



travel sports

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK **BEFORE** YOU JOIN

“Breaking news: scientists have discovered that joining a travel sports team may cause CTAE (chronic tent assembly elbow), cases of WDRBP (wagon-dragging-related back pain), and stage 4 fatigue complicated by bankruptcy.”

Before you sell a kidney to pay for cleats, pom-poms, matching warm-up suits, or plan your life around the I-95 corridor, we need to talk. Travel sports aren't just games; they're a lifestyle, with side effects. And if you don't ask the right questions up front, you might find yourself driving six hours for a tournament your kid doesn't even play in.

So, before you sign the check, pack the SUV, and wave goodbye to your free weekends until 2037... here are the 10 questions every parent should ask before joining a travel sports team. Download it. Save your sanity. And maybe, just maybe, keep your Saturdays.”

WHAT IS THE REAL COST?



Not just registration and team fees. Ask about uniforms, equipment, tournaments, hotel rooms, flights, meals, gas, and “extras” (training sessions, private coaching, team building sessions, custom gear, hair and makeup for cheer, etc.).

HOW MUCH TRAVEL IS ACTUALLY INVOLVED?

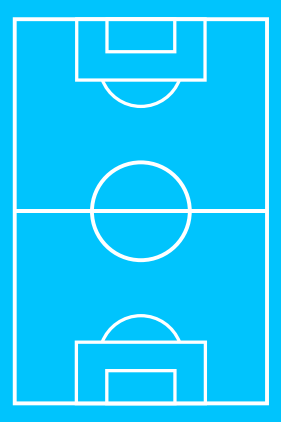


Will games stay local, or are you booking weekends in Orlando, Jacksonville, or across the country? Get the schedule up front (sometimes this isn't an option because tournaments and games are added midway through the season – if that's the case, ask for a copy of the previous season's schedule so you have a better idea).

WAIT. DO I EVEN HAVE THIS MUCH VACATION AND PTO TIME?

Some sports, like soccer, seem to have tournaments all year long, and they have indoor and outdoor leagues. Do all sports do that?

HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILD BE PRACTICING AND PLAYING?



Clarify in-season and off-season expectations. Many “seasons” now run year-round. There will be weekday and weekend practices/games/tournaments.

WHAT'S THE COACH'S PHILOSOPHY?

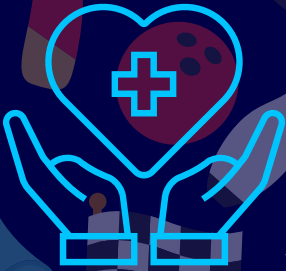


Is it about winning trophies at all costs, or developing skills, character, and a love for the game? Not all coaches on the same team have the same philosophy. Often, there are multiple coaches. Talk to as many as you can.

I'M SORRY, DID THAT COACH JUST SAY HE DOESN'T COACH LOSERS?

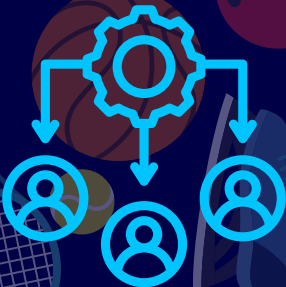
We have all heard about the horrors of Larry Nassar and women's gymnastics. How do we protect our kids?

WHAT'S THE COACHING AND SAFETY BACKGROUND?



Are coaches certified? Are trainers or medical staff on-site? How is concussion protocol handled? Have the coaches and all staff had a background check and have they been cleared to coach youth?

HOW ARE TEAMS STRUCTURED?



Is your child entering an "A" team, "B" team, or developmental tier? How and when can they move between levels? You may need to make choices with your child. They may get offered team A, but have less playing time because there are more experienced kids on the field. They may want the B team because they will get to play the position they want more often...

**A-TEAM, A-TEAM, WE ALL WANT
A-TEAM. OR DO WE?**

When I was growing up, the coaches just told me to rub some dirt in it and take a lap. Do they still do that?

WHAT'S THE POLICY ON MENTAL HEALTH AND BURNOUT?



How does the club handle over-scheduling, school workload conflicts, or a player who needs a break? While not all teams place an emphasis on mental health and burnout, more and more sports clubs are making this a priority.

WHAT'S THE BALANCE BETWEEN CLUB AND SCHOOL SPORTS?



Will they allow your child to play for their middle school or high school team, or is club the priority? At some point, you may have to make a choice between travel club sports (private) and school sports.

**BUT, JUNIOR WANTS TO BE THE
NEXT FLORIDA GATORS ALL-STAR
QUARTERBACK.
WHAT DO WE DO?**

WHAT'S THE EXPOSURE PATH IF MY CHILD DOES WANT TO PLAY IN COLLEGE?



Do they attend college showcases or have connections with recruiters? REMEMBER YOU AND YOUR CHILD MUST FOLLOW NCAA DIVISION AND SPORTS SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING COMMUNICATION AND RECRUITMENT. THIS LINK MAY BE HELPFUL – BUT MAKE SURE YOU RESEARCH NCAA RULES THOROUGHLY!!!

[CLICK HERE FOR A RECRUITMENT GUIDE](#)

IS THERE FINANCIAL AID OR FUNDRAISING TO OFFSET COSTS?



Scholarships, payment plans, and booster clubs can make the difference for families who might otherwise miss the opportunity.

[Click here for a grant opportunity.](#)

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