



As the holiday weekend approaches many of our DUSC squads will be traveling in the region to compete in tournaments. This requires a great deal of preparation on and off the field and many parents have wondered or asked aloud:

"Why do we travel and play in tournaments?" "What is their developmental purpose?"

Ask your kids and they will probably reply along these lines:

"Cause I get to play soccer and hang out with my teammates all weekend!"

A pretty good answer. I don't think I can top that but I will add a few points explaining some of the reasons DUSC chooses to compete in these events.

- **Joy:** Build team camaraderie and have fun. Create memories that transcend the results of the tournament games.
- **Competition:** Experience the challenge of competing at equal or higher level teams from around the region. This also prepares our DUSC teams for State Cup play, Regional and National competition.
- **Time Management:** One of the most underrated aspects of soccer tournaments is the opportunity to develop important time management skills. Tournaments can be long, all day weekend events in most cases. The ability to learn how to balance school, play, and leisure time while regularly competing in weekend events is a tool kids will be able to take with them for the rest of their lives.
- **Mental/Emotional Aspect:** While it might be difficult to actually gauge, the mental and emotional struggles one must overcome to participate successfully in any sport are crucial for personal development. This gets hyped in tournaments when games come fast and furious. Learning how to control emotions after a call that doesn't go your way, and of course coping with a tough loss are all things that can be taken from the soccer pitch and into real life. Knowing how to handle yourself after a big win with grace and good sportsmanship are also important lessons to learn.

How Parents Can Help:

First off - use the TOURNAMENT WEBSITE - for field sites/directions as that is the most updated site. League Apps will not have the live locations updated in real time.

Knowing the weather, meal and dining options nearby, offering to drive others instead of waiting to be asked, coordinating to be on time and keep track of your player in designated rest and down times between matches are all simple ways to help create an environment where your child and the team can joyfully participate and compete to the best of their ability.

This, of course, includes following the [DUSC Parent Code of Conduct](#).

Thanks for your support in these matters and have a great weekend!