

Select Soccer FAQ

What is BIFC Select soccer?

BIFC select soccer is the competitive soccer of our all-encompassing soccer club based in Bainbridge Island, WA. Select soccer is a middle ground between premier and recreational soccer, providing a cost-effective alternative for the soccer experience that balances the commitment of time and money with an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to play competitive soccer.

How long is the season and when is it played?

The BIFC select soccer season is typically eight months in duration, lasting from the beginning of June to early February. Select soccer is directed towards learning the game and player development – covering the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects that this entails as players gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the game.

Where and when will the team practice?

BIFC teams practice twice weekly for 1.5 hours each session. All practices are based on fields on Bainbridge Island.

Why does select soccer have a paid professional coach?

BIFC's select soccer has paid coaches, who are typically long-time players of the game and have USSF, NSCAA or UEFA soccer coaching licenses. Great coaching is the key to player development and BIFC appoints committed, knowledgeable and expert coaches who have proved to be successful with player development.

How much does select soccer cost?

The costs associated with select soccer are outlined in the [parent information guide](#), which can be accessed through Select Soccer page on BIFC website.

Can my son/daughter move to select at any time?

The BIFC select program commences at U11 and players from recreational teams or development academy teams can try out for select soccer. Players that played U10 recreation soccer or U10 development academy should all tryout at U11 for select. Players who are not sure if select is right for them should attend the open practices and tryouts themselves to evaluate if select soccer is for you. If you decide that the environment is not the right fit then you may reconnect to select tryouts in a subsequent year.

Where and when will the teams play?

BIFC select soccer is a travel league and teams can travel within western Washington for match play. Younger ages (U11-U14) typically play their matches on Saturday. Older ages (U15 and above) play their matches on Sundays. Fall league seasons are 12 games – six home games on Bainbridge Island and six away games in Seattle and the greater Seattle area.

What about other sports or family vacations?

We understand that families take vacations and athletes often enjoy playing multiple sports. Coaches are typically flexible during the summer months. However, coaches will request that soccer be your first priority sport during the fall league season. The key to resolving conflict is early communication with our coaching staff.

What participation is expected of parents?

BIFC is operated supported by volunteers, and each family is expected to volunteer at either the team or club level. There are a wide variety of volunteer positions available with each team and the club.

What is the difference between select and premier soccer?

These terms are often used interchangeably, but there are some key differences. Premier soccer is the highest level of youth soccer in the state. It involves playing soccer year around, coaching, 2-3 practices per week, 2-5 tournaments per year, and multi-state travel in the older age groups. Select requires less commitment than premier, both in terms of time and in money. Select typically involves training two thirds of the year.

Are BIFC teams balanced or do you have an "A" team and a "B" team?

Historically we formed balanced teams via tryouts, but found that it became problematic when entering our teams into tournaments and league play where we found it difficult to find the right fit for our teams. The challenge for us was found to be that within WA nearly all clubs operate on an A and B team system, and we needed to work in line with our opposition clubs in order to match up appropriately.

What happens at tryouts?

Prospective players are assigned a numbered tryout jersey to be worn at each tryout session. Players will be identified by that unique jersey number during the course of the tryout. Tryouts typically consist of small-sided 1v1, 2v2, 4v4 and 6v6 games where our BIFC professional coaching staff will evaluate skill and athletic ability demonstrated during the tryouts. Larger sided games and other skill exercises may also be used.

Are returning players given preference during tryouts?

No, returning players and development academy players receive no preferential treatment during tryouts. All players start with the same blank slate and selection is based on the skills that a player demonstrates during the tryout itself. All players are specifically requested to not wear any identifying clothing so as not to influence the selection process. If returning players enjoy any advantage at all, it comes from simply having more time on the ball and more training than recreational players.

My son/daughter heard another player say they were guaranteed a spot on a roster?

There are no guaranteed roster spots for any player regardless of what anyone tells you.

I wasn't selected. Does that mean that I'm not a good soccer player?

Each year we see many very good soccer players who, for one reason or another, we could not place on a BIFC select team. We understand that and as an all-encompassing soccer program we offer a thriving recreational program to ensure players can continue to develop and play with the goal to return to select tryouts the following year.

Questions or if you want more information

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