

HADDONFIELD SOCCER CLUB, INC.
PLAYER/COACH DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE
TRAVEL SOCCER
PROGRAM, PHILOSOPHY, COMMITMENT, PARTICIPATION RULES AND PLAYER
EVALUATION SESSIONS

Updated: March 2018

This memo summarizes the Club's revised program, philosophy and rules for participation in Travel Soccer.

HSC Mission Statement

The Haddonfield Soccer Club (HSC) is a private, non-profit organization serving the community of Haddonfield. The HSC provides an introduction to soccer for children ages 3-4 in the fun, recreational setting of "Little Dawgs Soccer" and then ages 5-7 for "Squirts Soccer". For older players (ages 8-17), the club offers both a competitive Club soccer program, as well as a less-competitive recreational program. Both programs focus on age-appropriate soccer development and strive to emphasize sportsmanship, team play and individual growth through competition.

Club Program

The Haddonfield Soccer Club supports participation in this competitive Club soccer program, which is sanctioned by the South Jersey Soccer League (Boys), South Jersey Girls' Soccer League (Girls), Central Jersey Youth Soccer League (MAPS/JAGS) and the Eastern Development Program (EDP). These leagues are governed by the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association and the United States Youth Soccer Association.

Philosophy

The Haddonfield Soccer Club fields "balanced" teams in the U-8 thru U-10 age groups to provide an entrant point into the sport and encourage broader participation. The Club's use of "balanced" teams in the U-8, U9 and U-10 age groups develops a pool of players at the ages of 7, 8 and 9 years old and provides age-appropriate skill development. On game day, the club encourages coaches to provide a fair amount of playing time to all players, but recognizes that all playing time does not have to be equal. In addition, playing time will be diminished for players who are not committed to the program or are behavior problems at practices and/or games. Teams in these age groups play 7 vs 7 on small-sided fields. Players in these age groups train together twice a week, once with the club's professional trainer and once with the team's coach.

Beginning at the U-11 through U-17 age groups the club moves to a more competitive team environment entailing "professional evaluations" annually to build rosters out in an "A/B/C" format. Player placement is determined by the Player Development Committee (PDC), based on information derived from three primary sources: 1). in-season performance feedback from Coach, 2). In season training performance from assigned trainer 3). The player evaluation scorecard from the Spring evaluations. Players in these age groups are not trained together and are exposed to higher level age appropriate skills, training and strategies. Teams in these age groups play 9 vs 9 and 11 vs. 11 per side on mid-size and regulation sized fields. Playing time is earned by performance, development, commitment and behavior/attitude and is determined by the team's head coach; based upon his or her observations, as well as input from the team's trainer and assistant coaches.

Club teams are formed for each year in accordance and alignment with US Youth Soccer "Fall and Spring season" (August 1 to July 31). Except in extremely rare and extenuating circumstances, movement of a player or players from an "A" to a "B" team and from a "B" to an "A" team do not happen in-season. As well, this applies to a "balanced" team to another "balanced" team within the age group. Player movement is determined by the PDC and is performed to provide appropriate player placement, participation and development.

Out Of Town Players.

The Haddonfield Soccer Club Fields Club teams Primarily comprised of players who are residents of the Borough of Haddonfield or whom attend one of the many schools in the Borough of Haddonfield. Out of town (OOT) players (defined as neither residing in or attending a school in Haddonfield) can be considered for teams in the club. OOT players will be allowed to enter the club under the following guidelines:

- 1- Beginning at U-12, teams may choose to recruit and are allowed to tryout players from outside of Haddonfield. Teams must consult with the PDC and notify the club that OOT players will attend and evaluate for their age group and teams. Teams are not obligated to tryout or add OOT players if they don't wish to. U-12 teams may add up to 2 OOT players to their rosters.
- 2- U-13 and U-14 teams may carry up to three OOT players on their roster. OOT players must attend tryouts held by the club in the spring prior to the travel season.
- 3- In an effort to keep teams viable and retain players in the club, OOT players may be recruited to complete the rosters of "B" club teams in the U-11 and up age groups when the positions cannot be filled with residents of Haddonfield.
- 4- There is no limit to the number of OOT players permitted for the U15 age group when additional players are needed to make a team viable.
- 5- Subject to the restrictions stated above, an OOT player can replace a Haddonfield player on a team roster as long as there is a roster spot available for the Haddonfield player on a lower level team in the club. For example, an OOT player can supplant a Haddonfield player from an A team if there is a roster spot available for the Haddonfield player on the B team at that age group. Similarly, an OOT player can take a spot on a B team if there is an available spot for the Haddonfield player on the C team. An OOT player cannot take a roster spot on any team if doing so will cause a Haddonfield player to be without a roster spot on any team within an age group.
- 6- After completion of one full year of participation (US Club Soccer Fall and Spring Season) in HSC, an OOT player will be considered in-town within the club for purposes of player participation, retention and club status. This means that the player will no longer subject to be removed for another in town player, however said player will retain "OOT" status as it relates to the OOT roster player limit from U12-U14.

Commitment

HSC Club teams participate in both Fall (August - November) and Spring (February - May) US Club Soccer seasons within their respective leagues. Participation in the Spring is optional for all players; however, a player must declare if he or she is going to participate in Spring soccer at the time of registration (March of each year). Generally, (SJGSL) games for girls are played on Saturday afternoons while (SJSL) games for boys are played on Sunday afternoons. Girls' teams in the U-15 age group and above may play their games on Sundays as determined by the appropriate league. Teams that play in MAPS/JAGS/EDP may find their games played on Friday/Saturday or Sundays. In addition, State Cup games can be played on any day of the week as agreed upon between both teams and will have a "play by" date assigned in each round.

The South Jersey Soccer League and the South Jersey Girls' Soccer League cover a geographic area ranging from Trenton, NJ to Cape May, NJ and across the width of the state. Teams playing MAPS/JAGS/EDP or in the State Cup may find themselves playing all over the state of NJ and southeastern PA. Each travel team and its players are encouraged to participate in at least one travel soccer tournament per Club calendar year (August - July). These tournaments are held on holiday weekends such as Labor Day (September), Columbus Day (October), Thanksgiving (November) and Memorial Day (May). Tournament play is usually scheduled over a two or three-day period. Teams may participate in both in-out-of-state tournaments, as sanctioned by United States Youth Soccer Association. The HSC does not pay for any tournaments, except for U9-U12 teams that participate in the HSC Kick-Off Classic.

Club players are expected to participate in at least two practices per week (one coach led and one trainer led) in the Fall and in at least one practice per week in the Spring. However, players who have a game or practice conflict with another Spring sport will be strongly encouraged to attend the Spring sport activity instead of soccer. Club players are not required to participate in HSC's Town Soccer programs but may participate in their age appropriate Town program at the discretion of the player and his/her parent(s).

Rules for Participation

1. A player must be registered and Paid (parent completes online registration form and makes payment of appropriate fee) with Club to participate in any Club-sponsored or sanctioned program. Receipt of payment after the close of registration does not guarantee participation or placement on any travel team. Any player participating without payment of proper fees **may** be suspended until Club receives payment of all fees and charges. It is possible that placement may be lost as a result of non or late payment. The Club is not required to accept a registration and payment for any new player (not previously registered in a Club Town or Travel Program) who will not be able to attend player evaluation sessions held in March and April. However, there may be extreme circumstances in which a new player cannot attend the evaluation sessions (injury, illness, absent etc) . The PDC will evaluate each of these cases independently.

2. Club teams are formed based on a player's birth year as set out by US Soccer. Accordingly, the date range for each age group is January 1st through December 31st. Players are not permitted to play in an age group other than the age group for his or her birth year. There may be rare circumstances where a player is permitted to play up a birth year as determined in a case by case basis by the PDC. These may occur for whole team viability or player inclusion in the club whereby in age group options are not available.

3. As Spring Club Soccer is optional, a player must state his/her intention at the Club's annual registration (March of each year) of participating in Spring Travel Soccer. The Club has revised the team selection process due to the impact of 'fall only' players. This change will guarantee the viability of teams for both fall and spring seasons and will provide each team with additional roster changes as permitted per the rules of The South Jersey Soccer League and the South Jersey Girls' Soccer League. If a player whom declares himself or herself to not play Spring Club Soccer attains an evaluation reasonably equivalent to a player whom declares himself/herself to play both Fall and Spring Seasons, the player not playing Spring Travel Soccer will be placed on the 'B' team. Please refer to the Player Evaluation Sessions/Team Selection section for these new rules.

4. HSC will also allow players to register to play Spring Only subject to the following:

- a) Players will be added on a first-come, first-served basis.
- b) The PDC in conjunction with the appropriate club representative will evaluate the player either by previous feedback (coach/trainer/tryout) or by having the player work out with other club players.
- c) Players will be assigned to teams based upon the player's skill level, and only after consultation with the team's head coach, former coach, prior evaluation or current PDC evaluation. Meaning a late arriving player may be evaluated and placed on the proper team according to his/her skill level assuming that team has room for the player on the current roster. This can only happen when space available exists and therefore does not force an existing player down to the next team.
- d) Players may be added until the club roster limits have been met.

5. A player who is determined to be injured (long term) and cannot participate in Club sanctioned training and evaluation will not lose placement on his/her current Travel team, solely as a result of the injury. If the player's injury is long term, the PDC will utilize the latest and most recent evaluation information (Coach, prior PDC) to assist in placing that player on a team that best suits their ability.

6. A player who is new to the Travel Program, not previously registered for preceding fall and spring travel soccer, will be evaluated and placed on a team on a case by case basis as determined by Player/Coach Development & Training Committee.

Player Evaluation Sessions and Team Selection: U-98 thru U-10 Age Groups

1. Potential participants in these 'birth age' groups will participate in player evaluation sessions to be held in March and/or April of the spring prior to the start of the fall season. Location and times will be noted on the club's website 'www.haddonfieldsoccer.org'. Each player should report to his/her noted session 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to record attendance and receive session number.

2. To be considered for travel team participation, a player must attend at least one evaluation session. If a player does not attend at least one session (unless excused by the PDC), he or she will not be placed on a travel team unless there is a roster position available on a second or a third team. A player who is determined to be injured and cannot participate in Club sanctioned evaluation sessions will not lose placement within the age group. However, all injury excuses must be discussed **AND submitted in writing via email to the PDC prior to the start of tryouts.**

3. The Club will provide evaluators for the age group who will evaluate each player in these sessions.

4. The PDC will create a team roster from registered and evaluated players within a 'birth age' group. The targeted minimum roster size for 7v7 (U8-U10) age groups would be 9 players and up to 12 total per team. The targeted minimum roster size for 9v9 (U11-U12) age groups would be 11 players and up to 16 total per team. There is no guaranteed participation beyond the max players per team in these age groups. A second team will not be created if there are less than 18 (7v7) or 22 (9v9) players registered to play by June 30th. It is not the Club's responsibility to find additional players to field a second team.

5. Team rosters will be posted on the Club's website on or about June 1st of each year.

PLEASE NOTE – ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS WILL PAID ONCE ROSTERS ARE POSTED. Should a player decide that they do not want to play for HSC, this MUST BE COMMUNICATED IN WRITING to PDC 24 hours prior to posting.

Player Evaluation Sessions and Team Selection: U-11/U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15 Age Groups.

1. Potential participants in these age groups will participate in two sessions to be held in March and/or April for the upcoming fall season. Each player should report to his/her noted session 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to record attendance and receive session number.

2. To be considered for travel team participation, a player must attend at least one. If a player does not attend at least one session (unless excused by the PDC), he or she will not be placed on a club team unless there is a roster position available on a second or a third team. A player who is determined to be injured and cannot participate in Club sanctioned will not lose his/her placement on his/her current Travel team solely as a result of the injury. All injury excuses from tryouts must be discussed **AND submitted in writing via email to the PDC prior to the start of tryouts.**

3. The PDC will select multiple Professional Trainers to evaluate players in these sessions. Location and time noted on the club's website 'www.haddonfieldsoccer.org'.

4. The PDC will create a team roster from registered and evaluated players within a 'birth age' group. The targeted minimum roster size for 11 vs 11 (U11-U15) age groups would be 13 players and up to 18 total per team. There is no guaranteed participation beyond 18

players in each of these age groups. A second team will not be created if there are less than 26 players registered to play by June 30th. It is not the Club's responsibility to find additional players to field any additional teams in an age group. Minimum of 12 players registered as 'fall/spring' players with balance comprised of highest ranked players chosen strictly through the evaluation criteria.

5. New Players Moving to Town After Completion of Tryouts (but before rosters posted): Player is to be evaluated by Trainer(s) of Age Group whom along with PDC determines proper placement of player.

6. New Players Moving to Town After Completion of Tryouts (after rosters posted): Player is to be evaluated by Trainer(s) of Age Group and or PDC in a like environment within the age group to determine the players skill level. Player will then be placed on a roster with matching skill level assuming that roster has space available and the move will not force and existing play down a level.

Player Training – All Age Groups

1. The Club will provide an approved trainer or coach who is responsible for implementation of club guidelines for instruction of age appropriate skills as well as rules and regulations for travel team play. The Club will offer a trainer once per week for all travel teams in the U9 thru U15 years. Coaches, players and parents may not elect to be in or out of this program.

2. Training sessions may be spread out over travel soccer calendar year at the discretion of /Coach Training & Development Committee and Trainer and/or Coach of the travel team. Subject to field availability, the Club will assign each team a minimum one-hour slot, twice a week for practices and training.

3. The Club will make every effort to offer U11-U15 teams a third session in the Fall Season run by the team coach. A 3rd session will only be offered after all other club teams have been given two sessions, and the club reserves the right to cancel a 3rd session as needed for make-up games. Should a team wish to use a club-approved trainer for the extra session; the team will be responsible for the full cost of the trainer.

4. For U8, U9 and U10 balanced teams, coaches and trainers may group players of a similar level for approximately one-third of the time of a training session in order to maximize the skill development and enjoyment for all players.

Coach Training – All Age Groups

1. First-time travel coaches will be required to attend a pre-season meeting and clinic, at which time the importance of team culture, coach/trainer interaction and youth player development concepts will be discussed in full detail. This meeting will conclude with a clinic where experienced club coaches and trainers demonstrate brief training sessions and conduct a "Question & Answer" session. All new head coaches will be required to attend and any club coach or parent will also be welcome.

2. The club will offer other clinics during the early part of the fall season to further assist all coaches (club and rec). These clinics will focus on game tactics and basic skill and technical, and will be geared toward specific age groupings (small-sided, U11-U12, etc.).

Travel Team Placement Within Travel Leagues

The Club PDC will make recommendations to the respective travel leagues for proper placement of our teams within each league. This will reduce travel league conflicts due to the Club's philosophy of 'balanced' teams at U8, U-9 and U-10 (not consistent with SJSJL and SJGSL rankings) and the evaluation of team's potential compared to its actual ability.

1. PDC reviews the rosters of the newly created club teams and asks for suggestions regarding division placement in the respective travel league from the applicable trainers and coaches if an existing team.

2. PDC reviews this information and makes recommendation to Travel Division Representative for level of competitive play within travel leagues with specific attention to following situations: U-8, U-9 and U-10: Club's philosophy of 'balanced' teams at these three ages conflicts with SJSL and SJGSL 'power' rankings. Committee will look for conservative placement of teams in U-8, U-9 and U-10 age groups. U-11: As Club's philosophy changes from 'balanced' to 'competitive' (A-B) teams beginning at this age and playing surface field changes from small sided to Mid-sized (9V9) field, placement of teams will also be based on conservative recommendations to continue development of players. U-11 and up: Club will make recommendations for specific team placement based on evaluation of player and team skill and ability with input from trainers and coaches.

'Problem' Parent(s)

1. Parents are expected to read the rules and regulations for his/her child's participation in the Club's Travel Soccer Program. The rules can be found on the Club's website – <http://www.haddonfieldsoccer.org>.

2. All HSC parents are expected to read and comply with the USYS Code of Conduct. This can be download from the following address: http://www.sjsl.org/images/USYS_code_conduct_spectators.pdf

3. Any parent determined to be a 'problem' will be asked to attend a meeting with the Club's Soccer Board to hear his/her 'problem' with the Club's programs.

4. Upon resolution, the Club can terminate the participation of all children of the parent at the Club's discretion. An appropriate refund of fees will be provided to the parent upon termination. Future participation may be prohibited at the discretion of the Club's Soccer Board of Trustees.