



St. Mary's Soccer – U9 Travel

Fall 2022/Spring 2023 Team Info

2022-23 Team

Division	Birth Year	Format
U9	2014	7v7

Objectives:

Travel soccer offers players the opportunity to improve in a more competitive environment. The program strives to develop players, while instilling a love for the game and teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The objectives of the Travel program at U9-10 is to focus on players' technical development, and then progresses to include more team focused objectives as players get older. Players interested in entry level Travel soccer should show a willingness to play and learn, and their families should recognize that it requires a higher level of commitment in terms of regular attendance and financial support. St. Mary's Soccer is proud to offer a Scholarship Program to assist families who need assistance with fees.

St. Mary's Soccer will attempt to form two Travel teams in an academy concept for U9-10 age groups, whenever possible. This allows the opportunity to develop a larger number of players at a faster pace, and has significant long-term benefits to the strength of the team and quality of players in later years. The academy concept at the Travel level just means that the players train together at the same time and location, under the direction of the entire coaching staff to instill a "one team" concept amongst all the players. Players will typically only play one game each weekend, but the academy concept allows roster flexibility to maximize opportunities for player development.

We are excited to implement the new concept of a U9 Age Group Coordinator. This position is a highly experienced coach who will oversee both player and coach development of our new U9 Travel programs for both the boys and girls to ensure a high quality, consistent experience for all new Travel families.

We hope you are willing to join us. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Travel Program Details:

Season	League Play	Schedules	Game Locations	Training Sessions	Tournaments	Costs
FALL	NCSL League Play (8-9 game season)	August - early November (most games are Sundays, some Saturdays)	4-5 Home Games on St. Mary's County turf fields 4-5 Away Games in MD and VA (1-2 hours away)	2x per week; 75-90 min Alternating sessions at Chancellors Run & Chaptico Park	1-2 outdoor tournaments (commutable distance - hotel not required)	Fees: \$410 * Uniforms: \$160 (estimated) Includes 2 jerseys, 2 shorts, 2 socks, backpack (one time purchase lasts 2 yrs)
WINTER (flexible scheduling available)	Winter League (OPTIONAL) (6-8 game season)	December - February (play typically stops over Christmas and New Years)	TBD - depends on league (possible local outdoor options, tri-county futsal, etc)	possibly 1x per week; 60-90 min; January - February (OPTIONAL)		Fees: \$25-80 (OPTIONAL) Depends on choice of futsal/outdoor league and # of players participating
SPRING	NCSL League Play (8-9 game season)	March - early June (most games are Sundays, some Saturdays)	4-5 Home Games on St. Mary's county turf fields 4-5 Away Games in MD and VA (1-2 hours away)	2x per week; 75-90 min Alternating sessions at Chancellors Run & Chaptico Park	1-2 outdoor tournaments (commutable distance - hotel not required)	Fees: \$410 *

* Travel commitments are made for the entire seasonal year (Fall2022 & Spring2023), so players must pay fees for both seasons and participation in both of those seasons is required.

2014 U9 Coaching Staff:

U9 Boys/Girls Age Group Coordinator: Fab Donis

USSF "D" license (1995), St. Mary's College Womens Team Asst Coach (2019-present), 25+ yrs Travel coaching experience with SMS; 2020-21 NCSL Coach of the Year

U9 Boys Lead Team Assistants:

Andrew Sohn (Grassroots 7v7 certified, 6 yrs SMS coaching experience, current U8B Rec+ coach, prior HS soccer asst coach, prior collegiate coach in other sports)

Tim Downey (Grassroots 7v7/9v9 certified, 4 yrs SMS coaching experience, current U8B Rec+ coach, previous assist with SMS Travel team)

U9 Girls Lead Team Assistants:

Charles Lowe (Grassroots 7v7/9v9/11v11 certified, 3 yrs SMS coaching experience, current U8G Rec+ coach, current SMS U12G Travel team asst)

Kirsten Silva (D2 collegiate playing experience, prior coaching experience as U14G head coach)

SMS VP Travel: Amy King (vp_travel@stmaryssoccer.org)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions!