shorts for the uniform Kit*)
- Adidas Navy Socks (*Same socks for the uniform Kit*)

*\*\* more shirts may be purchased at the office for \$15*







# SPORTING ARKANSAS

## Scholarship Application Form 2018-2019

### Club Commitment

Sporting Arkansas has made a commitment to raise the standard of soccer in NW Arkansas. In keeping with the ideal, we feel that no player with the appropriate skill and dedication to play should ever be turned away because of lack of financial means. As a club, we do everything we can to assist. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence. Please note, awarded scholarships are applied only to Registration Fees, or portion thereof. *\*Uniform & Team Dues not included.*

\*\* Please note this form is an official request for your child to be considered for a scholarship. In addition to this form, **you must provide last year's (2017) tax return.** Our office will not contact you to ask for missing information.

**Please bring/mail ALL documentation to Sporting Arkansas office: 11301 HWY 72 W, Centerton, AR 72719**

**Deadline to apply is June 15, 2018**

### Player Commitment

Scholarships are given based on financial needs of our families. We have a limited number of scholarships available and are spread evenly amongst all teams. If your child is offered a partial scholarship, or did not qualify, we have a variety of payment options and payment plans. It is our goal that all players have the opportunity to play the sport that they love. Therefore, should your player be awarded scholarship funds, it the club's expectation that should you request to leave the club (other than moving out of NWA area), the full award amount will be due prior to a release being approved.

It is expected that a family receiving scholarship assistance will be willing to volunteer to assist at 2 of our 3 Fundraising Events: Clorox Cup, Spring Classic Tournament or LPGA Parking Event. Please let us know if there are circumstances that would prevent family members from helping in this way.

Please indicate which **TWO** events you are willing to volunteer at:

\_\_\_\_\_ Clorox Cup Tournament    \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Classic Tournament    \_\_\_\_\_ LPGA Parking Event

Fundraising is an integral part of our club and many of the related tournament and travel expenses can be offset by these funds raised at the team level. Fundraising activities can, and should, be organized to raise money to help defray the costs of tournament entry fees, hotel rooms, and other costs related to travel. Ask your team manager how you can help.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Players Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: 25% \_\_\_\_\_ 50% \_\_\_\_\_ 75% \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of 2017 Tax Return Enclosed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ I understand this application does not remove my liability to the club for the difference in club registration fees and scholarship amount. I understand that once criteria for scholarships are met, award of scholarships are on a first come first serve basis. The final payment of the balance will be received no later than September 1, 2018, or a date agreed upon by both Sporting Arkansas and the player's parent/guardian. At the time of the final payment due, if that amount is not paid in full, the players card will be returned to the office by the team manager/coach and the player will not be eligible to play in any games or tournaments along with forfeiting future scholarship eligibility until the payment is paid in full. (If scholarship is awarded) It also does not remove my liability for incidental expenses associated with my child's participation in tournaments and/or travel.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_