

Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club

Competitive Soccer – Exploring Competitive Options

Welcome to MKSC Competitive Soccer

We're excited that your family is exploring competitive soccer opportunities with the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club (MKSC). This guide is designed to help parents understand what competitive soccer looks like within our club, how it differs from recreational programming, and how to decide if it's the right next step for your player.

Competitive soccer is an optional pathway for players who are showing increased interest in structured training, and game play against other clubs. Our goal is to provide the right environment for every player and to allow them to grow, be challenged, and continue to enjoy a love for the game.

MKSC Structure

Milwaukee Kickers is one club, but it is organized into multiple Regions across Southeastern Wisconsin. Competitive teams are formed and operated under a MKSC Region but share common goals and standards.

Pro Tip: Not all Kickers Regions offer competitive programming locally, but every Kickers player has access to a competitive program within their area.

About Competitive Soccer

- Ages: 8U through 18U (varies by Kickers program)
- Coaches: Paid coaches or licensed parent coaches
- Format: Seasonal training with league play
- Philosophy: Player development, enjoyment and long-term growth
- Competition: Games against other clubs within external league structures

Is Competitive Soccer Right for my Child?

Competitive soccer may be a good fit for your child if:

- They enjoy soccer and want to play more often.
- They are motivated to learn and improve their skills.
- They handle challenges and feedback well.
- They are excited about team environments.

Pro Tip: There is no “right” age to start competitive soccer. Every player’s journey is different.

What makes Competitive Soccer Different?

Competitive soccer builds on the foundations learned in our recreational programming and introduces more structure and expectations.

Time Commitment: Competitive commitment varies by age and team level, but families should expect more time commitment than recreational soccer.

- 2-3 training sessions per week (age-dependent).
- Weekend games (typically Saturday & Sunday) with more travel involved

Financial Considerations: Competitive soccer has higher costs than recreational programming due to league fees, coaching education, field rentals, referees, and administration.

- Annual player fees are set by the club and can include:
 - Uniform Kits
 - Travel Costs
 - League Costs
 - Tournament Costs
 - Coach Costs

Tryouts & Evaluations: Competitive soccer is broken into Youth Academy (8U-10U) and Select (11U-19U). Youth Academy is open registration that is balanced based on evaluations. Select is determined by tryouts that happen in mid-late June.

Pro Tip: Competitive soccer should still be fun! While the environment is more structured, enjoyment and love for the game remain top priorities.

Next Steps in Exploring Competitive Soccer

Many players continue in recreational soccer year after year, and some wish to do competitive soccer when they are eligible. If you are interested in competitive soccer

within MKSC, watch for tryout announcements on the club website and social media platforms. You can also speak to your Regional Director or coach on next steps for your child.

We look forward to continuing your family's soccer journey with Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club!

Pro Tip: Ask your coach what they think! Your coach should be able to help you understand what you can work on and if competitive soccer could be a good next step for your child.

Key Contacts & Resources

- Competitive programming: <https://www.mksc.org/programs/competitive/>
- Club website: <https://www.mksc.org/>
- Regional contacts: <https://www.mksc.org/regions/>
- Club policies: <https://www.mksc.org/about/policies/>