



## **Heritage Soccer Club** **Try Outs FAQ**

### **What is Club Soccer, and specifically, how does Heritage fit into the local youth soccer scene?**

Club Soccer, also known as "competitive soccer", is a way for children who want to be challenged and have the skills, athleticism, desire, and commitment to be trained and play soccer at a higher level. Heritage Soccer Club was formed in 2002 to do just that for the youth in Pleasant Hill, Martinez, and surrounding communities. Heritage (a non-profit organization) is an independent club with the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and U. S. Club Soccer, both of which are affiliated with U. S. Soccer Federation. Our teams play their league games through the CYSA Golden State Soccer League, CYSA District 4 Competitive League, and US Club NorCal Premier. Nearly all high school players in our area play Club soccer, so if your child has a desire to play at this level, Club soccer is probably the best avenue to achieve this goal. The majority of Heritage's older players play for their local high school teams.

### **Who runs Heritage's training program?**

Our training program is run by our Director of Coaching, Julio Borge, and our Technical Directors, Randy Madison (Girls) and Jon Scoles (Boys). Julio is Antioch High School boys varsity coach and holds a National B license. Julio played college soccer at San Francisco State. Randy is the girls varsity coach at College Park High school and Jon is the boys varsity coach at Berean Christian High School.

All of our coaches and trainers are selected by Julio and must be approved by the Heritage Board. Heritage coaches and trainers include coaches from College Park High School, Berean Christian High School, Alhambra High School, Antioch High School, Ygnacio Valley High School and Mount Diablo High School. Many of our coaches and trainers have played Div I collegiate soccer. All of our coaches, trainers, managers and board members are fingerprinted and their backgrounds are checked.

### **How long is Heritage's season?**

Our season begins in early spring. During the spring and summer, our teams train a minimum of 2 days per week (although most teams do take a break for family vacations). During the summer, training is complimented with tournaments on the weekends—teams usually participate in 2-3 weekend tournaments in the summer. The league (CYSA District IV, CYSA Golden State Soccer League, and US Club Norcal Premier League) season begins in September and is over by mid-November. All games are played on Saturdays and Sundays. Tournaments are played the last weekend of September and October. The U9/U10 season ends in mid-November while the U11 and older teams continue training during the winter (except for those playing high school) in order to participate in more tournaments, including the state wide tournaments, in January and February (for U11-U13) and March and April (for U14-U19).

It is very important for the parents and the player to read Heritage's Parent/Player Commitment Form prior to accepting a position on the team.

### **What fields does Heritage utilize?**

Heritage's fields include use of College Park High School synthetic turf, Alhambra High School synthetic turf, Alhambra High School upper grass field, Tesoro grass fields, and many Martinez Rec Fields. Heritage was instrumental in helping College Park High School finance the new synthetic turf field and we have priority use of the field (after high school uses).

### **What are Heritage Soccer Club fees and what do they cover?**

Because of our many volunteers (including our all volunteer Board) within our organization, our fees are very competitive when compared to other local Clubs. To give you a gage, our fees **last year** were \$660 for U10 teams, \$860 for U11-U19 teams. We are examining our fee structure for this year and will announce them soon. Cost for fields, equipment, coaching, training, and Club admin is included in this fee. These fees do not include uniform costs, tournament costs, and incidental team costs.

The membership of Heritage is dedicated to the philosophy of providing a place for all kids to play competitive soccer. Therefore, Heritage has always provided scholarships to those families that are in financial need. Please contact Rosana Gastello, our Contracts Administrator, if you are in such need. These discussions will be kept in utmost confidence. There is a limited supply of scholarship monies. These will be distributed based upon need and number of requests.

### **What team is my child trying out for?**

Heritage SC will attempt to form Division I and Division III teams in each age group. The final decision will be dependent upon the skill, athleticism and depth of the pool of kids being evaluated.

**How are try-outs organized?**

The try-outs are scheduled by age and gender. Try-outs are held for Div I and Div III teams at the same time. Div I teams are usually made up of kids of the same age. While an effort is made to create Div III teams that are “age pure”, usually they consist of players from two age groups.

For example, at the u14 try-outs there will be 12 and 13 year old players on the field at the same time. They will be under consideration for either the U14 or U13 Div I team, and an U14 Div III team(s).

**Do I need to come to all of the try-outs?**

Your child’s chances of being selected are enhanced by the length of time we have to evaluate their play, so the more times your child participates the better. It is important, especially for players being considered for Div I teams, that they come to at least 2 of the try-out sessions. If your child has a conflict, please let the coach know ahead of time or contact Julio Borge ([Julio@heritagesc.com](mailto:Julio@heritagesc.com)) and he will inform the coach.

**When will I be contacted regarding the decision about my child?**

All players should be contacted by a coach on or before the Tuesday following the second weekend of try-outs. This is true for all children trying out, whether they are selected or not. If you haven’t heard within a week after tryouts are completed, please contact Julio.

Some players may receive calls after the first weekend. If you don’t receive an early call it does not mean that your child hasn’t been chosen for a Div I team, it only means that the trainers and coaches want to further evaluate them before making a final decision.

**Who is on the field running the try-outs?**

Try-outs are conducted by the HSC training staff and are experienced with club-level try-outs and evaluating athletic ability and soccer skills. The adults directing the drills are our trainers; coaches will be on the sidelines evaluating play. Decisions on team selection are made in joint conferences between coaches, the training staff, the Director of Coaching and the Technical Directors.

**What are the trainers and coaches looking for?**

The answer to this question is age dependent. Kids trying out for the U10 and U11 teams evaluated more for athletic ability and less for skill level- we expect to train these kids to play at the competitive level. The U12 level is a transitional level, where skill becomes a little more important. For kids trying out for the U13 and U14 teams, athleticism is still important, but skill level becomes a more critical factor, as these kids will be competing against players with 2-4 years of club-level training.

**How can I help my child look good in try-outs?**

First and foremost, don't apply pressure. Your kids will be nervous enough, so having them come on the field worried about making mistakes will lead to poor play.

Tell them that it is important that they listen to instruction. We spend a lot of time (and money) on training- we want kids that can listen and learn.

Remind them to be good teammates. Individual play is important. We will provide ample opportunity for 1 vs. 1 situations where we can evaluate their skills. But we also want good team players, so in drills where they are playing with other kids, it is important that they show their passing and teamwork skills.

Make sure that they come well rested. We are looking for energetic, excited, interested players. Probably not a good weekend for a sleep-over (save it for a tournament weekend so you can really get your coach's blood pressure to rise).

**I want to coach. Who should I contact?**

It is Heritage's policy that if a suitable candidate is available we don't use a parent as the coach. But there are exceptions, especially for assistant coaches, so if you are interested, an experienced soccer coach, and are willing to go through the CYSA coaching license process, please contact Julio.