

TEN MYTHS V. FACTS ABOUT TRAVEL SOCCER

1. Myth: Travel Soccer is a huge commitment

Fact: While there is a commitment to the other players on the team to come to practices and games, the time and effort is often not much greater than recreational soccer.

2. Myth: Travel soccer means practices at Virginia Beach, Williamsburg or Richmond.

Fact: Newport News FC practices are all on the Peninsula and most are held in the City of Newport News.

3. Myth: Travel soccer means driving to northern Virginia or other long trips for games every weekend.

Fact: For most players, especially younger players, the travel is to Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and Chesapeake for league games.

4. Myth: Travel soccer means the entire weekend is lost to practices and games.

Fact: League games are on Sunday afternoons and Saturdays are free. Actually, many parents report having more free time.

5. Myth: Travel soccer means 4-5 practices each week.

Fact: Most teams have two 90-minute practices each week.

6. Myth: Travel soccer is very expensive.

Fact: While more expensive than recreational soccer, travel players get professional, licensed coaches and play in an organized league against players of similar levels of abilities.

7. Myth: Travel soccer has many hidden costs.

Fact: Tournaments are an additional cost but teams have input on where and how many tournaments are played, many of which may be local.

8. Myth: Travel soccer is more like a job than a game.

Fact: While competitiveness increases with age, most players say they enjoy travel soccer better because they are not frustrated with many different ability levels on one team.

9. Myth: Travel soccer is elitist.

Fact: Players try-out and are selected based on individual skill level, but Newport News F.C. is open to all kids and encourages full community participation.

10. Myth: Travel soccer parents are overly competitive and aggressive.

Fact: Most parents are less competitive than in recreational soccer because they see their child progressing in ability each week. Travel soccer programs promote sportsmanship for players and parents.