

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Town Travel vs. Premier Club

**Is the Academy Program changing?**

Yes. Our Academy teams are evolving into Premier Club teams to more accurately reflect the level of training, commitment, and competition already taking place. This change clarifies expectations for families, will simplify the registration process and help families manage the busy lifestyles of the modern youth athlete.

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**What is the main difference between Town Travel and Premier Club?**

The primary differences are time commitment, season length, and coaching structure.

Town Travel is seasonal (Fall & Spring), 2 practices a week and utilizes a team of professional and volunteer coaches.

Premier Club is a 10-month program (Fall, Winter and Spring) with 3+ practices a week, tournaments, winter practices/futsal and utilizes a fully professional coaching staff.

Both programs are exclusively for the Brookline community and share the same core values and player-development philosophy.

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**Is one program “better” than the other?**

No. The programs are different, not better or worse.

Town Travel is ideal for players who want strong coaching with flexibility.

Premier Club is designed for players seeking more training and a higher commitment level.

The “right” choice depends on the player and family.

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**How many practices are there per week?**

Town Travel teams practice 2 times per week during the Fall and Spring seasons.

Premier Club teams practice 3+ times per week during the Fall and Spring seasons. The winter season will have practices 2 times per week. Additional optional technical/physical development sessions are offered for 5th through 8th graders.

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**How many games per week are there?**

Town Travel teams play 1 league game per week during the Fall and Spring seasons, typically on Saturdays.

Premier Club teams play 1 league game per week, typically on Sundays, during the Fall and Spring seasons and 1 futsal game per week during the winter season.

Premier Club teams also participate in three tournaments throughout the year.

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**Who will coach my child's team?**

Town Travel teams are coached by a team of professional technical directors/head coaches and volunteer parent coaches.

Premier Club teams are coached by professional, licensed coaches and supported by age group directors and additional development staff (GK coaches and skills coaches).

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**What if my child wants more soccer but not a full Premier Club commitment?**

Town Travel players have the option to register for:

- Fall and Spring technical training sessions
- Summer skills program

This allows families to increase technical/physical development without committing to a year-round program.

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**How do costs differ between the programs?**

Town Travel: \$475 per season (Fall / Spring), total annual cost \$950

Premier Club is a 10-month program inclusive of tournaments and futsal:

- Grades 3–4: \$3,000 per year
- Grades 5–8: \$3,500 per year

Financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans are available for both programs.

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**The Premier Club option seems quite expensive, why is that?**

Previously, many players participated in the Academy program through an à la carte model, paying separately for items such as tournaments, futsal, and seasonal registration.

With the Premier Club program, these separate components of the Academy program are now combined into one all-inclusive fee. This single price covers all elements of the former Academy program—plus additional benefits—including over 200 hours of training, indoor and outdoor sessions, futsal practices, tournament fees, and technical assessments.

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**How are players selected for the Town Travel or Premier Club program?**

Premier Club players are evaluated through ID Clinics in April and May. Premier Club roster offers are made by May 15. Players who aren't offered a spot on a Premier Club team are encouraged to try out for Town Travel teams.

Town Travel holds tryouts in mid June with roster offers made in early July.

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**Will Town Travel receive fewer resources now that Premier Club is offered?**

No. Town Travel remains a core part of Brookline Soccer Club. The introduction of Premier Club is an expansion of opportunities—not a replacement.

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**Can a player participate in both the Town Travel and Premier Club programs at the same time?**

No. Players may not participate on both a Town Travel team and a Premier Club team (or "Double Roster") at the same time. This policy is to support our players' development, enjoyment of the game, and overall well-being including:

1. A positive team experience - We want each player to feel fully connected to their team and to enjoy the experience of being a committed teammate. Playing on two teams at once often leads to schedule conflicts, divided attention, and missed activities, which can take away from that experience.
  2. Healthy development and balance - Playing multiple competitive games each week can be physically and mentally demanding for young athletes. Over time, this can slow development and increase the risk of injury or burnout. Research and experience show that fewer games, with proper rest and recovery, lead to better long-term growth and a greater love of the sport.
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**Can a player move between Town Travel and Premier Club in different years?**

Yes. Players may move between programs from year to year based on interest, availability, and development. The Brookline Soccer Club is committed to keeping the programs flexible and connected.

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**Who can I talk to if I'm unsure which option is best for my child?**

We encourage families to:

- Attend upcoming information sessions
- Speak with their current head coach or Technical Director
- Reach out to the club directly with questions

Choosing the right pathway is about fit, and we're here to help.

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