



Clinton Youth Soccer Travel Program

CYS Travel Program Goals and Objectives

Objectives:

The objectives of the Clinton Youth Soccer Travel Program are to provide a competitive soccer learning and competitive soccer playing environment. Clinton Youth Soccer Travel Teams allow players the opportunity to develop age appropriate technical and tactical skills through advanced training sessions conducted by experienced soccer coaches. Travel teams will play games against other travel teams in the South Central District. To be eligible to play in the travel program in the fall players must be registered and play in the Fall Park and Recreation in house soccer league.

The primary focus of the Clinton Youth Soccer Travel program is to develop age appropriate technical and tactical soccer skills. Age appropriate technical skills will be the focus for U10, U11 & U12 age groups. Technical development will continue to be a focus at the U13 & U14 teams with added emphasis on team tactics, individual decision making, speed of play and team results.

Player Eligibility:

Player eligibility is determined by a player's date of birth. Players are allowed by the South Central District to travel at ages U9 and above.

Players that are eligible to travel and display technical, tactical and athletic ability to play on a travel team may play on a travel team comprised of players of their school grade. An example is a U10 player (based on date of birth) that is in 5th grade (a "young 5th grader") might play on a U11 travel team.

Players that display a high level of technical, tactical and athletic ability might play in a higher age group team, if they have the skills and ability to have a significant, positive impact on the older age group team. Please see the Player Selection criteria for details on player selection. Decisions concerning players playing on a team older than their age

group will be made based upon player evaluations, input from coaches and at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Player Selection & Tryouts:

The objectives of tryouts for Clinton Youth Soccer Travel teams are to allow players the opportunity to be evaluated objectively based upon their technical and tactical skills and their athletic abilities. Players trying out for travel teams will be evaluated by one or more of the following evaluators: clinicians, coaches and board members. Teams will be formed, if the CYS BOD believes there is a strong commitment to play travel soccer by the players, parents and coaches. Tryouts will be organized by the Director of Coaching working collaboratively with the Travel Director and BODs.

The Director of Coaching shall schedule open tryouts, toward the end of each season.

Players will be selected for a team after tryouts are completed.

During the spring season competitive travel and recreational travel teams will be formed in the same age group if there are enough players and coaches to field teams for both competitive travel and recreation travel teams. Teams will be formed, if the CYS BOD believes there is a strong commitment to the team by the players, parents and coaches.

Announcement of the travel teams will be posted on the CYS web site approximately one month after the tryouts are completed. Parents will then be required to register their children for the travel team.

Playing Time:

Playing time on competitive travel teams is not guaranteed and will be determined by the coach.

Roster Size:

Clinton Youth Soccer will field competitive travel teams, if we have enough skilled players and experienced coaches to field travel teams.

General Outline of Travel Team Formation:

1. Tryout dates & times are scheduled for each age group & communicated on the CYS website and via e-mail to parents
2. Coaches are identified to evaluate players during tryouts for each age group.
3. The tryouts are conducted and players are evaluated on a tryout evaluation form based on their technical and tactical skills and their athletic ability.

4. Players will be evaluated by one or more of the following evaluators: clinicians, coaches and board members.
5. The Coaching Director in consultation with the Travel Director and BOD names the coaches for each team.
6. Each coach proposes a roster with alternates for their team in consultation with Director of Coaching and the Travel Director.
7. The BOD reviews the coach's roster.
8. The Travel Director communicates CYS travel teams via the website and e-mails.
In addition, the Travel Director in conjunction with the coach selects a manager for each team. The coach will also select assistant coaches.
9. Teams will be posted on the website
10. A Parent - Team Meeting is organized by the Team Manager or Travel Director with the Team Coach. At the Team Meeting, player pictures, signatures, contact information and medical waivers will be collected. This is also the time that the coach will discuss his or her expectations for the season.
11. The roster and player passes will be given to the Travel Director by the Team Manager. The Travel Director will submit rosters and passes to CJSA for approval and return them to CYS Managers and Coaches.

Fees

Clinton Youth Soccer strives to create a fee structure that is a good value for players and parents that covers the cost of our travel teams. Travel Team Fees pay for player registration with the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association, coaches' fees, referee fees and uniforms. The registration fee may also cover the cost of the Clinton Invitational Tournament. Additional fees will be collected should the team decide to play in additional tournaments. Fees will be determined by the CYS Board of Directors prior to registration.

Player Code of Conduct

The player code of conduct applies to all games, practices, tournaments and any other CYS event. CYS expects all players, parents and coaches to display good sportsmanship.

1. Fair Play

Winning is without value if it is achieved unfairly or dishonestly.
It's only a game. And games are pointless unless played fairly.

2. Observe the Laws of the Game

The rules of soccer are simple and easy to learn. Make an effort to learn them, so you have a full appreciation of the game. Respect and understand the rules. Knowledge and understanding of the rules of soccer will make you a better player, parent and coach.

3. Respect Opponents, Teammates, Referees, Coaches, League Officials and Spectators

Coaches, teammates and referees should all be treated with respect. Referees are there to maintain discipline and fair play. Accept referees decisions without arguing. Abusive and / or foul language and aggressive behavior will not be tolerated by CYS toward referees by players, coaches or parents.

4. Win with Class and Accept Defeat with Dignity

You win some, you lose some. Learn to lose graciously and win with dignity. Congratulate the winners with good grace and be humble in victory. Don't blame the referee or anyone else, if you do not win. Consider

that there is possibly something else you personally could have done to contribute to your teams' success. Determine to do better next time. Good losers earn more respect than bad winners.

Parent / Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents and guardians play important roles in the life of a soccer player, and parents and guardians have a significant impact on players. Players, coaches, parents and spectators are expected to display and promote good sportsmanship.

Behavior

Act in a respectful and polite manner towards all players, coaches, referees and spectators. Understand that CYS will not tolerate any behavior detrimental to our sport including: vulgarity, harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; physical violence or the threat of such towards anyone before, during or after a match; verbal abuse directed towards anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents will not be tolerated. We require the utmost self-restraint on the part of players, coaches, parents and spectators. Discipline for such acts may include not being allowed to attend games or removal from teams.

Team commitments

Please do your best to be on time for games and practices and inform your coach when that is not possible. There are many valuable life lessons and skills developed through participation on sports teams such as commitment, responsibility, cooperation, dependability, communication, leadership and teamwork.

Be a supportive soccer parent

Give consistent encouragement and support to your child regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill or time on the field.

Stress the importance of respect for coaches through discussions with your child, and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.

Serve as a role model and see the "big picture" and support all players, coaches and referees.

Leave the coaching to the coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance.

As a parent, please do not coach your child during games. Leave the coaching to the coaching staff.

Avoid putting pressure on your child about playing time and performance.

Suggestions:

Players quit sports for some of the following reasons:

Excessive criticism and yelling

Over emphasis on winning

Poor communication

Fear of making mistakes

Boredom / and not learning or understanding the game

Individual Team Roles

- **Coach:** The coach is responsible for directing all practices and coaching the team during fall and spring travel league games. The coach is also responsible for pre and post-season tournament games, and arranging for a substitute or assistant coach to step in at practices and games that he/she is not available. The coach will work to help each player develop age appropriate technical and tactical skills during practices and games. Technical development will be the primary focus of travel coaches. Travel coaches will strive to create competitive training environments and competitive soccer game environments to help players achieve their full potential. Teams will play to win but winning will not be the primary focus of travel team coaches and players. The primary objective will be technical and tactical individual and team development. This will be balanced with

the goal of achieving success as a team during travel league games. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's technical, tactical, psychological and athletic development with their coach. If a parent wishes to have a player evaluation conducted or to discuss other matters it is recommended to schedule a meeting with the coach at a mutually agreeable time and location.

- Team Manager: The Team Manager is responsible for the administrative needs of the team. A good manager ensures the success of a team both competitively and as a satisfied and cohesive group of players and families. Team Managers seek to delegate functions widely among team parents, and serve as the organizational and communication hub of the team. Team Managers will help scheduling and confirming games, sending out field directions, registering the team for tournaments, communicating with the CYS Travel Director and Coaching Director anything concerning the team that the manager and coaches need help dealing with. The Team Manager will also report the game scores and list any red or yellow cards given to the Travel Director and the CJSA online score reporting system. The Team Manager may also help as a conduit between the coaches and the parents. The coach's responsibility is to coach the team. All managers will be required to attend a brief meeting to go over their roles and duties.

Communication

- Communication to the team: The Team Manager is the central communication hub for information going to parents and players about many aspects of the travel team activities. Most communication is via email, and keeping a file of archived emails you have sent and received about the team is suggested. The manager should check email regularly, and forward any important messages from CYS and the travel leagues as indicated. Most coaches use the manager to transmit all material other than specific player evaluations to the team. It is suggested that all coaching communications are sent by the coach to the Team Manager. The Team Manager will then send information onto the team, since the manager can then archive these messages, troubleshoot with the coach if there are errors or problems in the email regarding schedules or other issues, and ensure that the communications from the coach get to the correct contact email address for each player and family.
- Communication from the team: As much as possible, issues and problems and suggestions may be brought to the manager for action and resolution. Team parents in general should contact the manager, coach or CYS Travel Director, Coaching Director or Board Members if they have issues concerns or suggestions. Communication about individual player performance or physical/emotional issues should go directly to the coach. Notification of players missing practices and games generally should be communicated both to the manager and to the coach via email or phone calls.
- Concerns about the coach: Feed back and or issues concerning travel team coaches should be brought to the attention of the Coaching Director, regarding any inappropriate or abusive behavior, lack of responsibility regarding attendance at games and practices, or inability to perform coaching responsibilities as specified in the coaching contract.
- Concerns about the administration of the team or the manager: These issues should be brought promptly to the attention of the Travel Director as appropriate

Summary:

It is Clinton Youth Soccer's objective to create a competitive soccer learning and playing environment for Clinton Travel Team players.

