

Wellesley United Soccer Club Tryout & Placement Policy

BAYS:

At the start of 4th Grade, WUSC transitions from its in-town league to the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) league where we play teams from other towns. All WUSC teams (stratified and balanced) play in BAYS starting in the Fall of 4th Grade. The BAYS league has multiple divisions (1, 2, 3 and 4), and 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.

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

Each grade for WUSC 4-8 will have some combination of stratified and balanced teams. Stratified teams play in BAYS divisions 1-3 based on strength of team, record and geography. Balanced teams typically play in divisions 3 and 4. Both stratified and balanced teams “travel” and play both home and away games vs other BAYS town clubs.

WUSC Philosophy on Team Placement & Tryouts:

Tryouts:

Tryouts are an extensive and detailed process. Led by an impartial Age Group Coordinator (AGC; who is a member of the WUSC community but does not have a son/daughter in the specific age / grade being reviewed) and supported by the WUSC Travel Committee.

It is important to note the following:

- Every player (if desired and able) will be given the opportunity to tryout for a stratified team
- Every player (including current stratified players) interested in playing on a stratified team for the following year MUST attend tryouts in both the Fall and Spring.
- Tryouts are voluntary. If a player desires to play WUSC soccer but not on a stratified team, they will be placed into the balanced draft that occurs after stratified tryouts / selections have been made. Again, both stratified AND balanced teams play in the BAYS league.
- Players who move into town after tryouts must contact the appropriate AGC for further instructions. These situations are assessed on a case by case basis.

By attending tryouts you are acknowledging the commitment necessary to play on a WUSC travel team. It is expected that your child put a priority on their BAYS games and share practice conflicts 50/50 with other activities. Please note that previous seasons attendance and participation IS a factor in future team placement

Team placement:

No player is guaranteed a position on a stratified team. Once a player enters tryouts there are no specified teams from previous years. A player is placed on a team based on:

1. Tryout data – tryout evaluators are independent and not associated with any age group

2. Coach ratings and input
3. Historical data – this is used if you have been absent for a season

No outside information (club) will be collected or considered for town team placement.

1. Tryouts:

First, attendance is critical to the evaluation process. Every player should make every effort to attend the scheduled tryout night(s). Only approved excuses (communicated in advance to your Age Group Coordinator) will be acceptable. Unexcused absences may impact a player's ability to be chosen to play on a stratified team.

The age group coordinator (AGC) and the Director of Coaching (DOC) manage the tryouts with on-site evaluations performed by independent and impartial paid soccer evaluators.

The tryouts are designed to evaluate age-appropriate individual and team skills.

Tryouts are held in Fall and Spring for the following school year's Fall and Spring seasons. Teams remain intact from Fall to Spring however some player movement can occur and these instances are assessed by the WUSC travel committee on a case-by-case basis. All changes are approved by the DOC.

WUSC holds goalkeeper tryouts separately from field players, these are held in the Spring. If a player chooses to attend a goalkeeper tryout, that player is agreeing that he/she will play a minimum of 50% in goal every game. It's possible, based on coaches discretion, that this percentage may be higher. Before a player accepts a position as a GK on a team, this policy will be communicated to and accepted by both the player and his/her family.

2. Past Performance:

Each coach is asked to complete detailed player evaluations at the end of each season. This data is reviewed by the AGC and used in the selection process. Coaches will have an opportunity to discuss their specific comments in person during the selection meeting.

Team Selection:

The Age Group Coordinator hosts a meeting for all coaches in the age group to review each player who attended the tryouts. Data from player past performances along with tryout information is compiled, reviewed and utilized as a basis for discussions with coaches. These meetings are 100% confidential in nature. **No coach is allowed to discuss player rankings or data with anyone outside of this meeting.**

Immediately following this meeting, the WUSC Travel Committee selects the stratified teams. Overall registrations are considered when determining size of teams / number of total teams in the age group.

After stratified teams have been completed, a draft is held for remaining players, to form equally skilled teams, these are known as our balanced teams.

Teams are announced in early summer with players placed appropriately based on all of the factors above.