



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Midwest FC?

The Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Park Districts have cooperatively created the Midwest FC travel soccer program for boys U15 and up and girls U14 and up. Midwest FC strives to provide a positive, competitive environment to produce soccer players who have the desire to compete at a high level. Teams train locally, participate in tournaments, and licensed strength and conditioning trainers work with all teams to create well-rounded soccer players. Teams compete across Chicagoland and all teams are trained and coached by a member of Future Pros, our professional staff.

### 2. Why are there no Lakers or Wings program at these age groups anymore?

The Glen Ellyn Lakers and Wheaton Wings are always looking for ways to improve and strengthen their programs while creating the best opportunities for their players. Over the years, it has been challenging for both clubs to sustain teams on a consistent basis at the older levels.

To provide quality and competitive teams, while retaining as many of our longtime players as possible, a new cooperative program between both park districts is being established. By doing so, the current player pool will expand to create a sustainable and stable program moving forward. This new program will help achieve this goal by providing these players the continued opportunity to play locally and competitively, rather than having to move to another club. The Midwest FC will be the sole program for these age groups. While the name has changed, it is philosophically consistent with the Lakers and Wings – outstanding training, local practices and competitive teams

### 3. What is the tryout process?

Tryouts are a 2-day process and a requirement of any player interested in playing on a Midwest FC team. All players must attend both days of tryouts to be eligible to be selected for a team. Due to US Club Soccer mandates, age cutoffs follow the birth year for all players. All tryouts are conducted by Future Pros trainers. Players receiving invitations to join a team will have 48 hours to accept their invitation.

#### 4. Where are tryouts held?

- **U15 Boys:** May 2-3 from 6:00-7:30pm at Ackerman Park.
- **High School Girls:** May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30pm at Ackerman Park and May 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30pm at Seven Gables Park in Wheaton.
- **U14 and U15 Girls:** May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-7:30pm at Ackerman Park and May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-7:30pm at Seven Gables Park in Wheaton.

#### 5. How are teams selected?

The majority of players reside in either Glen Ellyn or Wheaton. Non-residents are welcome to participate as well. Teams will be selected based on the skills and abilities of the players who attend tryouts.

#### 6. Where will my team practice or play?

Location will be dependent on where players on a team reside. For example, if there is an even split of Glen Ellyn and Wheaton residents, then half of the practices and games will be in Glen Ellyn and half will be in Wheaton. Parks and facilities will include but are not limited to: Ackerman Park (Glen Ellyn), Seven Gables (Wheaton), Graf Park (Wheaton), or Central Athletic Complex (Wheaton).

#### 7. What tournaments do I play in?

Tournament selection will be organized by the Future Pros training staff. Midwest FC teams will play in higher-level, showcase-type tournaments.

#### 8. What is the time commitment?

Elite level teams will practice 3 times per week for 10 weeks in the fall and spring. Select level teams will practice 2 times per week for 10 weeks in the fall and spring. High school boys and girls will practice 3 times per week for 10 weeks in the fall or spring. All outdoor trainings are 90 minutes each. Games will be played primarily on the weekends with occasional weekday games. Winter indoor training will be once per week for 10 weeks.

#### 9. What is the cost and what is included?

- **U14 Girls and U15 Boys and Girls Elite: \$,1650**
  - Pre-season 5-day camp (August)
  - Training 3 times per week in the fall and spring
  - Winter indoor turf training
  - 3 tournaments throughout the season
  - Strength and conditioning training from professionally licensed athletic trainers
- **U14 Girls and U15 Boys and Girls Select: \$1,350**
  - Pre-season 5-day camp (August)
  - Training 2 times per week in the fall and spring

- Winter indoor turf training
- 2 tournaments throughout the season
- Strength and conditioning training from professionally licensed athletic trainers
- **High School Boys: \$1,350**
  - Winter indoor turf training
  - Training 3 times per week for 10 weeks in the spring
  - 3 tournaments in the spring
  - Strength and conditioning training from professionally licensed athletic trainers
- **High School Girls: \$1,450**
  - Pre-season 5-day camp (August)
  - Training 3 times per week in the fall
  - Winter indoor turf training
  - 3 tournaments in the fall
  - Strength and conditioning training from professionally licensed athletic trainers

## 10. How is payment completed?

If you are a Glen Ellyn resident, payment can be made at the Glen Ellyn Park District's Spring Avenue Recreation Center, Main Street Recreation Center, or Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center. If you are a Wheaton resident, payment can be made at any Wheaton Park District facility. If you are a non-resident, payment can be made at any of the facilities previously mentioned. Payment plans are available for all participants. Scholarships are also available for Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Park District residents.

## 11. What are the uniforms?

The uniform package is purchased through Soccer2000 in Downers Grove. The cost is expected to be approximately \$115 and includes the following:

- Black game jersey
- Light blue game jersey
- Black shorts and black socks

## 12. How can I volunteer?

Each team requires a parent volunteer to be the Team Manager for the season. Responsibilities include (but are not limited to): filtering communication between the club/trainers to the team, complete administrative duties for tournaments, reserve fields for home games through online software, reschedule games with opposing teams in case of cancellations, and to assist the trainer in any way needed.

## 13. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

- **Glen Ellyn Park District:** Brad Thomas, (630) 942-7288 or [bthomas@gepark.org](mailto:bthomas@gepark.org)
- **Wheaton Park District:** Toni Giovenco, (630) 510-5016 or [tgiovenco@wheatonparks.org](mailto:tgiovenco@wheatonparks.org)