

Simsbury Soccer Club

Youth Travel Program

Commitment and Playing Time Policy

February 2010

Participation in the Travel Program requires a significant commitment on the part of each player and their parents or guardians. Teams are formed, and team activities are scheduled, based on the assumption that each player will participate in all team activities, including practices, games, and tournaments, for the entire season for which the player is selected. Consequently, each player is expected to attend all practices, games, and to participate in all tournaments. While it is recognized that participation in the Travel Program may result in conflicts with other activities of a player and the player's family, a player's decision to take part in the Travel Program requires that he or she and his or her parents or guardians make every effort to minimize such conflicts and to attend all team activities. We recognize that there will be times when a player has a conflict and have developed a list of excused absences that will not impact playing time (attached).

Any player who demonstrates a commitment to his or her team will be allowed to play at least 50% of each game (except for CT Cup playing time which is at the discretion of the coach). Coaches retain the discretion, however, to reduce a player's playing time based on disciplinary considerations and the level of a player's commitment to the team. "Commitment to the Team" refers to a player's attendance at team practices, games, and tournaments, and a player's effort to develop as a player and demonstrate good sportsmanship. It does not refer to the ability level or performance of a player. Playing time will be at least 50% as long as the player attends 90% (75% in the Spring) or more of the team activities. Playing time will be at least 25% as long as the player attends 75% (50% in the Spring) or more of the team activities. Commitment levels below 75% for the Fall or 50% for the Spring will require a discussion between the player, the player's parents or guardians, the player's coach, and the Travel Director to determine appropriate disciplinary action.

Fall Attendance level



Spring Attendance level



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Excused Absences**

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Examples of Excused absences:

- Player Injury or Illness
- Religious Events for player or family
- Required School Events

Examples of Unexcused absences:

- School dances/socials/festivals
- Sports clinics, other sport practices & games

The above lists are examples. All other types of absences should be discussed, in advance of the absence, with the coach. The coach will evaluate the nature of the absence and overall attendance of the player when determining whether or not playing time should be impacted.