



1. Why the proposed change?

First, it is important to stress that there will no changes made to our current Recreational program, we are simply adding to our programs. The creation of Topeka Soccer Club First will enable us to provide programs under one umbrella that can develop young people at every age and ability. Expanding our programs would enable us to solidify mutually beneficial partnerships with organizations that can help our members such as Jocks Nitch, Washburn University, Shawnee County Parks and Rec., and Sporting Kansas City.

2. What will Topeka Soccer Club do?

Topeka Soccer Club will join with our current recreational programs run by Sunflower Soccer Association with local competitive teams and clubs to create a club that offers soccer programs in Topeka for all ages and abilities.

3. How will the new structure affect my children and me?

Recreational players and parents:

There will be no changes made to our current recreational program, with the exception that in the Fall of 2018 jerseys will have the Topeka Soccer Club logo in place of the Sunflower Soccer Association logo. We will continue to have individual sign-ups and continue to allow coaches to keep rosters intact from season to season. Teams will continue to be formed using the school year age breakdown to allow players to be in the same team as their classmates. Coaches will still be volunteer parents. Most teams will practice 1 or 2 times per week and play games on Saturday and / or Sunday at the Sunflower complex.

We will also continue to offer both our mini-kicker program for 3 and 4-year old's plus Sunflower Soccer Association's Academy training sessions for the Recreational player.

Competitive players and parents:

For those players currently playing on a competitive team that joins Topeka Soccer Club the major change will be in the team name, for example you will now be Topeka Soccer Club Attack, or Topeka Soccer Club Edge. Also, players will register for the club through Got Soccer and payments will be made to Topeka Soccer Club, through Sunflower Soccer Association.

It is important to stress that coaches will retain full decision-making rights with regard to which leagues and tournaments their team will participate in.

4. How much will this cost?

There will be no change to the current fees for all our recreational programs.

At the competitive level, the goal is to be affordable so that all players and players can choose to play at the competitive level. Fees paid to Topeka Soccer Club will include league and 2 tournament fees for a season, player and coach registration and administrative fees. From feedback received from several competitive teams we have found that a price of \$250 per season (Fall / Spring) can be both affordable and competitive.

As well as paying league and two tournament registrations, Topeka Soccer Club will use available funds and sponsorships to improve the soccer experience by providing coaching education through coaching licenses and clinics for all levels of coaches, provide better practice facilities for all our members, make improvements to our infrastructure, and fund scholarships.

5. What about uniforms?

Recreational players will continue to get a jersey included with their registration fee.

Topeka Soccer Club will design a uniform that all competitive players will wear. Parents will be able to order uniforms on-line. We anticipate new uniforms will be needed every two years. For those teams who join Topeka Soccer Club who have just purchased new uniforms there will be a grace period before parents will have to purchase the new uniforms. The goal will be for all players to be wearing the new uniform by Fall 2019.

6. How will this affect my current competitive team in the Fall?

There will be no impact on your current competitive team except for the club name. Tryouts will be held in June per KSYSA rules, and will be at one central location. Teams will be formed using the calendar year age groups and coaches will be allowed to keep their rosters intact and add or subtract who they choose to.

7. Why the change?

Over the past 10 years the landscape of youth soccer in the US has changed dramatically with the creation of the club model. Topeka does not currently have this model that has been so successful in other areas both in increasing the number of children playing soccer, but also by giving players an opportunity to grow within the same organization. Creating a competitive branch to work side by side with our current recreational program will allow us to offer a soccer home for Topeka players. Those who want to play soccer just for fun and with their friends in our recreational program can do so, those that choose to play soccer at the more competitive level can now do so without having to find a different organization. This will make administration and changing programs much more efficient. Recreational teams who decide to make the jump into the competitive world can also do so without having to change organizations.

Bringing competitive teams under the Topeka Soccer Club umbrella will create one soccer community where cooperation and consistency are key to helping Topeka soccer grow. Having recreational and competitive programs working side by side will allow both to flourish.