



Everest Soccer Club
2445 Deer Run Cr.; Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Phone: 330-673-3330 Web: www.everestsoccer.com

Dear Players, Parents and Guests,

This will be the first of many letters regarding Everest's trip to England and Scotland in the spring of 2010. I am very excited to offer this opportunity! Although the exact dates have not yet been set, they should coincide with many of your schools spring break. This trip is being offered to the current U13 and U14 boys and girls age groups.

Please start a file folder in which to keep this and other communications regarding our trip. This letter has a great deal of information which you will need to refer to over the next number of months.

Please find a general itinerary of our trip attached to this letter. A more detailed itinerary will be provided prior to departure with places, addresses and telephone numbers of where we are staying. Players will be housed 2-3 to a room in Hotel accommodations in both England and Scotland. Parents will be housed 2 to a room. Single occupancy is available for an additional price.

You will receive rosters for the trip. Everyone will have equal playing time. You will also receive a fund-raising letter to help you obtain sponsorship (it works great!). Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended. The cost is around \$100. If you would like insurance information, please indicate this by circling yes on your payment voucher.

The first order of business is that we need your deposit to secure your place on the roster and continue the process of planning housing, uniforms, practices, meetings, etc. Although we cannot guarantee an exact price 15 months in advance, we can give you a ballpark for the ten day tour. So, the payment schedule is as follows:

Installment 1: \$325 due March 2nd, 2009
Installment 2: \$325 due May 4th, 2009
Installment 3: \$325 due July 6th, 2009
Installment 4: \$325 due August 3rd, 2009
Installment 5: \$325 due September 7th, 2009
Installment 6: \$325 due October 5th, 2009
Installment 7: \$325 due November 2nd, 2009
Installment 8: \$325 due December 7, 2009

Final Payment of Taxes, Gov. Fees and Match Tickets: due March 5th. Please note: we have no control over these fees and they do fluctuate frequently. On our last trip in 2006, the final payment totaled \$325.

You will receive travel rules for the trip later. Parents going with us also receive a list of rules. This is to ensure that we are on the same page as far as your interaction with the team is concerned.

There will be at least 2 staff members to provide supervision during our trip. However, I am looking for 4 additional chaperones for our group. Any parent wishing to be a chaperone for this event will receive \$200 off their fee. Chaperones will assist with player supervision. Note: chaperones are not condemned to watch the players at all times. If we share the responsibility, it will be an enjoyable experience for all.

We will have a mandatory pre-departure meeting about a week before the trip. This meeting will likely coincide with a training session. Feel free to call me if you have any questions at any time during the process. My phone number is 330-673-3330.

Here are answers to a few frequently asked questions.

1. How much spending money should I take?
 - a. This depends very much on your personal spending habits. Included in the cost of the trip are all breakfasts and dinners, but you will need money for lunches. We will attend professional matches (at the very least, once) while in England as available around our playing schedule. Plan for snacks and souvenirs at this event. As with U.S. pro sports teams, most clubs have a pro shop where you can buy souvenirs, etc. We strongly discourage players from buying junk food. Pop is generally very expensive in Europe. A ballpark figure is from \$200-\$400. Players are encouraged to EARN their own spending money by saving or doing errands.
2. Do I need a passport? If so, how do I get one?
 - a. Yes, a passport is necessary. You can apply for one at the Post Office. This can take 8-10 weeks and you will need an original birth certificate and passport photos which accompanies your application and is then returned with your passport.
3. How closely are players supervised?
 - a. Players are given very strict guidelines and expected to stay within those guidelines. There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy with activities where players endanger themselves and or others. Troublemakers will be sent home immediately and at their parent's expense, at the first sign that a player is not able to control his or herself. We will have a lot of fun, but you must demonstrate responsible behavior.
4. Can I room with my friends?
 - a. No, players will be assigned roommates. Players are expected to get to know their teammates and get along with them at all times. We deal with disagreements and misunderstandings quickly and they are forgotten. We even have seasoned European travelers with us, who I expect to show leadership qualities in making newcomers heartily welcome by all.
5. What kind of clothing should I pack?
 - a. The weather in England is a lot like the weather in Ohio in March (cold and wet). You need to layer your clothes. You will need a rain coat or poncho, a sweatshirt or two, a light and heavy jacket, hat and gloves. Uniform decisions have not yet been determined. A more detailed packing list will follow.
6. What kind of currency/travelers checks should I have?
 - a. The pound is accepted in both England and Scotland. The current exchange rate is approximately \$2.00 – £1.00. You can order English pounds through your bank. Credit cards are also widely accepted.
7. How much interaction will parents have with their sons and daughters?
 - a. Actually less than you might think. On this kind of trip, it's important for the kids to have more responsibility. They will be rooming with teammates, expected to clean their own rooms, pack their own bags and show up on time to team functions. Although players will be supervised at all times, they will receive a certain degree of freedom and responsibility. Players are expected to be with the team at all times and parents are strongly discouraged from taking them away from the team situation.

Accompanying parents may, of course, do so; but only after making sure that both the coach and the team administrator are aware of who is leaving. It is strongly suggested that players handle their own money, even if a parent is on the trip. This can be a very relaxing and enjoyable trip for accompanying parents: all of the fun and none of the responsibility.

8. Can parents do their own little side trips away from the players and their activities?
 - a. Absolutely! You may want to set up a special tour or a dinner together away from the team. You may want to see different sights, stay up later, take train excursions, etc. We want this to be fun for everyone!
 - b. Basically, whenever the bus is free the parents are welcome to plan an excursion away from the team. Note: the bus is only allowed to travel 13 hours per day.

So if you haven't already begun, start earning your money and get you passports!

Thanks for reading!

Steve Davis
Everest Girls Director