



BSC Travel Policies and Guidelines

Last updated March 2024

Approved by the BSC Board of Directors: March 2024

The purpose of the Beacon Soccer Club's ("BSC") Travel Program is to identify and develop soccer players (and teams) aged U9 - U19* years old, who demonstrate the self-motivation, enthusiasm and the potential to play soccer at an advanced level. Emphasis shall be placed on developing players in a way that promotes fundamental soccer skill development, character development, teamwork and good sportsmanship. The BSC will also promote training and development for volunteers interested in coaching soccer throughout our program.

Coaching Policies/Expectations:

Coaches set a powerful example, and the BSC would like that example to be a positive one. Once a coach is approved, they will be asked to adhere to the following policies and expectations:

1. Understand and adhere to BSC policies, procedures and philosophies.
2. Act as a positive role model for the players of the BSC.
3. Attend all of the Coaches Clinics that are conducted or endorsed by the Travel Director.
4. Set, by example, high standards for coaches and players, opposing coaches and players and referees and game officials.
5. Be aware of and adhere to all Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League's ("HVYSL") game day operating procedures.
6. Present a professional appearance, by proper attire at all scrimmages, games and tournaments.
7. Work on player/team development and performance to ensure that BSC teams can perform competitively.
8. Manage all team business.
9. Ensure that all required forms, fees and equipment are picked up and/or turned in on the requested dates and times.
10. Attend all scheduled practices, scrimmages, games and tournaments. If the Head Coach is unable to attend, an Assistant Coach and/or team manager will serve as a suitable replacement.
11. A coach, will take full responsibility for their actions, the actions of the players, and the actions of the parents associated with the team and club at all soccer related events.
12. Ensure that all Assistant Coaches and Managers are fully aware of and agree to comply with the guidelines that are set above.
13. Ensure that all assistant coaches & managers are aware of and comply with the rule against active recruiting between teams.

If a Head Coach should fail to comply with any of the coaching policies or expectations, the following measure will be taken.

- First Offense: Coach will receive a verbal warning from the Travel Director.

- Second Offense: Coach will receive a written warning from the Travel Director.
- Third Offense: Depending on the severity of the offense, the Travel Director may recommend that the coach be removed from the position and a suitable candidate fills the position. This infraction and recourse will be discussed with the BSC Board.

Underage Player Policy (Age Appropriate Play):

BSC believes that most players will develop better at their birth year age appropriate level. The need to minimize underage players helps to create stronger athletes and teams at all levels. We also recognize that our boys teams develop differently than our girls teams, as such we have two distinct policies for each.

The following underage player allowances **FOR BOYS** must be adhered to unless an exception has been authorized by BSC board vote:

- All U9 Travel teams can carry players who are one year younger – the intent is that those younger players will move to the age appropriate team the following year.
- All U10 – U14 Travel Teams should only carry players who are born in that birth year. Limited exceptions can be made if and only if they meet the following conditions:
 1. Coach Evaluates player(s) as being in top 6, 9 or 11 players on the team (depending on their respective age group) and produces documentation of their evaluation comparing said player(s) to rest of the selected players on the team.
 2. Coach can request independent Evaluators (i.e. Travel Director, etc) to be present at their tryouts and their documented evaluation shows similar detail to number one above.
 3. Request(s) need to be made yearly thru the Travel Director and Board of Directors. Underage player(s) from previous year are not exempt from yearly comparison evaluation.
 - For age groups with two teams, teams may carry a MAXIMUM of 2 underage players per team if parameters one, two, and three above are met. Any exceptions need to be submitted to the Travel Director and approved by the CSA board.
 4. A player(s) inclusion on an older team will not substantively impact the younger team.

The BSC will maintain a girls travel team every two years (i.e. the GU12 team will be made of U12 & U11 players).The following underage player allowances **FOR GIRLS** must be adhered to unless an exception has been authorized by BSC board vote:

- The girls program will offer a team every two years – so each team will have combined ages.

- A U10 team (if it is the lowest aged team) may keep a player who is two (2) birth years younger, only if the exclusion of that player will jeopardize a team's upcoming season. A intent is that player(s) will move to the available, younger team the very next season.
- A U9 team shall only be made up of U9 and U8 players.

BSC will not review or approve any exceptions to this policy unless it can be shown that without doing so, a team's existence within the club is in danger of not surviving. Even then, numbers one, two, three, and four above will still apply.

Requests for Additional Travel Teams (2nd Team Policy):

BSC's philosophy for our travel soccer program is to field the strongest, most competitive team feasible per age group. Teams will be comprised of players within Beacon or surrounding areas. BSC will attempt to furnish a travel team at all age levels (U8-U14) for boys and a team every two years (U9-U14) for girls. Teams at U15* and above will be handled on an ad hoc basis. In the event that there is a need or desire to add an additional travel team to an age group, that already has a team present, the following New Team criteria must be met:

- New team must have enough travel quality players to roster a strong team.
- New team would have a qualified coach, approved by the BSC Board of Directors.
- New coach must abide by all BSC travel policies and guidelines.
- All potential players must be age appropriate, or within the Underage Player Policies. All exceptions shall be approved by the BSC Board by majority vote as described under the Club's Discretion section of these guidelines.
- Potential players CANNOT be recruited from other established BSC travel teams.
- Both coaches in the age group must actively communicate and make decisions collectively that promoted the best options for the players and teams involved.
- The BSC Board of Directors must approve the addition of a new team. Coach, players and outdoor/indoor space capacity all taken into consideration. The new team must be competitive within the division it is placed. The Board will routinely review the team's progress throughout the season.

Guidelines for Two Teams Within an Age Group:

- Two teams in any given age group, once formed, will hold separate tryouts during the tryout period. Players in the age group are allowed to tryout for either or both teams.
- Rosters will be reviewed annually after tryouts by the Travel Director to assess viability of having two teams in an age group.

- If one team folds in an age group where there are two teams or the two teams decide to combine into one team, coaches must re-apply to the Board and the Board will select a head coach.
- If one team does not meet the required roster size, the Travel Director will bring it to the BSC Board of Directors. The Board will select a coach and hold a subsequent tryout to create one team at the age group.
 - If this occurs, refunds for expenses that may have occurred are issued at the discretion of the Board.
 - Independent evaluators may be assigned to the tryout to support the coach.
- Teams may not have more than 2 underage players per team and must meet the requirements as stated in the underage player policy.
- Prior to the age group moving to 9v9 (U11) and 11v11 (U13), the head coaches of both teams must appear before the board at the June board meeting, approximately one month before tryouts, to discuss the future projections of the teams. Coaches will be expected to report on items including but not limited to: type of team (Premier or Standard Travel), leagues to participate in, roster sizes, anticipated divisions, desire to continue with two teams or combine players into one team, etc.
- Once the teams reach 11v11, each team must ensure a roster of 16 players registered prior to the May board meeting.
 - May Board Meeting: Status check of Registration for both teams and vote requiring no less than 16 Registered players for either roster
 - Jan. Board Meeting: Status check on fulfillment of Registration installment #1.
 - a. No less than 16 Registered players must have paid their first installment
 - b. If this is not satisfied, team will not be allowed to register for upcoming HVYSL or EDP season

Travel Tryout Process:

The BSC attempts to put structure around the tryout process. A set timeframe and consistent guidelines allows the Club to manage the program better, input to the league faster, and assist in decision-making. Wherever possible, travel tryouts for the following season will be held and completed by **April/May** of the current year for the following season. Coaches of each team will provide the Travel Director with a tryout schedule. Please feel free to negotiate other dates or times if a slot is not convenient. Registration by July 1st is required for all travel players who participated in tryouts and are currently on a Beacon roster. This is not only for league registration and insurance purposes but also to ensure the players commitment to the team. NO travel player, under any circumstances, may participate in any indoor or outdoor activity, game or practice, without being fully registered with the Beacon Soccer Club and/or appropriate player pass from HVYSL.

Team Selection Guidelines:

The Travel Program will field teams that will be competitive against other teams within the HVYSL. Each travel coach is responsible for selecting the players for their team. While selecting a team, please keep these points in mind:

1. Clear communication as to where/when tryouts will be held. If advertising is required, please contact the Travel Director. Advertising will occur through the BSC web-based communications.
2. If an age group has more than one team, the players can play on either team. However, it is in the best interest of the player and Club for the child to play at his/her highest level. BSC, therefore, expects a dialog among the parents, coaches and player as to which team would be best for that player.
3. There is absolutely no "poaching" from other BSC teams. This means that a player cannot be approached; parents cannot be approached if they are already on a BSC team, or have committed to trying out for a BSA team.
4. It is within that same spirit that there is to be no "poaching" from other HVYSL teams. A dialogue between the Beacon coach and coach from another club should happen before any recruitment of a Beacon player from another town club.
5. The coach shall set clear expectations during tryouts, both verbal and written. For example: minimum attendance required at tryouts, punctuality, date team will be selected, etc.
6. The coach shall clearly communicate how they intend to notify the players of cuts. Sample letters are available upon request. We recommend that if a coach chooses to cut a player who has already been on the team, that an extra effort be made to contact that player in person to discuss any questions they might have.
7. The selection process is a difficult one. Everyone must understand and keep in mind that these are children.
8. All cuts should be made with the utmost respect for the individual.
9. Once final cuts are made and players have accepted their positions, players are not allowed to move to another CSA team during the season without approval from the Travel Director.
10. With respect to children and their parents, coaches will not:
 - Offer a player a position on a team, and then cut them.
 - Have multiple cuts.
 - Keep a player that has little chance to play (at U12 and above).
 - Keep a player on hold in the event someone better comes along.

Refund Policy:

All requests for player registration refunds must be in writing and directed to the Travel Director. No refunds are processed once the Travel Program registration closes on Nov. 1 of the fall season.

League Fines:

Any fine imposed by HVYSL for the first offence for Excessive Goal Differential or forfeit will be paid by the BSC. A fine imposed for a second offence will be deducted from that individual team's discretionary money. If there is a third offence, the coach will be removed of their duties and the league will pay the fine.

Coaches Reimbursement:

Coaches are encouraged to further their training and development through coaches' clinics and licensing.

1. BSC will reimburse coaches who have completed the USYS Coaches Certification certificate. The maximum is \$100.00 per coach, per year.
2. Teams that participate in the ENYSSA State Cup will be reimbursed the team's registration fee.

Team Expenses/Discretionary Funds:

Each season, a team will be given a check to cover referee expenses for that season. Referees are to be paid on game day with cash. Referee fees are outlined in the HVYSL Game Operating Procedures.

Each year, a team is to be given an allotment of money to be used for discretionary expenses – including, but not limited, to equipment, team building events, tournaments, goalie jerseys, etc. The amount of the discretionary expense money will be set each year by the Travel Director and BSC Board.

Indoor Practice Time:

An officer of BSC (Vice President – Travel Director) will negotiate indoor time for all the Travel teams. We will try to arrange indoor time that is convenient for all the teams; however, it may not be possible. This will include, but not limited to, gym use at local Beacon schools and local/regional indoor soccer facilities.

Outdoor Practice Time:

Spring/Fall - Fields will be available for tryouts and practice during the fall and spring. Contact the Travel Director to request practice dates. Teams are not to hold practices on any BSC field without the advance approval from the Travel Director or BSC Board.

Season - Based on field availability, a coach may request additional practice time on fields from the Travel Director. All BSC fields are owned and maintained by other organizations. We must show respect for their property and their rules. When fields are closed, it is due to a direct request from the owners (or a decision by the BSC) and will be supported by all members of BSC.

Risk Management:

All coaches must submit a Risk Management application through gotsoccer.com. These forms are mandatory and must be updated every (2) two years. You cannot coach or manage a team without completing this statement.

Temperature/Weather Issues:

Player safety is always the main concern of all BSC Policies. To that end, the BSC follows the following procedures for cancelling or modifying game/practice routines.

- **Temperature:** The BSC Board has adopted the NYSSPHA Heat Index procedures for cancelling or modifying game/practice routines - https://nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/5/5/Heat_Index_Procedure_5_23.pdf?id=3080
- **Field Conditions:** In the event that the any BSC field is unplayable due to rain (or snow) the following may happen:
 - The school district or City of Beacon might close down fields.
 - The BSC Board of Directors might issue a league-wide shut down of the fields or a field specific shut down.
 - It is understood that, as per HVYSL game day operating procedures, that a referee may cancel a game due to unplayable conditions.

BSC Logo:

The Beacon Soccer Club has been in existence since 1978 with a rich and proud history. Our logo is emblematic of that rich history and as such BSC travel teams must play under this logo. No other logo or “crest” is to be used when representing a BSC travel team.

Coach Approval Process:

Volunteers interested in being a coach or assistant coach, must submit a Coaching Application and be approved by the Travel Director and BSC Board. Additionally, all coaches on the sideline must go thru the entire registration process required by HVYSL. Every coach on the sideline must hold a current coaches pass provided by HVYSL:

- Risk Management (through gotsoccer.com)
- Heads-Up – Safe Sport (through gotsoccer.com)
- USYS Grassroots Field Course (all coaches must take this)

Miscellaneous Policies:

1. The Travel Director can recommend exceptions to these policies through the BSC Board of Directors. Please contact the Commission with any issues or concern with regard to these policies.
2. Serious violations of the BSC Travel Policies, HVYSL Game Day Operating Procedures or FIFA rules may result in disciplinary actions by the BSC Board of Directors. All violations should be reported to the Travel Director immediately.

The BSC Board of Directors reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to change or adjust these policies if it is determined that the policy was not set appropriately or that changes are needed due to developments during the season.