

**BAY SOCCER CLUB RULES AND PROCEDURES  
FOR YOUTH TRAVEL PROGRAM**

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# **BAY SOCCER CLUB RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR YOUTH TRAVEL PROGRAM**

## **ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY**

### *Section A.*

First preference shall be given to players residing in Bay Village or attending school in Bay Village (community players). If roster spots are available after all players meeting the above criteria have been placed on a team, non-community players from outside Bay Village may be considered for placement on a team. In the case of multiple teams community players are given preference for all available spots before non-community players are placed. This is meant to prevent an out of community player playing on higher level teams when there are community players available. Non-community players must be noted on the tryout information and specifically approved by the Travel Committee and BSC Board.

### *Section B.*

All Players must be registered BSC members in good standing.

### *Section C.*

Players must attend and complete a try-out each year.

### *Section D.*

Players shall meet the league's age requirements for the team for which they are trying out, as well as any further age requirements as may be established by the BSC Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II - TRY-OUTS**

### *Section A.*

Notification of try-outs for all age groups will be publicized.

### *Section B.*

Try-outs are typically scheduled during the spring to allow for team formation for the start of subsequent Fall Travel season. Date and time of try-outs will be determined by

the Commissioners of Travel.

*Section C.*

Travel team coaches will plan and organize try-outs with the assistance of the Commissioners of Travel. 3 to 5 independent evaluators (not related to the team or to the players being evaluated) should be chosen to evaluate the players. Commissioners of travel can recommend evaluators to the coaches if needed.

*Section D.*

A new birth year shall have a try-out scheduled, which will be supervised by the appropriate Commissioner of Travel. If there are sufficient number of qualified players to form a team(s), Travel Commissioners will identify potential head and assistant coaches for each team, subject to approval of BSC Board.

*Section E.*

Players will be evaluated on their tactical ability, competitiveness, and basic soccer skills (such as: kicking, dribbling, controlling and heading). All try-outs for a given age group must have identical formats for fair player evaluation.

*Section F.*

Players must be evaluated in performance, in actual game-like conditions, in accordance with recommended formats outlined in BSC try-out guidelines.

*Section G.*

Players unable to participate in try-outs due to injury, moving to the community, etc. may be given a special try-out by the individual coach for that age group if room on the roster permits. The player must be evaluated as stated in E and F above. The Commissioner of Travel involved shall be notified of and approve any such try-out. The Commissioner must approve the placement of a player on any team roster.

*Section H.*

Travel team coaches shall notify, in person or by phone, all people trying out as to their results within two weeks after the completion of their try-outs or as soon as BSC Board has approved try-out results. Every effort shall be made to notify all players no later than June 30. Additional time may be granted where appropriate and necessary.

*Section I.*

The BSC wishes to encourage the maximum participation when reasonably possible. When only one team exists, all available roster spots shall be filled if the number of players trying out for the team is the same or greater than the maximum number of roster spots. When more than one team exists, fewer players may be allocated to each team, but all roster spots shall be filled if the number of players trying out is equal or greater than the total number of available roster spots on all teams in the age group. The Travel Committee may recommend deviations to the number of players on a team as stated above if, in its determination, circumstances warrant. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, no team shall be allowed to carry more players than the number permitted by the league in which the team is or will be entered.

**ARTICLE III - LEAGUES**

*Section A.*

The Commissioners of Travel will recommend to the BSC Board the specific leagues and number of leagues to be entered.

*Section B.*

Travel leagues will be entered only after approval of the BSC Board.

*Section C.*

The BSC shall provide a representative to each league in which BSC travel teams participate. In the event no volunteer comes forward to accept appointment, the representative shall come from the U12A team participating in that league. The alternate representative, if no volunteer comes forward, shall come from the U11A team participating in that league. League representatives shall serve a one-year term beginning Jan 1st of each year.

**ARTICLE IV - TRAVEL TEAM COMMITTEE**

*Section A.*

A Travel Committee will be established each season year to carry out the functions as stated in these rules and to otherwise assist the BSC and the Commissioners of Travel in the administration of the travel program.

*Section B.*

The composition of the Travel Team Committee shall be:

The BSC President.

The BSC Vice President

The BSC Commissioner of Boys Travel Teams

The BSC Commissioner of Girls Travel Teams.

A head coach of a boys team to be chosen by the group of current boys travel team head coaches.

A head coach of a girls travel team to be chosen by the group of current girls travel team head coaches.

A BSC member or Bay Village resident, to be chosen by the Club President, who does not have a child playing in the travel program.

One Bay Village League Representative for each league in which travel teams play.

*Section C.*

The Travel Team Committee shall appoint an alternate member from the BSC to serve on the Committee in cases involving a conflict of interest.

*Section D.*

Minutes will be kept for each Travel Committee meeting. After approval by all committee members present, they will be forwarded to the Bay Soccer Club Secretary for inclusion into the permanent Club record.

**ARTICLE V – TEAMS**

*Section A.*

The Travel Team Committee will determine the number of travel teams that can be accommodated based on, but not limited to, the following: field availability, the number of qualified players available, past performance of the team, coaching availability and other relevant factors. Recommendation of the number of teams to field shall be made by the Travel Committee as soon as reasonably practical following try-outs.

“A” teams for each age group will be filled. Additional teams exist from year to year.

*Section B. - For Age Groups U11 - U14*

If only an A team is authorized, the A team coach will make roster recommendations, with the aid of tryout results, and subject to Travel Commissioner and Travel Committee approval.

If a B and/or C team is also authorized, try-out statistics on the resulting available players will be given to the B and/or C team coach. Additional try-outs may be conducted as necessary and a B and/or C team selected with the aid of tryout results, and subject to Travel Commissioner and Travel Committee approval.

After all team roster recommendations are complete, the recommended rosters, along with all tryout data (both actual scores as well as rankings), will be submitted to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel for review and presentation to the Travel Committee. The coach should point out and explain any differences between tryout results and roster recommendations. The Travel Committee will review, and either submit to BSC Board for approval, or return proposed rosters to the age group coaches for explanation or changes.

*Section C. - For Age Groups U8 - U10*

Players will be divided into equal teams by coaches of age group, assisted by Commissioners of Travel, and in case of U8 teams, the developmental coordinator. Teams will be formed based on the number of interested/qualified players, and will use color identifications (Blue, White, Red, Gold, Black, etc.). These labels are for organization only and will not designate level of excellence.

After all team roster recommendations are complete, the recommended rosters, along with all tryout data (for U9 and U10 groups - both actual scores as well as rankings), will be submitted to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel for review and presentation to the Travel Committee. The coach should point out and explain any differences between tryout results and roster recommendations. The Travel Committee will review, and either submit to BSC Board for approval, or return proposed rosters to the age group coaches for explanation or changes.

*Section D.*

A copy of the final team OYSAN roster will be given to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel. Try-out records will be maintained by the Commissioner of Travel for a period of one year.

*Section E.*

This procedure will be followed every year.

*Section F.*

Travel Teams will be selected for a one-year time period or as determined by the league entered.

*Section G.*

Teams must meet requirements of the league entered.

*Section H.*

A Travel team may not roster more non-resident players (includes non-resident community and non-resident non-community players) than the lesser of: 3 or number allowed by league rules.

Exception to this rule may be made by the Travel Committee, in conjunction with league approval, in circumstances where out of town players are necessary to form a team.

## **ARTICLE VI – PLAYERS**

*Section A.*

Players must play on the team of his or her birth year, or in the age bracket selected by BSC. In the case where a player's current school grade does not coincide with their birth year age bracket, he or she will be given the option to try out along with their current school grade as long as that is consistent with league age restrictions. A player who exercises this option and tries out for a team of his or her school grade level shall thereafter be eligible only for the players' school grade level team until the next age group tryout is held. A player who exercises this option and fails to make a team of his or her school grade level will be ineligible to participate in the travel program until the following year's try-out except in a situation where the lowest team in the younger age group has open roster spots, and is agreeable to including the player. (Note: this exception is only for the player that would otherwise not have a roster spot. The exception is not available to the player who is offered a roster spot on the older age group.)

*Section B.*

Players selected for the A team will normally play on that team. In very exceptional situations a player who declines that invitation may petition the appropriate Commissioner of Travel in writing requesting eligibility for the B team. The appropriate Commissioner of Travel shall have the authority to review the situation and either approve or refuse the request.

*Section C.*

A player assigned to a team shall be eligible to be on the roster of only that team for a period of one year or until the next scheduled try-outs for that age level have been completed and results approved. In the event of extenuating circumstances, exceptions to this rule may be made by the appropriate Commissioner of Travel.

*Section D.*

The BSC encourages all travel team players to participate in the in-house program.

*Section E.*

If during the course of a season there are no longer enough players to continue fielding an A and B team, only an A team will play in the league. Roster changes are at the discretion of the coaches affected and the Commissioner of Travel.

## **ARTICLE VII - COACHES**

*Section A.*

Persons interested in becoming a head coach or assistant coach for a travel team shall submit a letter of intent to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel, who will evaluate all applicants and submit recommendations to the Travel Committee.

*Section B.*

The Travel Committee shall submit its coaching recommendations to the BSC Board at the June meeting or as necessary to meet the registration requirements of leagues entered. The recommendations will be discussed and coaching assignments shall be approved by the BSC Board at this meeting. All coaching changes at other times must be approved by the BSC Board. All requests to coach must be submitted in writing to the Travel Committee no later than March 31 unless exception is provided by the appropriate Travel Commissioner.

*Section C.*

Openings for travel team coaches will be filled based upon:

1. Qualifications
2. Philosophical Accord
3. Support of BSC Programs and Coaching Philosophy

*Section D.*

Returning coaches will have first priority for the birth year(s) they previously coached the prior season if they continue to meet the qualifications in sections C and E.

*Section E.*

All travel team head and assistant coaches must meet minimum coaching certification, as deemed appropriate by league participating in (ex. OYSAN U9-12 Module), or complete one within one year after being named a coach. Prior to the beginning of a team's first U12 season, each travel team head coach shall have attained a US Soccer/OYSAN D Level Coaching Certificate. Equivalent coaching certification may be substituted (AYSO or NSCAA). Additionally, travel team head coaches and assistant coaches shall meet all certification requirements of the leagues and tournaments in which their teams are entered. Failure to meet the certification requirements constitutes grounds for dismissal.

*Section F.*

Official assistant coaches will be listed on the team roster and will have the same rights and privileges accorded head coaches. All assistant coaches are required to act in accordance with the procedures and the BSC philosophy on travel teams.

*Section G.*

In the event someone wants to register a complaint involving a travel team coach such complaint shall be submitted in writing to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel. The Commissioner of Travel shall first discuss the complaint with the coach involved. Then a report shall be submitted containing both signatures of the coach and the Commissioner of Travel for the Travel Team's Committee Review. Upon discussion, the Travel Team Committee shall then submit a report with their findings and their signatures to the BSC Board. If any persons are dissatisfied with the recommendations and actions of the Travel Team Committee, then the matter shall be submitted in writing to the BSC President for presentation to the BSC Board for review, discussion and/or necessary action.

*Section H.*

All problems involving policies, procedures, decisions and/or disciplinary actions shall be submitted in writing by the Coach to the appropriate Travel Commissioner. The Travel Commissioner will respond to the coach in writing with a decision, and advise the Travel Committee of any such decision. Additionally, the Travel Commissioner shall inform the coach that any appeals should be directed to the Travel Committee. If an appeal is made, the Travel Committee will review and issue a decision. If a member of the Travel Committee is involved in the problem he/she will step aside until the matter is resolved. The decision and vote shall be signed and submitted to the BSC Board for inclusion into the record.

**ARTICLE VIII - FEES**

*Section A.*

Travel players will be assessed additional fees to support the activities of their teams. Each team will be responsible for its own fees.

*Section B.*

Each team coach will select a parent to act as team treasurer. Treasurer will be responsible to collect, distribute and account for all team money. The BSC Board and the Travel Committee are not responsible for the caring of team funds, and will not be held accountable for mismanagement. Accuracy of team accounts, timely payments of fees, and management of team funds is the responsibility of each team's parents/participants.

**ARTICLE IX - EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE BAY SOCCER CLUB**

*Section A.*

First year teams only:

1. 24 saucers or cones;
2. One soccer ball per season;
3. First Aid Kit
4. Other equipment as determined by the BSC Board.

## **ARTICLE X – CONDUCT**

### *Section A.*

Travel team players and coaches shall adhere to the standards of conduct prescribed by:

1. The league in which they participate
2. The BSC

### *Section B.*

Complaints from a travel league about a team's players, coaches or parents will be referred to the appropriate Commissioner of Travel. The Commissioner of Travel involved will report to the BSC Board upon resolution of the situation.

### *Section C.*

Coaches set the tone for everyone associated with their team: players, parents and spectators. Coaches shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the philosophy of BSC as set forth in the Bay Soccer Club's Coaching Ethics and Developmental Process (Addendum 1).

All head coaches and assistant coaches are required to sign a copy of this policy each year, and return it to the Commissioners of Travel; who will maintain the signed copy, or an electronic version of it, for the duration of the season.

## **ARTICLE XI - RULES**

All rules such as stated, but not limited to, those below shall be in accordance with the guidelines of the specific league(s) entered, including but not limited to:

1. Duration of Game
2. Rosters
3. Uniforms
4. Timing
5. Ball
6. Schedule Changes
7. Field Size
8. Side Size
9. Officials
10. Seasons
11. Team and Spectator positions and ejections, suspensions and expulsions

## **ARTICLE XII – UNIFORMS**

### *Section A.*

The Travel Committee will make uniform recommendations to the BSC Board. The BSC Board shall choose a uniform and alternate jersey to be the official club uniform. All travel teams will then use the uniform style chosen by the BSC Board.

### *Section B.*

BSC colors are Royal Blue and White. These are the prominent colors to be used in travel uniforms. The primary jersey for each team will be blue or white. Where there are multiple teams playing in a particular age group a unique jersey number will be given to each player in the age group. No sponsor logos, advertising or insignias, other than the manufacturer's mark, shall be placed on the uniforms. Each team should have the approved alternate uniform to wear when the visiting team has conflicting blue uniforms.

### *Section C.*

Any deviation from these rules must be submitted in writing to the Travel Committee for its recommendation to the BSC Board. Failure to follow the uniform guidelines will result in the team's loss of financial support by the BSC, and potential dismissal of the coach(es), or other action deemed appropriate by the BSC Board.

## **Bay Soccer Club Travel Program: Coaching Ethics and the Developmental Process**

Ethics are the standards of conduct and moral behavior specific to an organization. Travel coaches, as members of the Bay Soccer Club, fall under the umbrella of OYSAN, US Youth Soccer, and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). The following statements refer to the ethical standards generally expected from US Youth Soccer coaches and specifically from Bay Soccer Club Travel coaches. The successful travel coach is involved in educating young children in soccer and seeks to understand the reasons for children's participation in and growth through youth sport.

### **1. Coaching for “Process” versus “Product”: Coaches should place the ongoing needs of the participants ahead of the outcome of games. Doing otherwise is being unethical.**

The primary reasons children play sports are: to participate and learn new skills, to be with friends, to compete with and against others, and to have fun. They enjoy learning from new experiences and, as time goes on, from direct instruction. They do not like being scolded or abused for making mistakes and they would rather play in a losing effort than sit on the bench during a victory. They would also rather play in a close game than in a blowout. Very young children rationalize winning and losing to working hard; older children equate winning and losing with their skills and abilities, directly influencing their self-confidence. Care must be taken to allow players between the ages of five and twelve the opportunity to become skillful and game savvy by focusing on their long-term development rather than their win-loss record.

### **2. Soccer Rules: Coaches should know the rules of the game and respect officials. Coaches who bait, antagonize, or otherwise challenge the decisions of the officials are being unethical.**

It is the responsibility of the coach to understand the basic rules of play and to strive to educate his or her players to perform within the letter and spirit of the rules to the best of their abilities. Both novice and expert coaches, and especially those coaches who are also registered officials, should appreciate that the application of the rules to the game is based on the interpretation of the officials. It is the coach's responsibility to model good sportsmanship and to demonstrate respect for the game. It is also the responsibility of the coaches to monitor and control any form of referee abuse by players, parents and other spectators.

### **3. Playing Time: Coaches should ensure adequate playing time for all rostered players. Coaches who play only their better players in an attempt to win games, and those who do not provide young players with adequate playing time or rest, are being unethical.**

Youth sport is not a miniature version of adult sport. All young players have a right to adequate playing time, regardless of the status or level of a contest. Players who do not regularly participate are at higher risk of dropping out, and no youth coach can predict which talented or

round or awkward young player will become the star of tomorrow once maturation, talent and desire are coupled with a good training environment. It is also regarded as unethical to over-play children in an attempt to bolster the chances of a club (players playing on multiple teams, i.e. double carded) winning multiple games played on the same day, or over a number of days, as is often the case at tournaments. Players who are fatigued face a higher risk of injury, and players who play an excessive number of games over a prolonged period or months or years are at higher risk for burning out and developing overuse injuries. It is also true that players who face excessive playing demands are often hurried back from injury, with serious potential for chronic joint instability as a result.

**4. Positioning: Coaches should let players explore the flow of the game without restricting the movement of players in small-sided games. Coaches who position players or restrict their movements in order to win games are being unethical. Coaches who rigidly organize players into formal positions to artificially separate them are guilty of over-coaching.**

The ability of players to understand positions starts to emerge around age ten and develops rapidly over the next few years. Small-sided games that do not require a formal midfield organization are designed to provide age-appropriate and ability appropriate competition for players under the age of eleven. The intent is for players to enjoy freedom of movement within the game, thereby learning how to create and use space within small-group environments. Small-sided games can also help coaches better appreciate their “curriculum” in working with young children. In addition, two key elements of team play at U-11 and above are support for the midfield and forward lines from the defenders, and the natural movement of defenders into midfield and forward positions to create numerical superiority around the ball. The practice of positioning “Goalie Guards” close to the penalty area and restricting these players from moving with the team is clearly intended to limit the loss of goals. Finally, the practice of positioning attacking players in front of the opponent’s goal to “Cherry Pick” does not help the team quickly transition to attack, nor does it help develop the important skills of playing with back to goal. Neither of these practices is in the best interests of the players.

**5. Blowouts: Coaches who deliberately run up scores are being unethical.**

Lopsided games in youth sports are inevitable and care must be taken to appreciate the sensitivity of young children to such events. Playing short-handed, adding players to the opponent’s team, playing key players out of position, sitting key players for longer periods, playing with limited touches, restricting scoring from close range, and only scoring from crosses are some possible options for dealing with blow-out situations. At the youngest ages, adult coaches should consider playing in goal to help the losing team gain some measure of stability or consolation.

**6. Player Advancement: Coaches should foster growth of every player, and seek to provide the best environment for each player’s development. Coaches who seek to retain a player(s) who has outgrown the knowledge and abilities of the coach for the implicit or explicit purpose of winning games is being unethical.**

Players improve by playing with and against other good players, through personal motivation

and independent practice, through study, through observation, and through good coaching. By far, the most important factors in player development are coaching and environment. At the top level, the successful coach is one who develops players to their fullest potential and reaps the rewards through the play of the team. The successful youth coach, in contrast, helps individual players develop to their fullest potential, or to the limits of the coach's knowledge, before moving them along to a higher level of play and a new learning environment. The unethical youth coach often seeks to covet his or her top performers for reasons of self-worth and personal gain, regardless of the short and long-term impact on the individual player.

**7. Game Tactics: Coaches should encourage creative and risk taking play. Coaches who use negative tactics and minimize the enjoyment of the players in order to win games are being unethical.**

Winning youth soccer games is relatively easy. The coach who tells his or her players to take no risks with back passes; kick every ball forward; dribble the ball forward; stay behind the ball, or behind the half when playing as a defender; press the opposition into their half at every opportunity; and be very aggressive when defending, will win a higher percentage of their games. The younger the players are when a coach displays this attitude, the less likely it is that they will ever experience the joy of actually playing soccer as it can be: an exercise in creative self-expression. It is quite easy to be "winning" youth soccer coach; it is much more difficult to be a "successful" youth soccer coach.

**8. Achieving Success by Recruiting: Coaches who routinely recruit players from other organizations as a shortcut to developing from within are being unethical.**

The practice of recruiting good players to build a victorious youth organization often undermines the efforts of those coaches who understand the value and perils of building for long-term development. Yes, winning is enjoyable, but successful coaching is better defined as winning with an eye towards a competent end product. Player development takes at least 10 years, and embraces success and failure as necessary elements of the process. Perpetual victory is not in the players' best interests; nor is club-hopping in search of meaningless trophies and awards. Players need to be challenged to persevere and aspire; and to learn the value of loyalty to good coaches, even when the organization is not always successful. The ethics of coaches who cut and recruit players in order to win must be scrutinized. Victorious youth soccer organizations are not always reflective of coaching competence.

**9. Respecting the Game**

Soccer has been played worldwide in one form or another for over 4500 years, and in the United States since 1869. Over four million American children now play youth soccer. The first official soccer rules were codified in London, England in 1863 and the World Cup is the world's largest single sport event. It is the responsibility of each coach to demonstrate respect for the game by honoring players, spectators and officials, and by promoting positive character development to all young players in words and deeds. Coaches who fail to meet these standards by displaying poor sportsmanship and overreacting to the natural ups and downs of the game are being unethical.

## **10. Coaching in Bay Village**

It is a privilege to coach a team in Bay Village. Any other thought, is unethical.