

# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE Soccer Program 2025/26

FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019) TO U9 (2017)

If we have 2020 advanced birth year players we will allow but  
must be approved



### *Come Experience the best Youth Development Program in KC!*

- Coaching Staff that are Experts in younger Age Groups
- Professional Coaching Staff, State of the Art Facilities and world class proven curriculum
- Age group goal sets and baseline skill sets established
- Beginner Ball Mastery Skills
- Attacking Dribbling Skills
- Dribbling Turns
- Passing and Receiving Techniques
- Shooting
- Soccer Intelligence Building through Small Sided Games!
- Tons of Fun! Come see what we are all about!

*Have your child learn soccer in a fun and  
positive environment “The Union KC Way”!*

Focus on Individual Skill Building

Focus on Fun and letting the game be their best teacher

Kids will learn Union KC Practice Habits and Club Core Values

Discipline and Hard Work but also fun and Positive

Maximize individual touches on the ball

Use competition to motivate and inspire

Instill Passion to play Soccer and to work on their own!

Developing Complete Players - players that are masters with the ball, confident in 1v1,  
technical but also soccer intelligent to know when to dribble, when to pass and when to  
shoot!



# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE

### Soccer Program 2025/26

#### FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019) TO U9 (2017)

*This Packet is designed to help parents of younger children navigate the complexities of youth soccer and to help you learn more about our Union KC Pre Competitive Soccer Program. After reading if you have additional questions you are welcome to email*

*[mmathis@unionkcsoccer.com](mailto:mmathis@unionkcsoccer.com)*

### ***Recreational? Pre Competitive? Competitive Soccer? What's all this mean?***

1. Recreational soccer is often a family's first experience with soccer. These leagues are often associated with city parks and recreation, YMCA's, or other entities. Parents sign their children up individually and the kids are designated to a team. Typically recreational sign ups are by the season - Fall, Winter and Spring. The coaches are volunteers and have a wide variety of experience, knowledge and ability. Teams are typically organized by schools and often by grade level. Union KC is now offering Juniors Futures (Pre K programming) and also Juniors Development Academy (kindergarten and 1st graders). Players can choose one day per week or 2 days per week with each session being split between ½ technical and ½ game play. We highly recommend Union KC Development Academy for players in those age groups over traditional recreational programs in the area.
2. Pre Competitive Soccer is a newer format for families and players that provides a lot of the same benefits as recreational soccer. It is a great first step for players. Players register individually and do not have tryouts. All players are welcome. The coaching staff are professional coaches with both playing and coaching experience, licenses, certifications and they follow a comprehensive curriculum specifically designed for the player age groups. We do have parent helper coaches assist in the program, but the staff coaches are leading sessions. Players are taught in an environment that is fun, active and organized in a setting that is encouraging and sets them up for success. We train each age group as a group, breaking them into smaller groups based on ability/readiness but they all follow the same curriculum and practice plans. The kids are put on teams for games/seasons but we do change teams each season and we make balanced teams in this program. By training in age groups we allow for higher level coaches to be involved with larger number of kids so that everyone gets a great experience and training environment. We have specific coaches that are experts in training these younger age groups and can help them achieve benchmark skill sets and soccer intelligence set by Union KC. We have pre competitive set up as a 10-month program with built in 2-3 week breaks but you can start and end at any time.
3. Competitive Soccer begins in this area at u9 (2017 birth year). Kids participate in a tryout process and they are offered a spot on a team based on their current skill level, athletic ability, soccer knowledge, etc.. They have a specific coach for the year (typically longer) and they practice only with that coach and team. They play local league and often two tournaments per season. The commitment is 10-months and includes Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. Competitive teams all have professional non parent coaches that are experienced in both coaching and playing and hold soccer coaching licenses and certifications. Teams can vary from elite level players to lower level players BUT all players are given coaching and curriculum and given the very best opportunities to develop given their ability, passion and work ethic.

# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE

### Soccer Program 2025/26

#### FOR PLAYERS U5 (2021) TO U9 (2017)

---

*Juniors is a term at Union KC that refers to all programs and teams for pre-K to u12 (2014). This will include all Juniors Futures Pre K, Juniors Development Academy u5u6 (2020 and 2021 birth years) and Juniors Pre-Competitive u7u8u9 teams (5v5) and Juniors Competitive u9u10 teams (7v7) and Juniors Competitive u11u12 teams (9v9).*

**Futures:** Pre K children 24-48 months. These sessions will be organized at various complexes as well as at actual preschools and daycares.

**Development Academy:** Union KC has decided to change our recreational program's name to Development Academy to highlight that, while it is for entry level players. The training environment is structured and focused on developing players to help reach the next level. The goal of the program is to get players for their next milestone which is the Pre-Comp program at U7, but more importantly, to develop a love for the game. Players have the option of attending one session per week or they can choose to attend 2 sessions per week. We will offer weekday sessions at Paragon Star and Olathe Garmin and we will offer a weekend session at Paragon. Sessions will consist of 30 minutes of technical and learning activities and 30 minutes of game play. U5u6 players will participate in Development Academy and not pre competitive. If we have advanced u6 players they may be invited to move to Pre-Competitive if coaching staff believes this to be the best environment for their development.

#### **Pre Competitive Program u7 - u9 (2019 to 2017)**

- 10-month program with build in 2-3 week breaks between seasons and during winter holidays. Locations at Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex and Paragon Star in Lee's Summit
- u7u8u9 (2019, 2018, 2017) have up to 4 practice opportunities per week: 2x at Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex and 2x Paragon Star in Lee's Summit. It would be our expectation that most players will participate in 2 practices per week. You can attend as many or as little as you choose but those are your options. These age groups play 5v5 on Saturday mornings in the Youth Development League (YDL). Some select players may play in a 7v7 league if level is appropriate.
- Player focused program prioritizing individual technical skill development as well as age appropriate cognitive and decision making skills
- The foundation of the club, the Juniors Pre Competitive program is dedicated to developing young players in a skill based environment that is fun, challenging and structured.

#### **Competitive Program: u9-u12 (2017 - 2014) 7v7 and 9v9**

- Players are placed on teams via tryout process, Practice 2x's per week
- Heartland Soccer Association League (Fall and Spring), Winter Indoor League
- 4 Local Tournaments (two in the Fall, two in the Spring) Elite 9v9 teams have one out of town tournament per season.
- Dedicated, professional, licensed Coach following Union KC curriculum for 7v7 and 9v9 teams
- Practice locations: Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex for KS based teams, Paragon Star for MO based teams and some teams may use Scheels OP Soccer Complex. Elite level teams may be mixed KS and MO and they may have mixed practice locations
- Union KC Goal is to place all kids with like skilled players and give them a highly qualified coach that utilizes Union KC curriculum to meet and exceed age group skill sets and objectives for players.



# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE Soccer Program 2025/26

### FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019 TO U9 (2017)

---

#### *Pre Competitive Program Details:*

**Commitment:** The program is an open enrollment program. You can join at any time and the fees are prorated. The program is designed as a 10 month program starting in August and ending in May. If you choose to stop, we ask you finish out the current season you are in (Fall, Winter or Spring). You will not be charged. You can pay all up front (5% discount), seasonally or monthly.

**Annual Rhythm:** It is important to have families that are committed to their player's development and the program. We need kids to consistently attend practice sessions so that we can appropriately progress the group. However, we do know families/kids may have other interests and commitments and the annual rhythm and flexible league participation will provide families opportunities for breaks if desired.



#### ***Fall Season: Mid August - Mid October***

- U7, U8 and U9 2x per week
- Participate in KC Youth Development League vs other local club teams
- Tournament Optional for U7-U8-U9 players when appropriate

#### ***Fall / Winter Break - Mid October through Mid November (2-3 weeks)***

#### ***Winter Season: Late November - Mid February***

- U7, U8, U9 1x per week
- Participate in [www.kcsoccerone.com](http://www.kcsoccerone.com) league various indoor facilities: 8 games
- 2 week mandatory break for all Union KC teams the last week in Dec. and first week in January.

#### ***Winter / Spring Break - Mid February through Mid March (2-3 weeks)***

#### ***Spring Season: Mid March - Mid May***

- Participate in KC Youth Development League vs other local club teams: We have a KS League and a MO league so the kids can remain regional. At times we may have crossover games when necessary to provide appropriate competition.
- Tournament Optional for U7-U8-U9 players



# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE

### Soccer Program 2025/26

#### FOR PLAYERS U5 (2021) TO U9 (2017)

---

**Facilities:** Union KC Juniors will utilize two different facilities for our program.

- Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex: We will have two u7u8u9 practices per week
- Paragon Star Complex (West Side Lee's Summit): We will have two u7u8u9 practices per week.

**Curriculum:** Our goal is for every player participating in Union KC Juniors to have a positive experience with soccer. If the sport is not fun for them, they will never have true passion and drive to strive for excellence. We also believe in developing strong individual technical players. If we can provide all young players with a significant base of technical ability, decision making skills and love for the game, the players will be ready for a lifetime of enjoyment with soccer. Not everyone will be a professional soccer player, but every child should be given an opportunity to maximize their abilities and skill sets to achieve the most out of the sport they possibly can. We typically follow a Play - Practice - Play model at practices. Kids arrive and have fun, learn, put skills learned into practical activities and they finish with more game play to ensure they are leaving having had a great time!

Union KC curriculum is proven to build successful player development. Union KC has a national reputation as one of the top clubs in the United States and has produced numerous current and former high level Players. Our style of play is based on strong individual technical skills that promotes confident players, skilled players and knowledgeable players of the game. We play an attacking style of play with a strong possession percentage. Our players are developed to take on opponents, dominate 1v1 situations and use their creativity. We play intense pressing defense and our style is fun to play and watch.

Union KC Juniors Program is responsible for building that base with INDIVIDUAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT. Our focus is on Fundamental Technical Skills to include:

- Ball Mastery "TBIM's" (Tom Byer Inspired Moves)
- 1v1 Dribbling / Attacking Skills
- V's
- Receiving and Receiving Turns
- Shooting
- Passing
- Decision Making
- 1v1 Defending

We use challenges, contests, series, etc.... To provide motivation, passion and work ethic. Every practice session will include technical skill building activities supplemented by activities that put in "play" the skills learned.

# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE

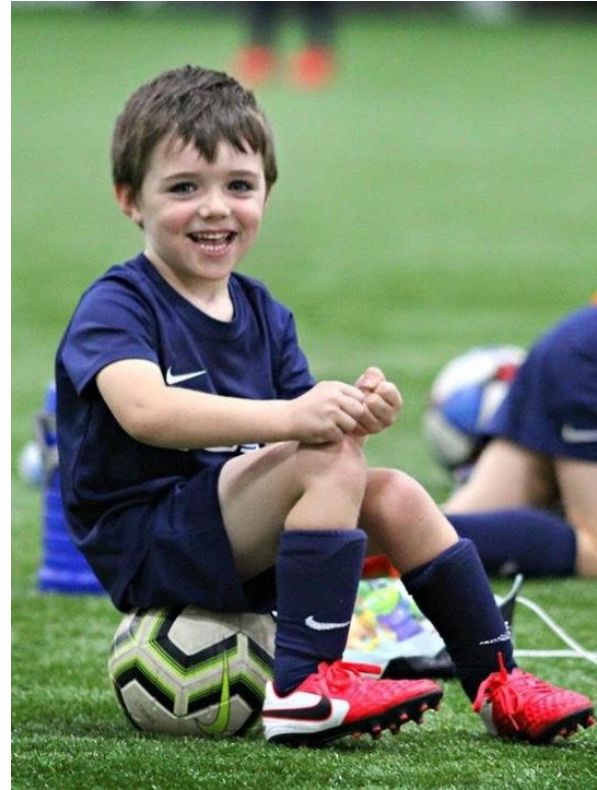
### Soccer Program 2025/26

#### FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019) TO U9 (2017)

---

**Age Group Goals and Skill Sets:** Working with our Directors of Coaching within Juniors and also in coordination with our older age groups, Union KC Juniors has very specific goals and skills sets that we have outlined for each age group. From Having Fun, Dribbling Fakes and Moves, Turns, Passing Ability, Shooting Ability, Basic Understanding of Rules, Receiving Ability, technical skills, etc...we have set objectives for our coaches to have players meet minimum expectations. Our pre comp goals help players perform at the competitive 7v7 level, our 7v7 competitive goals help to transition them to 9v9. We then have expectations for our 9v9 players to achieve benchmark skills so that when they go 11v11 our staff for those age groups know they have players with base skills so that they can then focus on the objectives and development of 11v11 team and player objectives.

**Practice and Play Model Pre Competitive Players:** Union KC Junior program focuses on age group training - not teams. We are building age groups for the future and are concerned with providing the entire group excellent training and opportunities. We are forming age groups and with those groups finding ways to challenge each and every player as they navigate their own personal development pathway. Kids progress at different rates and we provide an environment to support that. At the same time we want to have fluid player movements in the age group to build an atmosphere where all of the kids in the age group are comfortable with one another. As they progress out of the Pre Competitive Junior program and into Competitive Junior levels the players will be tiered and placed on teams. At the Union KC Pre Competitive Juniors level we are more concerned about developing each player's individual abilities than we are developing dominating teams. The "tryout" process begins at u9 and it can be a stressful time for young (and old) players. We want them to be comfortable and know all of the players in their age group so that when we do make "teams" they have multiple familiar friends and teammates in their group. We are building age groups for the future and looking at the "Big Picture".







# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE

### Soccer Program 2025/26

#### FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019) TO U9 (2017)

#### **Play, Practice and Play Model Pre Competitive** **Players continued....**

We will establish teams for the various league play, but the players will still train in an age group environment. Teams will change each league season. All leagues we participate in will have a set schedule with games primarily on Saturdays but there may be an occasional Sunday match. Games will follow small sided league recommendations of US Soccer.

#### **Communication Tools and Support Programs:**

Union KC Juniors will be utilizing several communication tools to help coaches, parents and players communicate, educate and support. **Play Metrics** is the club's communication platform that all teams and families utilize within Union KC. Play Metrics is where you will register for programs, have team communication tools, calendars, text groups, etc... Union KC will also utilize **social media platforms**: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc... Coaches will send out **weekly updates** to parents providing information and communication. PlayMetrics is also an app and parents can have info at their fingertips including curriculum and home practice options.



All Union KC players have access to Techne Futbol soccer app. This app will provide video links for at home training. Union KC coaches can track modules that have been practices and see total time accumulated practicing on the app. We will be actively engaging parents/players with "Homework" or "Videos" that help parents and players at home so they can master skills and utilize practice to learn how to use skills, not just learn the skills.



# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE Soccer Program 2025/26

FOR PLAYERS U7 (2019) TO U9 (2017)

---

### Fees and Payment Options:

Players are allowed to join at any time during the season and we will prorate fees so that you are not charged for anything you have missed. Also, players that need to freeze for a season or end their participation will not be charged for additional fees that they did not participate in. I.e. If a player had a conflict in the Spring and decided to stop they would not be charged the monthly installments for March, April and May.

#### **U7 - U9 (2019, 2018, and 2017 birth years) Annual**

**Total** - \$775 \$150 down, \$62.50/month x 10 months

- Practice fees 2x per week Fall, Winter and Spring (Can attend both locations if for a total of 4x's if wanted)
- Coaching fees Fall, Winter and Spring
- Uniform Kit - each player is provided a Nike uniform kit consisting of two jerseys, shorts and a pair of socks. Additional items can be purchased including warm ups and bags.
- League fees for Fall, Winter and Spring
- All admin and technology fees included

#### Payment Options:

Option 1: Pay in full up front and receive a 5% discount

Option 2: Seasonal Payments: Fall, Winter and Spring (payments are equally distributed between the 3 seasons)

Option 3: Monthly Payments: \$150 down payment + 10 installments (\$62.50 for u7u8u9)





# Union KC Soccer Club

## Juniors PRE COMPETITIVE Soccer Program 2024/25

FOR PLAYERS U5 (2020) TO U9 (2016)

---



### **Getting Started!**

The Union KC Juniors program will start in mid August. **Registration is now open!** You can register today through the website/playmetrics. If you would like to experience the program first hand there will be two, two day camps offered this summer and we will have coaches there to answer any questions you might have.

Throughout the year if you are interested in the program, email us and we will get you practice information so that you can experience first hand the program and coaches. We encourage you to visit with our families and ask questions so that you are well informed.

Players that are 2017 and 2018 birth years have the option of trying out for Competitive teams via the normal tryout process that takes place the first week in June. See Tryout tab on the website and register if this is your preference.

***NOTE: The Union KC Juniors Pre Competitive program does not have "tryouts".***

Register for Union KC Juniors - if you have made the decision to participate in the 2025-26 Union KC Juniors Program you can register immediately by [clicking here.](#)

