

Novi Parks Soccer Club (NPSC) Tryout Information

Thunder vs. Lightning:

- **Thunder** is the recreational program focused on development and fun. There are no tryouts for Thunder. Thunder teams generally practice **once per week**.
- **Lightning** is the select-level program that requires tryouts and offers a higher level of competition. Lightning teams typically practice **twice per week**.

All Coaches Are Volunteers!

- Coaches dedicate their time to developing players and fostering a positive soccer environment
- They are **not paid** for coaching these teams
- This means that **each team may be managed differently throughout the year**, and some teams may participate in more events (such as tournaments) than others
- Parents should **discuss with the coaches** what their intentions are for the upcoming year with the soccer team
- This will help families make the **best-informed decision** on whether the team is the right fit for their child

Open Assessment Trainings (OATs) & Secondary Tryouts:

- The week leading up to tryouts, some coaches may choose to hold OATs to give players an opportunity to practice and be observed in a low-pressure setting.
- Attending the OATs is highly recommended, but is not required and does not replace tryouts.
- Some coaches may also choose to hold secondary tryouts after the original tryout dates for further evaluation or to fill roster spots, but these are not required.
- Parents can contact coaches directly regarding the potential for secondary tryouts if their child will miss the primary tryout date.

Check-In Process:

- Players receive a **numbered bib** (must be worn on the back during tryout)
- Headshot photo taken
- Players directed to the appropriate field
- Early check-in is available during OAT days, as well as on the tryout date

Evaluation Process:

- Each age group has a **90-minute** tryout session
- Coaches evaluate players using **drills, scrimmages, and skill assessments**

Team Formation & Tiering:

- Teams are formed based on skill level and available roster spots
- Lightning Teams:
 - (1) Gold (highest tiered team)
 - (2) Blue
 - (3) White
- Max Roster Sizes:
 - U7-U8 (4v4): 8 players
 - U9-U10 (7v7): 12 players
 - U11-U12 (9v9): 16 players
 - U13+ (11v11): 18 players
 - *Coaches are not required to fill rosters to the maximum roster limits*

Fees, Commitment, & Additional Activities

Fees & Commitment Structure:

- The registration fee covers the **fall and spring seasons ONLY**
- **Uniforms are ordered separately** from player registration
- Teams are allowed to participate in additional activities, but these are **optional**
- Additional team expenses may include referee fees for MSPSP teams, as well as optional tournaments, winter training sessions, etc.
- These additional activities and expenses are coordinated between coaches and team families
- **NPSC does not manage any additional team activities or expenses**

Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP):

- MSPSP has age divisions from U13-U19.
- Coaches can request their team to be sponsored into MSPSP, with final approval from NPSC.
- NPSC does not increase registration fees for MSPSP participants compared to WSSL Select players. However, **MSPSP teams are responsible for all referee fees** (paid in cash on-site). Coaches and team managers must collect these fees from parents.
- MSPSP requires teams to cover half of the referee fees for every game, including both home and away matches.
- MSPSP coaches are required to hold a U.S. Soccer Grassroots or Class E License.

Extending & Accepting Offers:

- Coaches make **verbal offers** during or immediately after tryouts
- Players wanting to be on a specific team should make all tryout coaches aware, to aid them in making offers.
- To **accept an offer**, parents must:
 - Complete the **Player Registration Form**
 - Upload a copy of child's **birth certificate or passport** via **SportsForms**
 - Select **Novi Parks Soccer Club** at: www.sportsforms.club/wssl
 - For **MSPSP** teams, complete the form here: www.sportsforms.club/mspssp
 - Register for the league at cityofnovi.org before the deadline

Multi-Age Division Tryouts:

- Players can try out for their age group and/or the next older age group, but not for age groups younger than their birth year
- Players may accept an offer from one Lightning team and still try out for another Lightning team. However, please communicate this to the coaches so they are aware.
- If a better offer is received later, players may switch their commitment

Guest Players (Passcarding):

- When appropriate for their age, players are allowed to participate with other NPSC Lightning teams in addition to their regularly rostered team.
- Passcarding is allowed when a team is **short on players** (0-1 substitutes available)

Contact Information:

- **Novi Parks Recreation Supervisor:** Chase Root (croot@cityofnovi.org)
- **Novi Parks Admin Assistant:** Sean Penndorf (spenndorf@cityofnovi.org)
- Visit cityofnovi.org/soccer for more information