

WBYAA Spring Soccer FAQ

Spring Travel Soccer is facilitated by the West Bridgewater Youth Athletic Association (WBYAA) for U8-U16. U8 soccer is administered through East Bridgewater Youth Soccer Association (EBYSA) and U10 and older is administered through the South Shore Soccer League (SSSL).

Regarding soccer, how is the WBYAA different than SSSL? The WBYAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization run by parent volunteers to provide an opportunity for the athletic participation for the youth of the community. *The objective of the organization is to instill in the youth of West Bridgewater ideals of honesty, loyalty, confidence, self-respect and good sportsmanship so that they may be physically and morally better prepared to contribute constructively to their community.* The WBYAA's mission provides the opportunity for every youth to play recreational soccer during the fall and dome sessions. During the spring session for U10 and older, the SSSL is a competitive league and does not follow the same rules and regulations as the WBYAA. Therefore, please note that the WBYAA's mission statement does not necessarily align with those of the SSSL.

How are teams created for U8? There are no tryouts. Teams are created evenly based on the number of players and coaches.

How are teams created for U10 and older? The WBYAA Soccer committee conducts an evaluation process which includes tryouts for all U10 and U12 players interested in playing travel soccer. These tryouts are held in October each year for the upcoming spring season. Upon conclusion of tryouts, the head coaches determine the roster size and which players make the team. The head coach makes their decisions based on the following: evaluations at tryouts by independent evaluators hired by the WBYAA; evaluations at tryouts by experienced town soccer coaches; rankings from previous WBYAA coaches; and evaluations by soccer committee members. Therefore, each player typically gets evaluated and ranked by 3-4 different individuals. Tryouts are not held for U14 and U16 simply due to the fact that the WBYAA does not typically have enough kids to field more than 1 team for each gender in those age groups.

What makes U10 different than U12 and older? Although U10 conducts tryouts, all divisions are geared toward player development vs. wins/losses. Additionally, unlike U12 and older, U10 does not have playoffs. Tryouts for U10 are used to introduce players to the tryout process and facilitate development by having similar skilled players on the same team playing in a competitive environment.

How many players are on a team? Different age groups in spring travel soccer play different game formats and thus have different roster sizes - U10 plays 7 vs 7; U12 plays 9 vs 9; and U14 and older plays 11 vs 11. The SSSL establishes rules of play and provides the minimum and maximum roster sizes (U10: Min 9, Max 15. U12: Min 11, Max 16, U14+: Min 13, Max 18). In regard to U10, the team size will be determined by the number of players registered, the number of coaches willing to volunteer, player abilities and considerations of player development. For U12 and older, the team size is determined by the head coach and this decision will be strongly influenced by the objective

to create the most competitive team. This means from year to year, the total number on each team can fluctuate up or down. It also means that not every person who attends tryout will make the team. There can be cuts.

How many teams will each age group contain during spring soccer? The number of teams for each age group is contingent upon the number of players that tryout and the number of volunteer coaches. Tryout evaluations/rankings allow us to set the most competitive “A” team followed by “B” team, “C” team and so on. The WBYAA will make every effort to place players on a team. However, there is a possibility that some players may not have a team due to low signups. For U10, player development and competition is considered. For U12 and higher, fielding the best possible “A” team is the top priority, and therefore for U12 it is possible that your child could get cut from the team. Along with playoffs, U-12 teams have the potential to qualify for the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) and this competitive nature, and the fact that it is not “town soccer” but it is rather governed by SSSL, are the factors that distinguish this team from others that you may be more used to, and hence the reason why we sometimes make cuts on this team.

If you child participates in tryouts, are you guaranteed a spot on a team? No. For U12 and older, the teams will be selected based on the sole purpose of creating the most competitive team. For U12, a B or C team can be created if there are enough players and coaches are available to support a team. In addition, the WBYAA will work with other towns in SSSL to try to place as many kids on teams as possible. For U10 and since this is still developmental soccer with no playoffs, WBYAA will work creatively to provide an opportunity for every player provided there are enough coaches and players to support a team. Note: Fall and Dome soccer through the WBYAA has been established for recreational soccer and provides the opportunity for all kids to play.

When will travel team practice? Practice times will be established by the head coach. Typically, practices will be held once a week.

How are coaches selected for each team? Travel coaches are selected based on a points system tallied by years of volunteer coaching within the WBYAA. All coaches have been CORI checked and up-to-date.

Does my child need to play WBYAA sponsored fall or Dome soccer? For the 2019 spring season, you can register your child for Spring Soccer without having played fall soccer or any session of Dome soccer. In the past, we required children wishing to play spring soccer to play the 3rd Session of Dome as well.

What are the uniforms for spring travel soccer? Uniforms are ordered at time of registration. The SSSL requires each rostered member to have a unique number. This number is assigned by the WBYAA and should be the number kept throughout the WBYAA travel soccer experience. Players may wear their previous year travel uniform provided there are no conflicts with other team member numbers.

How many tryouts must my child attend? There are two tryouts scheduled for U10 and U12 age groups. It is encouraged to attend both tryout sessions; however, it is not mandatory. However,

you must attend at least one tryout session in order to be considered for the “A” team. The only exception is due to injury, which will be handled on a case by case basis.

How are players considered at tryouts to be a member of the “A” team? Players are evaluated based on technical ability (dribbling, ball control, passing, shooting and field awareness), general fitness and coachability. Assessment of these attributes will be performed through skill drills and small-sided games.

When will you be notified about your child’s team placement? Within two weeks of tryouts, the “A” team roster will be selected. It is our goal to explore every possible avenue to have individuals who didn’t make the “A” team have the opportunity to participate during spring soccer. To this end, rosters other than the “A” team will not be released until a minimum number of players is reached and coaches are assigned.

If my child does not make the “A” team, what can be done to have them play? To accommodate players that did not make the “A” team, the WBYAA will do some or all of the following: keep registrations open in an effort to recruit additional players; reach out to local towns to recruit additional players; and/or inquire if lower age divisions would like to play “up” provided that the lower grades can accommodate player movement without compromising the integrity of the teams.

What happens if my child doesn’t make the “A” team? Informing a child that he or she did not make a team after the tryout process can be extremely difficult for the child and parents. It is important that parents show support and guidance. The disappointment could be used as a source of motivation for the next opportunity to tryout and make the “A” team. Skill development over several months/year can be significant. As a parent, it is important to remember that the process of selection will never be perfect; however, the evaluation coaches and soccer committee always make every effort to evaluate all children as best as possible. The WBYAA welcomes volunteers to join and help develop ways to ensure the best possible selection process.

When and where are games? Games are typically scheduled to be played on Saturdays and/or Sundays. U8 is scheduled by EBYSA and plays in East Bridgewater at the Belmont Fields. U10 and older is scheduled by SSSL. Home games will be played at the Howard Fields on either the upper (U12 and older) or lower fields (U10). U10 and older away games will be played at the home fields of the participating towns.

Questions/Concerns: The WBYAA is a volunteer organization. The WBYAA welcomes input, concerns and is always looking for volunteers to improve its organization. If you have additional questions, please email sec.wbyaa@gmail.com. Thank you!