Tryout Guidelines

This guideline has been created to alleviate any concerns, to make the evaluation process transparent, and to clearly state the expectations of our travel teams. NO PLACES ON TEAMS ARE PREDETERMINED.

Tryouts – One part of the evaluation process

While the annual BSA travel tryout appears to dictate what teams players will be joining, it is important to note that tryouts are NOT the only evaluation players receive. The tryout result is one part of a body of evidence that is considered when placing an existing BSA player on a team. The following formal evaluations and informal observations are considered for each BSA travel player:

 1.  Fall Trainer Evaluation

 2.  Spring Trainer Evaluation

 3.  Tryout Result

A player’s practice attendance and performance as well as commitment to the team and attitude will also be taken into consideration.

·         NEW players, from outside the BSA travel program, will be evaluated by their tryout performance.

What to expect at tryouts?

Upon check-in at the field, all players will receive a T-shirt (players are never referred to by name) and an explanation of the tryout will be given to the group. This explanation will contain the setup of the field, the group sizes and what evaluators are looking for from the players. TEAM UNIFORMS ARE PROHIBITED TO BE WORN BY ANY PLAYER.

The players will then go through a warm-up and be randomly separated into small groups to play (4v4 to 8v8 dependent on age group).

Throughout the tryout players may be asked to switch fields either based on performance or to mix different players in with each other.

Evaluators will use clipboards to take notes on each numbered player.

They may view the same field throughout the tryout or may periodically switch fields. Evaluators may on occasion need to focus on their notes and/or interact with one another.

What evaluators are looking for?

Evaluators are looking to see how each player performs in the

small-sided game (as well as full-sided for U-11 & older teams during

second day tryout). The players will be evaluated on the four pillars

of soccer:

Technical —player’s skill on first-touch, dribbling and passing under

pressure with the ball; tackling and defensive technique without the

ball; Shooting and finishing technique

Tactical ---player’s use of space and knowing when to pass and when to

dribble.

Physiological – player’s ability to deal with the demands of the game

at full-pace. This goes beyond just size, strength and speed

Psychological --- player’s reactions to game-like situations provides

insight into their confidence or resilience. How a player interacts

with their peers is particularly important.

·         NOTE: Goalkeepers will be evaluated both individually and in

a game situation. They will be evaluated on handling the ball,

footwork, diving, throwing, and kicking.

What is expected and required if you make a team?

The BSA travel program provides players with an opportunity to play in

a more competitive environment.  We have strived to maintain strong,

competitive teams that participate in both competitive leagues and

tournaments throughout New Jersey.  Playing on BSA travel teams

requires the following:

   • Full year commitment--- Both Fall & Spring Seasons

   • Two practices per week, beginning in late August

   • 10 Games per season (Fall: September-November   Spring:

March-June)

   • Games played on Sundays—U-8 age group games played on Saturday

   • Rescheduled games on Saturdays and mid-week

   • Some older teams (U11-U14) may play on Saturdays and Sundays if

participating in State Cup or Club Cup competition

   • 1-2 Tournaments per season—most often but not limited to holiday

weekends

   • Possible Winter & Summer training and tournaments---depending on

team

   • Cost: $365 is registration fee and covers packet/pass, training 1x

per week, uniform, fields. This is collected by July 15th.  Other fees

are team based and vary from training needs to number or tournaments

entered.

   • Costs associated with each individual team may vary significantly

depending on extra tournament scheduling and winter & Summer training

   • High level player commitment—may involve prioritizing soccer over

other sports

   • Travel time to away games can be 20 minutes to 2 hours, depending

on league

When can players expect to hear of the clubs decision?

·         Players will be notified by email or phone.

·         U-8 players will know as soon as possible, most likely within

1 week from completion of tryouts.  Older teams will not be notified

until the current season is over, probably around early June .

·         Current BSA players will be notified of team selection in as

timely a manner as feasible. The decision will not affect playing time

during the balance of the spring season.

·         Once players have been offered a spot they have 24 hours to

make a decision regarding commitment to the team. No exceptions.