



PARENT GUIDE SERIES

Elite Camp Parent Evaluation Checklist

**A Practical Worksheet for Evaluating Advanced Soccer Camp
Programs**

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Before You Begin

This checklist is designed to help parents evaluate elite soccer camp programs before registering.

It does not recommend one specific camp.

The word "elite" can mean different things depending on the organization. Some camps use it to describe advanced training. Others use it to describe competitive play, college-level preparation, selective registration, or a higher-intensity environment.

Before registering, use this checklist to slow down, compare details, and decide whether the camp truly matches your child's age, skill level, confidence, goals, and development stage.

Parent promise: use this as a calm checklist before the registration clock starts ticking.

What Is an Elite Soccer Camp?

Elite Camps are usually designed for players who are ready for a more advanced, competitive, or demanding soccer environment.

They may include:

- ☐ Faster-paced training
- ☐ Higher expectations from coaches
- ☐ More competitive player groups
- ☐ Advanced technical work
- ☐ Tactical instruction
- ☐ Position-specific coaching
- ☐ Small-sided and full-field competition
- ☐ Evaluation or feedback opportunities
- ☐ Preparation for club, high school, academy, or college-level play

An elite camp can be a great fit for the right player, but it can also be overwhelming if the player is not ready for the speed, pressure, or expectations.

Is My Child Ready for an Elite Camp?

Use this section honestly. A strong fit matters more than the label.

- ☐ My child has a solid foundation in basic soccer skills
- ☐ My child plays regularly with a club, school, academy, travel, or competitive team
- ☐ My child is comfortable training with stronger players
- ☐ My child responds well to coaching and correction
- ☐ My child can handle mistakes without shutting down
- ☐ My child wants a more challenging soccer environment
- ☐ My child understands the camp may be competitive
- ☐ My child is physically ready for the camp schedule
- ☐ My child is emotionally ready for a higher-pressure setting
- ☐ My child wants to improve, not just attend something called "elite"

If several boxes are unchecked, a Training Camp or Soccer Clinic may be a better next step before choosing an Elite Camp.

Parent Evaluation Scorecard

Camp Name: _____

Organization: _____

Website: _____

Location: _____

Dates: _____

Cost: _____

Age / Grade Range: _____

Skill Level Expected: _____

Positions Accepted: _____

Camp Length / Schedule: _____

Primary Camp Focus: _____

Questions to Ask Before Registering

Use these questions while reviewing the camp website, registration page, or speaking with camp staff.

Camp Fit

☐ What makes this camp "elite"?

Notes:

☐ Is the camp designed for advanced players only, or mixed skill levels?

Notes:

☐ What age groups or grade levels attend?

Notes:

☐ What level of playing experience is expected?

Notes:

☐ Are players grouped by age, skill level, position, or experience?

Notes:

Coaching

☐ Who will be coaching the camp?

Notes:

☐ What experience do the coaches have with advanced players?

Notes:

☐ Are the coaches college coaches, club coaches, academy staff, school coaches, or private trainers?

Notes:

☐ Will players receive individual feedback?

Notes:

☐ What is the coach-to-player ratio?

Notes:

Training Environment

☐ What skills or tactical concepts are emphasized?

Notes:

- ☐ Is the camp focused on technical development, tactical understanding, competition, evaluation, or a combination?

Notes:

- ☐ How much time is spent on drills, small-sided games, and full-field play?

Notes:

- ☐ Will players train under pressure or in game-like situations?

Notes:

- ☐ Is there position-specific training?

Notes:

Competition Level

- ☐ What level of players usually attend?

Notes:

- ☐ Will my child be challenged without being overwhelmed?

Notes:

- ☐ Is the camp appropriate for my child's confidence level?

Notes:

- ☐ Is the camp meant for development, exposure, selection, or preparation?

Notes:

Daily Experience

- ☐ What does a typical day look like?

Notes:

- ☐ How long are the training sessions?

Notes:

- ☐ Are breaks, hydration, and recovery time built into the schedule?

Notes:

- ☐ Are meals included or should players bring food?

Notes:

- ☐ What equipment should players bring?

Notes:

Safety and Communication

- ☐ Who is the parent contact before and during camp?

Notes:

- ☐ Are athletic trainers or medical staff available?

Notes:

☐ What happens if a player is injured?

Notes:

☐ What happens if weather affects the camp?

Notes:

☐ What is the refund, credit, or cancellation policy?

Notes:

What Good Elite Camps Usually Include

Check the items you find.

- ☐ Clear explanation of what "elite" means
- ☐ Age and grade range listed
- ☐ Skill level expectations explained
- ☐ Qualified coaching staff identified
- ☐ Organized daily schedule
- ☐ Advanced technical training
- ☐ Tactical instruction
- ☐ Competitive playing environment
- ☐ Player grouping information
- ☐ Position-specific details, if offered
- ☐ Realistic expectations
- ☐ Safe training environment
- ☐ Parent contact information
- ☐ Required equipment list
- ☐ Transparent pricing
- ☐ Refund or weather policy

Possible Red Flags

Slow down and ask more questions if you notice:

- ☐ The word "elite" is used without explanation
- ☐ Very little information is available online
- ☐ Coaching staff is not identified
- ☐ No age or grade guidance
- ☐ No skill-level expectations
- ☐ No schedule listed
- ☐ No player grouping information
- ☐ Guaranteed exposure claims
- ☐ Guaranteed selection claims
- ☐ Guaranteed scholarship claims
- ☐ Poor communication before registration
- ☐ No refund or cancellation policy
- ☐ No weather policy
- ☐ No safety procedures explained
- ☐ Vague camp description

Parent Comparison Notes

Use this section if you are comparing more than one elite camp.

Camp Option 1:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

Camp Option 2:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

Camp Option 3:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

My Overall Impression

Would I feel comfortable registering my child?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No

Why:

Biggest Strength

Biggest Concern

Questions I Still Need Answered

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Overall Rating

Circle one:

1 Poor 2 Fair 3 Good 4 Very Good 5 Excellent

Parent Reminder

The best elite camp is not always the most expensive, most intense, or most impressive-sounding.

Choose the camp that best matches your child's:

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Current skill level
- ☐ Competitive experience
- ☐ Confidence level
- ☐ Development stage
- ☐ Position
- ☐ Goals
- ☐ Personality
- ☐ Enjoyment of the game

Challenge matters.

Fit matters more.

An elite camp should stretch a player without overwhelming them.

Development comes before labels.

The right camp should help your child grow, compete, learn, and leave excited to keep improving.

Continue Your Research

Explore additional parent guides at SoccerIDCamp.com:

- What Is an Elite Camp?
- What Types of Soccer Camps Are There?
- How to Choose the Right Soccer Camp
- Soccer Camp Planning Checklist
- What Age Should My Child Start Attending Soccer Camps?

Helping parents understand soccer camps before they compare them.