

Wellesley United Soccer Club Tryout & Placement Policy

This page contains the details on the Wellesley United Soccer Club's (WUSC) policy for team tryout and selection policy.

WUSC Move to Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) League:

At the start of 4th Grade, WUSC transition from its in-town league to the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) league where we play teams from other towns. All WUSC teams play in BAYS starting in the Fall of 4th Grade. The BAYS league has multiple divisions (1, 2, 3 and 4), and multiple brackets within divisions (e.g., 2A, 2B, 3B). Typically the level of play is stronger in division 1 over

2 and 2 over 3. Brackets are determined by both record and geography so teams do not have to travel too far away games; therefore, 2D teams are not necessarily better than 2E teams.

BAYS teams are grade-based vs. date of birth based so players play with their grade regardless of date of birth.

WUSC Philosophy on Team Placement & Tryouts:

WUSC policy is to have no more than 3 'stratified teams' (referred to as A, B, C teams) determined via a tryout process and the remaining teams are chosen via a draft system to equally distribute soccer talent amongst these teams. These teams are referred to as 'balanced' teams. Stratified teams may play in BAYS division 1, 2 or 3 based on team record while most WUSC balanced teams typically play in division 3 or 4. All teams play in BAYS and therefore all teams travel to play teams from other towns. An impartial age group coordinator and travel committee manages player placement decisions and makes these decisions based on two critical inputs (1) past coach ratings, and (2) player performance at a multi-day tryout. Final player placement decisions are made by the Travel Committee subsequent to a meeting chaired by the age group coordinator with all coaches for that age group in attendance to give input on each player.

- Every player shall be given the opportunity to tryout for any stratified team
- Every player interested in playing on the stratified teams must tryout (including current stratified team players)
- No player is guaranteed a position on the stratified teams; any player can be moved down (e.g., A to B, B to C, C to Balanced team)
- Any player can be moved up from balanced to stratified teams

Tryout Details:

- Tryout Management: The age group coordinator and DOC manages the tryouts with evaluations being performed by impartial independent paid evaluators.
- Timing: Tryouts will be held in the spring for teams fielded in the fall season. Typically tryouts are held the last week in April thru the third week in May weather depending. Teams will stay in tact from fall to spring if possible. Player movement from Fall to Spring can occur. These specific situations are assessed and approved on a case by case basis by the WUSC travel committee.
- Approach: The tryouts are designed to evaluate age-appropriate individual and team skills of players in the age group. We do this thru small-sided games to maximize touches and evaluate ball handling in tight situations, and 7v7 or 9v9 games to simulate real game situations and evaluate how players perform off the

ball, how well they see the field and play as a team

•Tryouts for Grade 4-8 BAYS: It should be stressed that these tryouts are voluntary and ***only players interested in playing on stratified teams need to attend***. If your child chooses not to attend the tryouts, they will be placed on a balanced team and they will play in BAYS. There are 2 tryouts and players should attend both.

•Tryouts for Goalkeepers 4-8 BAYS: Players attending the GK tryouts should understand the following:

1. If a player makes a stratified team as a designated GK they are committing to a minimum of 50% per game as a GK. This will be communicated to both parents and coaches so there are no gray areas regarding placement. The remaining time will be rotated by other players on the team.
2. If no player is designated as a GK the coaches will rotate all players accordingly throughout the season so everyone will get time as a GK.

Team Selection Process (For Upcoming Fall Season):

•Age group coordinators evaluate the information from the tryout + the coaches' evaluations from prior seasons to rank the players across a number of important attributes. After taking into consideration the total number of registered players in the age group and the format for the age group (e.g., 7 vs 7, 9 vs 9, or 11 vs 11) the coordinator determines the optimum number of teams WUSC can field in the particular age group and develops a recommendation for optimum team size. The exact number assigned to each team is the decision of the Travel Committee and will be decided based on the interests of all teams. For example, balanced teams will not be left with too few players in order to have more players on the A or B teams.

•The age group coordinator then hosts a meeting in late May or Early June with all the coaches in the age group to review the proposed relative ranking of the players. Travel Committee members in attendance at the coach review meeting (WUSC GM, DOC or ADOC, travel director, board member with no child in age group) meet immediately following this coach review meeting, make the final decisions on rosters after coaches have left the meeting. Coaches with a child in the age group are asked to leave the meeting should a discussion of their child be necessary.

•All Tryout Meetings are confidential in nature. No coaches are allowed to discuss with you as a parent or any players anything discussed in the pick meetings. This includes rankings from evaluations or tryout rankings.

•WUSC will inform parents of the team assignments no later than the end of June.

Team Selection Process (For upcoming Spring season):

Teams typically stay in tact from fall to spring season. The age group coordinator is responsible for collecting registration information and evaluating whether team adjustments need to be made. If slots are available on the A, B or C stratified teams, player selection for open slots will be based on the previous spring's tryouts and coach's evaluations.