



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide basic information about our travel team program and tryout procedures. Please feel free to contact the Brookfield Soccer Club President or any Board Member if you have additional questions.

Brookfield Soccer Club (BSC) is a member of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA). As such, we operate under the rules of those organizations. For CJSA inter-club competition in leagues and tournaments (i.e., travel teams), players are divided into age groups according to their age at the beginning of each Seasonal Year, August 1st.

The age brackets for the current seasonal year can be found on the BSC website at www.brookfieldsoccer.org.

CJSA groups all their member clubs into districts based on geographical proximity. The CJSA districts administer independent travel team leagues. BSC is a member of the Northwest District which includes: Bridgewater, Danbury, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Sharon, Shepaug, Sherman, Southbury, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Washington, Waterbury, Watertown, Winsted, Wolcott, and Woodbury.

BSC strives to field at least one team for each gender, at each age level, from U-9 through U-14. Should not enough players be available to form a team, age groups may be combined for that seasonal year. BSC may also offer U-16 and/or U-19 teams for high school players each spring. (CICA rules make fall teams impractical for high school players.)

Additional details on Travel Teams & Tryouts can be found in the BSC Constitution & By-Laws located on the Documents page of the BSC web site www.brookfieldsoccer.org. (If there are any conflicts between this document and the BSC Constitution & By-Laws, the Constitution & By-Laws take precedence.)

The BSC President can also be contacted at president@brookfieldsoccer.org.



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

II. TRAVEL TEAMS

Travel teams are divided into 3 brackets, an A bracket (previously Division I), and a B and C bracket (previously Division II). All travel teams have similar schedules of activity, but there are some important differences.

BSC does not allow Premier Players to be rostered on BSC Travel Teams for Northwest District League play or for tournaments, including the CT Cup. Development (Pre-Premier) players are allowed to be rostered to, and participate on, BSC Travel Teams. For clarification on what BSC considers Premier and Pre-Premier please read the Premier Policy document (available at www.brookfieldsoccer.org on the Policies page).

Late registered players and non-resident players will be placed on travel teams only as space permits – no guarantees.

A. A Bracket

A teams are competitive and are for the most skilled and dedicated players. A teams shall be assembled each seasonal year (fall and following spring) as the result of competitive tryouts.

1. Teams Offered (subject to player and district league availability):

- Boys: U-9 through U-14 (spring and fall), U-16 and/or U-19 (spring only).
- Girls: U-9 through U-14 (spring and fall), U-16 and/or U-19 (spring only).
- The Northwest District does not generally have a Girls U9 A Bracket League, but if one is formed BSC will try and place an A team in that division. This team will be decided based on tryout results.

2. Roster Size:

- U-9 through U11: 11-14 players.
- U-12 and above: 15-18 players.
- Exceptions may be made at the Club's discretion in order to place all registered players.

3. Staff:

- Coach: Parent volunteer selected by the BSC Board each June for a one year term, or a paid approved trainer – as long as there is an 80% approval by parents of the team.
- Assistant Coaches: Parent volunteers chosen by the coach.
- Manager (optional): Parent volunteer chosen by coach and/or parents.

4. Player Selection (more detail in Section III.6 on page 7):

- Tryouts (once per seasonal year, in June).
 - Players wishing to play only one season (fall or spring) must attend tryouts to obtain a ranking in the event a spot opens up in the spring.
- At time of tryouts, players must inform BSC if they intend to play only one season so roster sizes can be adjusted accordingly. Not doing so is grounds for removal from the team.



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

- Players that register after the June tryouts (i.e., players that move to town or players that decide they want to play soccer after the tryouts have been conducted) may be eligible for any open spots on the team if available, per the procedure described in the Tryouts section below.
 - While A team registration is conducted each season along with B/C, U6 and U8, the A team is a two season commitment, fall and spring.
- 5. Commitment Requirements:**
- A player may be disciplined or removed from an A team if they miss three games, fail to attend at least one full practice session each week, or show disrespect for coaches, referees or fellow players. Discipline includes, but is not limited to, reduced game playing time. Removal from a team is done through the BSC Disciplinary Committee.
 - Players are expected to attend all tournaments.
- 6. Fees:**
- \$150 per season registration fee
 - Tournament fees are extra (roughly \$30 per player per tournament).
 - Indoor training fees are additional.
 - Uniforms (2 jerseys, shorts, and socks)
- 7. Practice & Training:**
- 2-3 practice sessions per week (dates determined by coach each season).
 - Includes training sessions with professional trainer.
- 8. League Games:**
- Games are Sundays (normally between 1pm and 6pm).
 - Games involve travel to towns within the Northwest District (greater Northwest CT area).
- 9. Tournaments:**
- CJSA CT Cup (U-11 and up)
 - Single elimination tournament.
 - Cup games are played on Saturdays.
 - Regular Tournaments
 - 1-2 per season
 - Dates: Columbus Day Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, and other weekends.
 - Locations: CT most often; NY, MA, NJ, and VA possible.
- 10. Playing Time:**
- Every player on a U9, U10, or U11 A team who regularly attends practice must be given the opportunity to play at least one-half every league game. (Exception: discipline or injury)
 - Every player on a U12 or older A team who regularly attends practice must be given the opportunity to play at least one-third of every league game. (Exception: discipline or injury)
 - Each player on an A team shall start at least two (2) league games per season.
 - The minimum playing time can be waived for Cup games and tournament matches as long as this possibility is communicated to all the players and parents prior to the Cup games and/or tournament.



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

B. B and C Brackets

B and C bracket teams are intended for players that are both:

- Players not currently selected to an A team but desire to develop their skills as aggressively/competitively as possible.
- Players not wishing to tryout and play in a less competitive environment.

1. Teams Offered (subject to player and district league availability):

- Boys: U-9 through U-14 (spring and fall).
- Girls: U-9 through U-14 (spring and fall).

2. Player Selection:

- Players not selected for an A team.
- Players who did not attend tryouts.
- Players approved by the board to play up. (Must be requested in writing via mail/e-mail)
- Placement on a B or C team is subject only to having enough players to field a complete team.

3. Roster Size:

- U-9 through U11: 11-15 players.
- U-12 and above: 15-22 players.
- Exceptions may be made at the Club's discretion in order to place all registered players.

4. Staff:

- Coach: Parent volunteer selected by the BSC Board each June for a one year term, or a paid approved trainer – as long as there is a 80% approval by parents of the team.
- Assistant Coaches: Parent volunteers chosen by the coach.
- Manager (optional): Parent volunteer chosen by coach and/or parents.

5. Commitment Requirements:

- A player may be removed from a B or C team if they show disrespect for coaches, referees or fellow players. They may NOT be disciplined (e.g., reduced playing time) or removed for missing practices or games. Removal from a team is done through the BSC Disciplinary Committee.

6. Fees:

- \$150 per season registration fee
- Tournament fees are extra (roughly \$30 per player per tournament).
- Indoor training fees are additional.
- Uniforms (2 jerseys, shorts, and socks)

7. Practice & Training:

- 2 practice sessions per week (dates determined by coach each season).
- Includes training sessions with professional trainer.
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8. League Games:

- Games are Saturdays (normally between 12pm and 6pm).



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

- Games involve travel to towns within the Northwest District (greater Northwest CT area). \

9. Tournaments:

- Optional – B and C teams may attend tournaments when enough players/parents agree to attend.

10. Playing Time:

- Every player on a B and C team must be given the opportunity to play at least one-half of every league game. (Exception: discipline or injury.)
- Every player on a B and C team shall start at least two (2) league games per season.
- The minimum playing time can be waived for tournament matches as long as this possibility is communicated to all the players and parents prior to the tournament.

III. TRYOUTS

Open tryouts are conducted for all A Division teams, except for U-15 and up teams.

1. When Are Tryouts:

- Once per seasonal year, in June, prior to the start of the seasonal year.
- BSC announces A Division Tryout dates in May.
- With a few exceptions, there will be two sessions per team.
 - Players are strongly encouraged, but not required, to attend both sessions.
 - The second tryout session may be canceled if determined it is not required based on turnout at the first session, or due to inclement weather.
- Supplemental tryouts may be required for the spring season to fill open spots on A Division teams. In the event this occurs, all age appropriate players registered at the time a tryout is deemed necessary will be notified and given the option to attend.

2. Conditions To Attend Tryouts:

- Players must be fully registered prior to tryouts, by the BSC published deadline.
- All registration fees must be paid in full prior to the player attending tryouts.
- Players will not be allowed to register during tryouts.
- Players must have parental approval.
- Players and Parents must understand and accept A team Commitment Requirements. (see Section II.A.5 on page 3 for details)

3. Who Can Attend Tryouts:

- Age appropriate players.
 - Players may tryout for a team that is at their appropriate age level.
- Players wishing to play-up (see Section IV.1 on page 8 for details).
 - Players may tryout for a team that is one age level above their appropriate age level (i.e., U-8 players may attend U-9 tryouts, U-9 players may attend U-10 tryouts, etc.)
 - The requirements for under-aged players to be selected for A teams are more stringent than for age appropriate players.
- Players wishing to play only one season (fall or spring).



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

- Single season players wishing to play on an A team must attend June tryouts to attain ranking in the event a spot opens up in the spring.
 - At time of tryouts, single season players **MUST** inform BSC if they intend to play only one season so roster sizes can be adjusted accordingly. Not doing so is grounds for removal from the team.
 - Players that also tryout for Premier Teams, but want to assure they have a place to play in case they are not selected to be on a Premier Team.
 - Players accepted on a Premier Team will receive a full refund of their BSC registration fees, less a \$10.00 processing fee (less applicable late fees) as long as BSC is notified in writing by July 20th via mail (BSC, PO Box 5177, Brookfield, CT, 06804-5177) or e-mail (president@brookfieldsoccer.org). Afterwards, the standard BSC refund policy for Travel Team Players applies.
 - U14 Players that tryout and later decide to play for a high school team in the fall instead will receive a refund of their BSC registration fees less \$10 as long as BSC is notified in writing via mail (BSC, PO Box 5177, Brookfield, CT, 06804-5177) or e-mail (president@brookfieldsoccer.org). Afterwards, the standard BSC refund policy for Travel Team Players applies.
 - Players approved to double roster by the Board (see Section IV.2 on page 8 for details)
 - If a player is unable to attend tryouts due to injury or a family emergency, and they inform the Club President in writing via mail or e-mail prior to tryouts, they will be eligible for selection on an age appropriate A team.
- 4. Coach Selection:**
- Adults interested in coaching must complete and submit two forms:
 - A Coaching Application (available at www.brookfieldsoccer.org on Documents page)
 - A Volunteer Disclosure (available at www.brookfieldsoccer.org on Documents page)
 - Coaches are selected by the Board based on:
 - Previous coaching experience;
 - Level of coaching certification;
 - Coach Evaluation feedback from parents;
 - Previous disciplinary action.
 - Preference is given to returning coaches for purposes of team continuity.
 - A paid trainer may be hired as a coach if 80% of the parents approve. The trainer must be from an already approved training company.
- 5. Tryouts Format:**
- Tryouts consist of several drills that focus on different aspects of player performance.
 - The drills often include, but are not limited to:
 - 1 vs. 1;
 - Shooting drills;
 - Small sided games;
 - Full or half field scrimmage.
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Technical: dribbling, first touch, ball control, passing, and shooting.



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

- Tactical: field sense, positioning, anticipation, communication.
- Assertiveness: aggressive instinct for the ball, passing under pressure, finishing (attack), pressuring, delaying, opportunistic tackling (defense).
- Speed: quickness, ability to break away (attack) or ability to quickly close down opponents (defense).
- Agility: the ability to accomplish techniques quickly with efficient and fast movements.

6. Player Selection:

- The team coach and two other Board appointed independent assessors evaluate the players and provide assessment scores and rankings for each player to the BSC Travel Commissioners.
- The Vice President, BSC Travel Commissioners, or appointed Board Member(s) compile the assessments and produce a single rank listing for each A team.
- From that listing, the top candidates are automatically selected for each team.
 - The top 15 ranked candidates for U12-U14. (Exception – if the team roster is set at 15, the top 14 candidates are automatically selected, and the coach may make a coach's pick.)
 - The top 11 ranked candidates for U09, U10 & U11. (Exception – if the team roster is set at 11, the top 10 candidates are automatically selected, and the coach may make a coach's pick.)
 - If a coach desires not to have a player from the assessor's list of top ranked candidates on the team, the coach must provide written justification for Board approval.
- The coach may add 2-3 additional players to their roster (depending on the roster size approved by the BSC Board) provided that:
 - The candidates were appropriately registered and attended tryouts; and,
 - Exception: If a player informs the Club President prior to tryouts that they can not attend tryouts due to injury or a family emergency, the coach may choose this player.
 - The candidates are of the appropriate soccer age; and,
 - The coach has valid justification to support his/her selections.
 - In addition to the tryout results provided by the assessors, the coach may consider other factors such as: attitude, teamwork, commitment, desire, maturity, team needs, coach-ability, etc.
- All proposed rosters must be reviewed and approved by the BSC Board before any player is notified of their selection status.
- All tryout candidates will be notified of their selection status in a timely manner, following roster approval by the BSC Board. Normally, this will be between July 15th and August 1st. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- It is possible that positions may become available on A teams in the spring season due to injuries, a Board approved roster size increase, player transfers, etc. In this event, the Club will attempt to fill the positions:



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

- First, with age appropriate players that tried out for the team but were not selected.
 - Selection will be based on their previous tryout ranking.
- Next, registered age appropriate players will be contacted by the Club to determine if they are interested in the open positions.
 - If necessary, a small tryout will be held prior to the spring season to select the players to fill the positions. The coach and at least one independent assessor evaluate the players.
- If there are not enough age appropriate registered players interested, the Club may advertise the open positions in an attempt to fill them.
- Players not selected for an A team will be placed on a B or C team

IV. OTHER TRAVEL TEAM POLICIES:

1. **Playing Up:**

- Players may tryout for an A team that is one age level above their appropriate age level.
 - To be selected, a player must be ranked:
 - in the top 4 for a U-9 through U-11.
 - in the top 6 for U-12 and above.
 - Exception: For A teams that have fewer than 12 players tryout for a U-9 through U-11 team, and fewer than 15 players tryout for a U-12 and up team, players that rank below the top 4 or 6 respectively, may be selected.
 - In order to secure a position on an age appropriate team, a player must also attend tryouts for that age appropriate team.
- Players may play up on a B or C team one to two age levels above their appropriate age level.
 - Players wishing to play up one age level above their age appropriate age must submit a written request for Board approval via mail or e-mail during open registration (The Board may not be able to approve requests received after the registration deadline).
 - On occasion, the Board may require players to play up one or two age levels in order to play at all. In this event, players/parents will be notified and given the choice to play up or withdraw their registration and receive a full refund (less applicable late fees)
- Playing up will not be allowed unless all registered players can be placed on a team and roster sizes remain within the limits required by the BSC By-Laws.

2. **Double Rostering**

- Players may play on more than one team (i.e., double roster) with special Board approval. Reasons for Board approval include, but are not limited to:
 - There is an open position that no other age appropriate player is interested in filling.
- Players wishing to double roster may not displace age appropriate players.
- The club may ask players to double roster to help support a team.
- Players wishing to double roster on an A, B or C team must submit a written request for Board approval via mail or e-mail during open registration (The Board may not be able to approve requests received after the registration deadline).



BROOKFIELD SOCCER CLUB

Travel Team & Tryouts Policies

www.brookfieldsoccer.org

3. Girls Playing on Boys Teams

- Girls may play on age appropriate boys teams with special Board approval. Reasons for Board approval include, but are not limited to:
 - There is an open position that no other age appropriate male player is interested in filling.
 - There are no girls' teams to play on.
- Girls may not displace age appropriate boys from a boys' team.
- Girls wishing to play on a boys' team must submit a written request for Board approval via mail or e-mail.
- Girls wishing to play on a boys' A team may be asked to attend tryouts for the team.
- Boys are not allowed to play on girls' teams.

4. Uniforms (available through the BSC Director of Uniforms)

- Standard Uniform
 - Consists of two jerseys (blue jersey is primary), one pair of shorts, and 1 pair of socks.
 - The second jersey (white jersey is the alternate) is used when there is a color conflict with another team.
 - Is used by all BSC travel teams.
 - For player safety reasons, BSC discourages teams from placing player names on their uniforms. Any team wishing to do so must do so at their own expense.
 - ⊖ Cleats and shin guards are required.
- Additional items may be available through the BSC:
 - Warm-ups, backpacks, sweatshirts, and other items are typically available during all seasons.
 - Specialty items such as league championship shirts may be available.
 - Teams may choose to coordinate their own items or apparel, but should get BSC approval to ensure Club consistency.

5. Supplemental Training

- Teams wishing to receive additional training must complete and submit a Supplemental Training Request Form (available at www.brookfieldsoccer.org on Documents page) to the BSC Director of Camps & Training.
- Approval from 80% of team parents is required.
- Payment for supplemental training must be paid in full prior to commencement of services.
- The team will be refunded for any supplemental training not received.

Brookfield Soccer Club is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Our strength is in the vision and tireless efforts of our volunteers. We encourage you to become involved in our activities and to share in the work and the fun of providing the best possible soccer experience for the youth of Brookfield. Thank you.