



## GREENBUSH SOCCER CLUB

### **Travel Soccer Policies**

#### **Code of Conduct**

All players, parents, and coaches are expected to read and acknowledge the Greenbush Soccer Club and the CDYSL Codes of Conduct. It is expected that all players and their families will adhere to these standards throughout the year.

#### **Travel Committee**

The Travel Committee is responsible for making decisions related to the administration of the travel soccer program. This includes, but is not limited to team and player registrations, liaison with CDYSL and other leagues as appropriate, and resolving off-field issues.

The Travel Committee includes a committee head, a registrar, committee members, and the Director of Coaching.

#### **Director of Coaching**

The Director of Coaching (DOC) has responsibility for "on field" decisions and the development of travel players and coaches (in addition to rec player and coach responsibilities not covered by this policy). The DOC will ensure that proper short and long term training plans are used to maximize player development. Additional DOC duties include, but are not limited to, organization and structure of tryouts, player placement, coaching assignments, and serving as a technical liaison to the Board of Directors.

#### **Team Structure**

Provided that registration numbers allow, the club will attempt to field A and B teams in each two-year age bracket. For example, U10A, U10B, U12A, U12B, etc. Teams will not necessarily be divided by player age to create U9, U11, etc.

#### **Team Selection**

The club will hold up to three travel tryouts prior to the start of each travel



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season. These tryouts will typically be held in late June/early July. The club has a policy to not cut any players below the U14 level, and to make all reasonable accommodations to attempt to avoid cutting any players. Player selection and assignment is coordinated between the DOC and coaches. The travel committee will assist with this task, if needed. Coaches may also opt to have player selections made by the DOC or other evaluators other than the coach. Within a week of the final tryout date, all coaches, along with the DOC and the travel committee, will meet to discuss player placement, and ensure that all teams are properly filled.

In the event that there are enough players for two teams at an age level, they will be divided into "A" and "B" teams, primarily by skill level as determined during the tryout sessions and through review of past player performance.

In the event that the second or third team would have only a small number of players, an attempt will be made to divide roster sizes evenly, and players from each roster will be allowed to flex to the other roster to form complete teams. If league/tournament scheduling prohibits this from working effectively, an alternate solution will be decided upon.

Below the U14 level, all players who attend practices regularly, behave in a sportsmanlike manner, are prepared and on time for games and practices will play at least 50% of the game to the best of the coach's ability throughout the fall, indoor, and spring outdoor seasons.

Levels U14 and above are more competitive in nature. During the indoor season, for levels U14 and above, all players who attend practices regularly, behave in a sportsmanlike manner, are prepared and on time for games and practices will play at least 50% of the game to the best of the coach's ability. During the outdoor season, all players will participate in the game; playing time is at the coach's discretion.

Travel teams will be set by October and generally remain the same with the ability to make some modifications to the rosters for the outdoor spring session.

It should be noted that rosters and coaches, at times, may be adjusted, as enrollment numbers dictate. Changes of this nature would only be made to ensure the best possible learning and development environment for all players.

### **Playing Up**



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All players must try-out at their age appropriate and gender specific level. It is the intent of the club to have all players stay at this level with an emphasis on building a team; not only the top players. Coaches will give these players challenges within the game to improve balls skills, tactics and leadership abilities. These players will be given the opportunity to guest play when the team at a level above theirs needs an additional player.

All decisions in regard to playing up will be made by the DOC and are made on a year to year basis. The criteria below are some of the factors the DOC will use to determine if players should move up a level.

The DOC will consider team sizes at each level and allow for moving up a player or players if this will increase the total number of children able to participate in travel soccer.

In certain cases, where roster sizes are not a factor, individuals will be allowed to move up a level if the DOC and coaches have determined that the best placement for this player's development is to move to up a level. In moving up, this player would not simply be able to participate with the new team but would make a significant contribution to the success of this team he/she is moving up to as one of the top players on the new team.

In addition, the removal of this player would not negatively impact the roster of the team he/she is leaving or joining.

### **Guest Players**

The top players on each team may be given the opportunity to guest play with a level above theirs when that team is short players. The guest player can only play for this team if there are no more than four subs and will not be given more playing time than those players on the regular roster.

Guest players may be invited to practice with this team if there is space and their presence does not negatively impact the team. These players must attend practices and games and remain obligated to their primary team.

The registration and use of all guest players will be done in accordance with CDYSL and/or tournament policies.

### **League Play**

All Greenbush Soccer Club teams participate in the Capital District Youth



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Soccer League (CDYSL). Coaches or teams wishing to participate in a different league or at a different level, must seek concurrence from the Travel Committee prior to participating in any other leagues or formats.

All players must be registered to play in CDYSL in accordance with CDYSL rules and policies.

### **Tournament Play**

Participation in tournaments is an important aspect of player development and competition. The club encourages teams to participate in tournament play that does not interfere with league play. All coaches and teams participating in tournaments must provide a list of those tournaments, along with anticipated rosters, to the Travel Committee prior to submission to tournament organizers. The Travel Committee will confirm that there are no roster conflicts, and will work directly with coaches to maximize tournament participation for all teams.

The club encourages team participation in State Cup tournaments, and will pay the entry fee for at least one State Cup entry annually, per team. Teams wishing to participate in State Cups should coordinate with, and seek concurrence from the Travel Committee and DOC.

### **Team Managers**

All travel teams must have a team manager. The manager will handle administrative team functions and communications, such as registering the team for indoor and/or outdoor sessions, registration and logistics for tournaments, collecting funds, handling player passes, team rosters, and referee fees.

Coaches may handle these duties, without a team manager, with a waiver from the Travel Committee.

### **Coach/Trainer Certification and Payment**

Each year, in late March or early April at the latest, returning coaches must submit their name and preferred team to the Travel Committee for consideration for the coming season.

Travel teams may be trained by the head and assistant coaches, or through



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the use of a paid trainer. All professional coaches and trainers are paid by the club. Details of the club's travel trainer payment are documented in "Attachment A" of this policy. Coaches are required to submit a training funds budget to the travel Committee by November 1 of each year. This budget should detail the trainers being paid, or the alternate uses of the funds.

All coaches and assistant coaches must possess at least a USSF "F" License and pass a background check.

Continuing education is encouraged for all travel coaches. Each coach may apply to the Travel Committee for reimbursement of one soccer coaching course annually.

### **Team Fines**

Any team incurring league or tournament fines must present an explanation of the fine, in writing or in person, to the travel committee. Only after this notification process, will the club consider paying such fines.

### **Refund Policy**

It is the club's general policy to not give refunds for travel soccer, however, all requests are addressed on a case by case basis. Instances where an injury prevents participation in soccer will likely be afforded refunds. All participants should be aware of the travel soccer commitment and payment terms prior to registering to play.

### **Account in Bad Standing**

All registered players are responsible for paying their registration fee in a timely manner. Registration for travel soccer may be paid at the time of registration, or incrementally throughout the year (September 1, November 1, February 1). No player who has an outstanding balance will receive a player pass until the balance is settled. Additionally, attendance at practices and games may be suspended if past due amounts are not paid.

### **Player Releases to Other Clubs**

Requests for release will be handled on a case by case basis. Travel soccer



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commitments are generally for one year, and barring extenuating circumstances, players should not be moving clubs' mid-year.

### **Grievances**

If any player or parent encounters a situation that needs resolution, they should first attempt to discuss this with a team coach or team manager. If this is unsuccessful, or is not a feasible approach, they should notify the Travel Committee of their grievance, in writing. If the grievance is on-field related, the DOC will typically handle the grievance and provide his/her findings to the Travel Committee. If it is off-field related, the Travel Committee will handle. It is the goal of the club that all grievances are addressed within 7 days.

### **Uniforms**

The club's uniform, as selected by the Board of Directors, is used for three consecutive years. At the end of this three-year lifecycle, a new uniform is selected. Players are responsible for the purchase of their uniform. Individual teams may purchase practice uniforms and alternate team uniforms for use in tournament play. All uniforms must display the Greenbush Soccer Club logo.

### **Coaching Equipment**

Each coach should expect to be provided with basic training equipment from the club, to include two soccer balls, practice vests, and cones. The purchase of additional equipment may be discussed with the Travel Committee and the Technical Committee.

Each year, the club will attempt to provide a clothing budget for head and assistant travel coaches. This will typically include a polo shirt and a warm up top with the club logo.