



Red Flags - Know The Signs Of A Poor Club Team)

After 15 years in the club business, we have seen a ton of clubs come and go. We have also seen some awful behavior by club directors and coaches. Below is a list of things that should send you running from any club that does them:

- **High Pressure Sales** – A club director / coach that tells you that “so and so” has committed so that you have to commit today before there are no spots left is a huge red flag. It usually means that “so and so” hasn’t committed and they are struggling to get kids to join.
- **Limited Time Offers** - A club director / coach that tells you that you have to commit within 24 hours or before another club’s tryouts is a huge red flag. If your child / family is important they will give you a reasonable amount of time. Trust us, if your child is talented your spot will be there in 2 days.
- **No Show Coaches** – Many clubs have taken to telling you about all the big names (Pros, College coaches) that they claim will be coaching your child. Before you commit you need to 1) get a written guarantee that those coaches will actually be coaching your son and 2) take the time to confirm that those big names don’t have other commitments on those dates. If a pro player tells you they are coaching your son, but you notice they have a game scheduled during your son’s tournaments, you can be sure they won’t be at your son’s tournament.
- **Overcharging** – while costs vary most clubs in your area will charge a similar amount – competition works. If the club you are looking at charges you thousands of dollars above other area programs ask what the extra is for. After all, those other programs are profitable, so what are you getting for the extra money?
- **Large Rosters** – if a team has more than 23 kids on a roster you should be very weary. It can be hard enough rotating 20-23 player’s in a 40 to 50-minute running time game. To think a child can get ample playing time with 25 plus players on a roster is unrealistic.
- **Playing only the top players** – a club that plays only their best athletes (like a spring team) is another major red flag. As a parent, you invest too much time and money to not see your child play as much as the next child on the roster. If your the type of family that attends all the practices, supports the team, and has a child that consistently works hard than your child deserves the right to play as much as the most talented players on the team.



What Questions Should I Ask My Travel Team?

Commitment

- How long has the program been around?
- What is the expected commitment for my child? For me?
- What is the program's commitment to my child?
- What events are we required to commit to?
- Are your coaches available to watch / evaluate my son in the spring?

Coaches

- Who are / will be my child's coaches?
- Will the coaches actually be at all of my child's practices? games?
- How many coaches work with my child? His team?
- What are their responsibilities?

Instruction

- What is the practice philosophy?
- What training and development system do you use?
- How much time is spent on skills development? Live play?

Tournaments

- What tournaments do you attend? Why?

Recruiting

- What do you do for the college recruiting process?
- Who calls college coaches?
- Who meets with us? Is it included?

Price

- What is the cost of the summer travel team? What is included?
- Is there a breakdown of offerings and cost?

Success

- What is the goal of the summer travel team?
- How is playing time handled?
- How successful have your teams / players been in the past?

Team Selections

- Do you take all players or are tryouts competitive?
- If competitive tryouts are all spots open? If not how many are?

At Burning River we know that no other team offers the coaching, practice format, competitive tournaments, network (tournament and college coaches), and/or support that we do.