

## Competitive Program General Information

Welcome to the Bozeman Blitzz Futbol Club. We are happy that you are inquiring about the club or enrolling your child(ren). The following information should answer lots of your questions. Your Blitzz tuition fee covers the spring season including coaching from March 1 through the state tournament, all league games on Saturdays, referee costs, field rentals, the state tournament entry fee and insurance. Our administrator and Club Coach are paid about ¼ time (and work at least twice that!) – no other club employees are paid much more than minimum wage. Your coach's travel costs to league games are fully covered by the Blitzz, but not travel to tournaments, including the league tournament.

Blitzz pays coaches for the season and requires them to be licensed with a minimum of an "E" Coaching License (the Club pays for licensing, including part of upgrades). Parent coaches are occasionally permitted for developmental teams (U11 and U12). All games will be refereed by USSF certified referees many of whom are parents that have attended the necessary clinics. Each team is expected to provide a minimum of two referees.

Practices for the regular Blitzz season begin outside in March (or as soon as the weather permits) and are typically three times per week. Additionally, teams typically train one time per week indoors during January, February and the first half of March. League play normally involves two games every Saturday in various cities around the state during the season. These games are typically scheduled so that you can travel to and from the location in one day and do not have to spend the night.

There are three levels of teams involved in Blitzz. The team with which your child will play is dependent upon several factors: age (by FIFA date of July 31), grade in school, skill and experience, and the mix of available players. We try NOT to "cut" anyone, but rather to form teams of evenly-skilled players at appropriate levels of competition..

1. "AA" Teams – U13 through U19
  - a. Teams are created through a tryout process in the fall.
  - b. Games begin the first Saturday in April.
  - c. Teams attend the Montana State Cup tournament held Memorial Day Weekend. State winners advance to regional tournament and all players on winning Blitzz teams are expected to travel to the regional tournament in June.
  
2. "A" Teams – U13 and up
  - a. Consist of players that were not selected for a AA team
  - b. Can be a combined age group depending on number of players
  - c. Games begin the first Saturday in April.
  - d. Attend the Montana State developmental tournament (for "A" teams) held the second weekend after Memorial Day.
  - e. It is common for a player to play on an A team, improve his/her skills and then move up to AA or make the high school team for the next season.

### 3. U11 and U12 Developmental teams

- a. At this level, the club attempts to create balanced teams within an age group. There may often be more than one Bozeman team in these age groups.
- b. The season typically begins in the middle of April however teams can elect to start game play as early as the first Saturday in April.
- c. Teams attend the Montana 8 vs. 8 state tournament held the fourth weekend after Memorial Weekend.

Extra costs you will be responsible for include:

- Uniforms which typically cost about \$100 and can last for 3 years or more
- Families are expected to contribute to the club by volunteering a minimum of 10 hours per season and fill roles such as team manager, referee, field marshal or help with field preparation, concessions, etc. If you do not contribute, you will pay an extra \$100 per season.
- Coach's gas, meals and lodging for the state tournament (unless it is held in Bozeman). Teams can opt for the following extras and pay the associated costs:
- Additional tournaments – Most teams choose to participate in one tournament in addition to the state tournament. Some choose to attend more than this.
  1. Team costs for this may run \$50 to \$75 per player and include such things as tournament entry fees, coaching stipends, per diem and gas reimbursements. Additionally, there will be personal travel costs for gas, food and lodging.
  2. Teams inform the club of tournament plans so that they are not scheduled for regular Saturday play on a tournament weekend.
  3. Higher level teams may elect to travel to showcase tournaments in places like Las Vegas or San Diego and incur all associated costs.
- Indoor winter training
  1. Associated costs may include gym rental fees and coaching stipends (as the coaches are paid for the season beginning March 1).