



**STINGERS SOCCER CLUB**

**GIRLS U11 COMPETITIVE TRYOUT OVERVIEW & FAQ**

### **WHY STINGERS GIRLS COMPETITIVE SOCCER:**

*We will produce young women capable of playing at the highest level of soccer: great individual players, terrific competitors, empowered young women, championship teams.*

- *Every day we will have fun.*
- *Every day we will grow.*
- *Every day we will compete.*
- *Engage: Inspired, passionate coaches.*
- *Educate: Positive, enthusiastic training environment.*
- *Empower: Clear standards of excellence and proven player development model.*

### **WHY TRYOUTS AT U11:**

*Colorado Youth Soccer (our governing soccer association in the State of CO), begins to offer 11v11 soccer and a competitive league for girls beginning at the U11 age. Stingers players may choose to tryout for a competitive team at U11. We also continue to offer a recreational, in-house, non-competitive league for players who do not want to play competitive soccer but simply want to participate in a great game!*

#### **1. WHEN & WHERE ARE TRYOUTS FOR U11?**

**June 2 & 4, 2010**

**U11 Girls: 4-5:30pm**

**Location: Marshdale Turf fields (26663 North Turkey Creek Road, Evergreen, 80439)**

Bring a size 4 soccer ball, and a full water bottle. Wear cleats and shinguards. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to start to warm up and register. Parents please watch tryouts in the "parents area"

***GIRLS U11 PRE-TRYOUT CAMP:*** *Open to any player interested in trying out for U11 Stingers Competitive Girls Teams*

*May 24-26, 6-7:30pm, \$20*

*Location: Graham field (above Bergen Valley Elementary, 1422 Sugarbush Drive, Evergreen, 80439)*

*This 3-day camp will be coached by members of the Stingers coaching staff. This will be a great opportunity for players to receive training from the coaches that will be directing teams in the U11 Girls age group in Fall 2010.*

#### **2. WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS TO PLAY U11 SOCCER?**

As per the Colorado Youth Soccer rules: a player must be born between: 8/1/99-7/31/00 or entering 5th grade to be eligible for U11 soccer in the Fall 2010. On each U11 team we form, 3 U10 (born between 8/1/00-7/31/01) players will be allowed to "play up."

#### **3. DO PLAYERS NEED TO ATTEND BOTH TRYOUT DATES?**

Players should attend both tryout dates to assure that they receive accurate team placement. Be sure to let us know if your daughter will miss a tryout date. It is very rare that a player is selected for one of the top two teams in an age group if they only attend one day of tryouts.

#### **4. WHAT PLAYERS WILL BE AT TRYOUTS?**

Tryouts are "open" to soccer players from all areas and clubs. We expect at least 50 girls to tryout for our U11 competitive teams.

#### **5. HOW MANY U11 TEAMS WILL BE FORMED?**

We build as many competitive U11 teams as we can. We expect to form 2-3, U11 teams for girls.

#### **6. ARE PLAYERS CUT?**

Every effort is made to place all players at tryouts on a Stingers team. It is very rare that a U11 player who attends tryouts is unable to find a team for the fall.

#### **7. WHAT KIND OF U11 TEAMS ARE FORMED?**

Stingers Girls "Red" teams play in Colorado's Premier division (or aspire to get there), practice 3 days a week, play no less than 4 tournaments a year. Red teams have a high level of commitment to competitive soccer. Red players usually select soccer as their primary sport and participate in winter and summer training programs. After the Red team has been formed the Advance "White" and "Black" teams (2nd, 3rd, etc) are formed. The Advance teams may play in Premier, Classic and/or Challenge League as recommended by the Girls Director of Coaching. Advance teams practice two days a week and play no less than 2 tournaments a year. Recreational teams are not formed via tryouts but are available at the U11-U14 level. Recreational teams play in either the in-house league or Option 1 league. These teams usually practice 1-2 days a week, with volunteer coaches and little to no tournament play. Recreational teams are formed by volunteer coaches and are usually based on school or neighborhood friend groups. Please contact Girls DOC Kate Cortis if you are interested in forming, coaching or participating in a recreational level team.

#### **8. HOW ARE PLAYERS EVALUATED AND SELECTED FOR TEAMS?**

Every player is given a number and the Tryout Evaluators (Stingers Directors of Coaching, Pro Staff Coaches, Team Coaches, Assistant Coaches) begin forming groups of players with similar evaluation results. The tryout process takes place over two days with 90 minutes sessions. Tryouts are designed to maximize each player's opportunity to showcase their abilities. Therefore, the first day of tryouts is small-sided soccer games (i.e. 4v4 or 5v5). During the second day of tryouts players are placed in larger teams of 8v8 or 9v9. Evaluators may add 1v1 or 2v2 activities as need. When grouping players, evaluators look for: athleticism, speed and quickness, competitive spirit, maturity, confidence, leadership, focus, personality, communication, creativity, composure, ball control skills and tactical awareness. The first (RED) team is made up of the top 16 players. Then the second (WHITE) team will be selected and this will continue until all the teams are formed.

#### **9. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T GET PLACED ON THE TEAM WHERE WE THINK THEY SHOULD?**

This is one of the reason why tryouts are the least popular time of year for coaches at ALL ages and levels. There is no science to soccer team selection. There is no stopwatch as in swimming or track. There is no batting average as in baseball. Soccer player placement is subjective. At a Stingers tryout, several coaches and trainers evaluate each player. If a player is actually placed on the incorrect level team, it will become obvious to the Stingers coaching staff and the Girls Director over the course of a season and they will recommend a change either between the fall and spring season or for the following year. One season doesn't make a soccer career and it is best to remember that soccer development is a marathon not a sprint. Sometimes a player may simply need a few more months to develop or showcase their abilities. Throughout the year the Stingers players are observed by our Coaches, Trainers and Directors. Sometimes when things don't go as expected it can seem like they are unfair. It is a common reaction by players or parents to even get angry with the tryout evaluators, Directors of Coaching and the Club. "Surely someone made a mistake!" The nice thing about having so many experienced coaches evaluating at each age group is that each player has a fair chance to showcase and impress. The Stingers Girls Director and coaches have evaluated thousands of players over the years. With four to seven Stingers evaluators rating each player at tryouts, we are confident that the team placement accurately reflects the player pool.

#### **10. WHO WILL COACH MY CHILD'S TEAM?**

Stingers Girls Coaches are passionate educators, dedicated to developing young female soccer players. In addition to team coaches, each competitive player will be exposed to additional training from Pro Staff Coaches, Directors of Coaching, Assistant Coaches and Trainers. Every Stingers U11 team coach is hired and selected by the Girls Director. All Stingers coaches are required to pursue USSF or NSCAA coaching licenses. Many of the Stingers girls coaches are professionals who coach full or part-time in soccer.

*2010-11 U11 RED team coach:* Girls DOC Kate Cortis (USSF B License, former NCAA Division I Coach)

*2010-11 U11 WHITE team coach:* Julia Boldrin (USSF D License, teacher in JeffCO, current competitive assistant and DEV coach)

#### **11. WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF U11 COMPETITIVE SOCCER?**

**Summer Soccer Academies:** As preparations for the Fall season all U11 Red players are expected to participate in Girls Summer Academies in June and July. Advance players are also encouraged to participate.

**Practices:** Red teams practice 3 days a week. Advance teams practice 2-3 days a week with optional skills training on the third day. Fall practices begin in late July / early August and end in early November. Spring practices begin in early February and end in early June. Please note that individual coaches will set the official practice schedule/start dates.

**Games:** There is a fall and spring league commitment. Each team will play 5 home games at Marshdale turf fields in Evergreen and 5 away games in the fall (4 home and 4 away in the spring). The majority of opponents are located along the Front Range between Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. Additional away games may include Cheyenne, Vail, Pueblo, Grand Junction or Steamboat Springs. The majority of teams do not have to travel further than the Front Range for away games.

**Tournaments:** Tournaments schedules are shared with the parents at the beginning of the season. Tournaments are a weekend of 3-6 games and usually include Friday, Saturday and Sundays. The top U11 team will play a minimum of 4 tournaments a year including 2 preseason tournaments (July and August). All other Stingers U11 teams will play a minimum of 2 tournaments including the Broomfield Blast tournament in August. Teams are welcome to play more than the minimum number of tournaments. The Red team usually travels out of state once a year between U11 and U14. Advance level teams usually do not travel out of state until high school.

**Winter:** Stingers offers optional Winter Academy Training at the Evergreen Tennis Bubble.

**Spring Break:** Plan on the state league scheduling games during spring break. Every school district has different spring break dates; therefore, the league makes no attempt to schedule around them. It will be up to the Stingers team coach to determine if practices and games will be held during spring break. Please check with your coach to find out about their spring break practice policy and plan.

## **12. ARE THE TEAMS FORMED BEFORE TRYOUTS?**

Stingers does not form U11 competitive teams prior to the official tryouts. For players new to Stingers, tryouts are opportunities to be evaluated for team placement. Current Stingers players should be aware that team placement is based more on the previous soccer year than tryout performance. The total evaluation of a player at practices, games, Stingers events, camps, clinics AND tryouts determine team placement. Final decisions regarding team placement are made within 24-36 hours of the last tryout date.