

TOURNAMENTS

As a Travel Club we must look at the reasons why we enter tournaments. Most Clubs run their tournaments as a way to generate financial income. We must also consider some of the positive points that we gain from attending these tournaments.

- Tournaments at the beginning of the season can be used to improve player's game fitness.
- Players have the opportunity to have longer playing time together so coaches can assess if their tactical thoughts will work during the coming season.
- It is different, and at times tougher, competition than what we encounter in our League games.
- Players learn the importance of keeping possession of the ball when tired.
- Players and parents will learn about hydration and nutrition.
- Teams will benefit from playing Club's with a higher grade of competition.
- The players have a fun weekend.
- It helps create team bonding.
- Players and parents have great memories from tournaments.
- If planned thoughtfully tournaments can be used so they benefit the coach and the team's tactical knowledge.
- Coaches have an opportunity to try different playing formations.
- Tournaments in the middle or end of the season should be aimed at testing your team's progress, and for Coaches to assess the progress the team has made.

Points to consider before selecting a tournament:

- The standard of the fields – this is very important!
- The cost - not only for the tournament but also hotels, gas and food.
- The standard of the opposition – You must have competitive games that will benefit your players.
- Is there a chance of cancellation due to the weather in early spring or late fall?
- Is there a back-up plan if it rains?
- Is there a cancellation refund policy - If so, what is it?
- Is there a discount if we send numerous teams from our club?
- The distance you have to travel?
- What do you plan to accomplish while playing in the tournament?
- The schedule for your games. What time do the first games start?
- Rainout and match reschedule dates?
- Is it a showcase tournament?
- Is it suitable for all Louisa FC teams and their age brackets?