



Coaching Guide Travel Soccer

Fall 2023/Spring 2024

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HISTORY: The Beacon Soccer Club (BSC) has been in existence since 1978, as started by Patrick Kerr and a group of dedicated volunteers. Our club has been delivering quality soccer to the youth of Beacon and the surrounding community ever since. BSC continues to be a 100% volunteer organization, fueled by dedicated people who donate their time and energy to the young people of our community. BSC offers an In-House intramural program and an advanced Travel Soccer program. Our programs are designed for players from age 4 to 19. Our Mini program is for 4-5 yr. olds, Jr. Peewee 6-7 year olds, Peewee 8-9 year olds, Intermediate 10-13 year olds. Our Travel program has ranged from U9 to H.S. and level of play ranges from developmental up to the highest available.

Travel Coaching Guide – Introduction:

Welcome to coaching Travel Soccer for the Beacon Soccer Club. This coaching guide has been put together for you to guide your team throughout your upcoming season. This document contains an aspirational vision for you as you lead your team in the finer points of dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork. The BSC travel program focuses on the U9 – U14 age brackets with all teams playing in the Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League. Also included is logistical information for you to better manage your team's needs.

Youth soccer is, at its core, developmental. Travel soccer adds an additional level of competitiveness to that experience. Players compete at try-outs in order to be selected for a team, at practices in order to receive more playing time, and during games against equally or more talented players from other local towns. Participation in the BSC travel program is limited to children living within the Beacon City School district and the connecting towns. At the developmental ages, U9-U12, all players must play at least half of a game. At U12 and above, teams playing in the HVYSL do not have a playing time minimum. Unlike recreational soccer, all players may not receive equal playing time – though we do recommend maximizing every player's opportunity to get game minutes. The commitment required of travel players and their parents is much greater than that of recreational players, both in the travel required for away games and also mentally. While we highlight the idea of game day decisions, please know that coaching a travel team goes well beyond the 60-80 minutes on game day!

One of our main goals for each team is for them to reach school soccer (modified soccer for 7th & 8th graders) – that would be U13/U14.

This document is meant to help you set your players up for success. The Executive Board of the Beacon Soccer Club respects each coach's autonomy, but we recognize the needs of our young athletes must come first. It is with this spirit that we offer you these suggestions for how to work with your soccer players under the banner of the Beacon Soccer Club. Everything offered here is based on our experience and collective wisdom put together for you to utilize.

I am happy to advise and discuss anything in this booklet with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email, phone or in person.

On behalf of the Beacon Soccer Club, I want to wish you a very successful soccer season.

Respectfully,

Lisa Cacomo
BSC Vice President – Travel Director

BSC Coaching Philosophy/Expectations:

BSC Philosophy: BSC strives to give our youth an opportunity to learn and play the game of soccer and in doing so, also teach the principles of sportsmanship, honesty, cooperation, teamwork and respect. We provide a supervised, orderly and progressive program of instruction (curriculum) and competitive soccer games. All Officers, Directors, Members, Coaches, Players, Sponsors, and Supporters shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or the winning of a game is secondary, and that the molding of future adults is of primary importance. The Club and its Board of Directors strives to provide reasonably equal benefits and opportunities to all registered players whether recreational, instructional or competitive travel.

“The coach’s long-term goal is to prepare the player to successfully recognize and solve the challenges of the game on his or her own. It is vital that the coach approaches soccer with this in mind.” – US Soccer

Coaching Requires:

**Kindness
Patience
Respect
Awareness
Knowledge
Flexibility
Understanding
Compassion
Communication**





Travel Coaching Expectations:

The coach of a BSC Travel Team is selected by the Director of Travel and approved by the BSC Board of Directors. The head coach is responsible for the overall development of the team and the players. Below are some of the responsibilities and expectations of a coach for the BSC Travel program:

- Selecting, thru an open tryout process, players for the team.
- To motivate, teach and constructively criticize players of the team.
- Securing a substitute coach (Assistant Coach) if for any reason you are unable to attend a game or practice.
- Determining tactics and formations for the team.
- Determining playing positions for the team.
- Determine playing time for each player (**at least half a game for all U12 and younger players**).
- Determining times for training sessions in conjunction with club training.
 - U9 and U10 teams might want to take advantage of Coerver training offered to the Recreation program.
- Selecting tournaments in conjunction with the Travel Director.
- Ensure that the uniform policy is enforced for games. Players must be wearing the uniform approved by the BSC – purchased thru soccer.com.
- Check on field conditions prior to all HOME games and set up field accordingly.
- Selecting a team manager and approving any parental team support
- Keep good communication with players and families of the team.
- Manage Incidental funds and referee funds provided by the BSC.
 - Incidental funds can be used for equipment, tournament fees, team building activities, etc.
- Manage all funds of the team, including any fundraising ventures.
- Be available to parents to discuss players.

In addition, the coach will:

- Lead by example
- Support the vision of the Beacon Soccer Club.
- Be ultimately responsible for the team regarding the enforcement of all club, team, HVYSL and ENYISA policies, procedures, rules, regulations, including the philosophy of the Beacon Soccer Club
- Know ALL age-level, game operating policies of the [Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League](#).
- Know ALL [Laws of the Game of IFAB](#).

Player Development:

Long-term player development and love of the game is the number one goal at BSC. The purpose of any program is to develop players to be able to go onto the next level. We have a progressive structure that allows teams and players to compete at a level at which they are capable of being successful.

Stage 1	Ages U9-U10 Years	DEVELOPMENTAL
Stage 2	Ages U11-U12 Years	PROGRESSIVE
Stage 3	Ages U13-U15 Years	COMPETITIVE
Stage 4*	Ages U16-U18 Years	SHOWCASE / PLACEMENT

The BSC is committed to our players to put them in an environment that is challenging and will continually motivate, develop and enable them to improve. As players mature, it is important to constantly test them at their level, but also at levels beyond their current ability. Technical, tactical, psychological and physical components of the game will all be taught within the structure of the team's development.



Communication – Players and Parents:

One of the more important things that you will do throughout the fall and spring season will be to communicate with your players and their families. Below are some thoughts and ideas for how you can communicate with your players.

There are a number of app-based programs that a coach can sign-up for (purchased using money from their incidental fund). We recommend TEAMSAP.

Communication with Players

- Keep comments POSITIVE and ENCOURAGING.
- Soccer specific information should be limited to basic ideas (keeping the ball in bounds or maneuvering in tight spaces).
- Ball handling is most important at the U9-U10 level, with team play becoming more important at U11 and above..
- Field positions and functions will be explained. Encourage players to play proper positions on field.
 - Formations should be explained and understood thru play.

Communication with Parents

Should also be positive and encouraging

Let parents know what expectations will be for playing time

Important for parents to understand sideline ethics

- Model the Model of good behavior
 - Parents should be cheering...but, not coaching.
- No yelling at or criticizing the referees and/or the calls that they make.
 - No taunting other players or referees
- Spectators sit across from the teams on the opposite sideline.
- Cheering for their child, the other players on the team, and the opposing players is encouraged!



Travel Practices:

In the fall and spring, teams should practice twice a week for 90 minutes each session.

Practices at the U9-U14 level are still meant to be fun-inspired opportunities for children to explore their creative sensibilities with a soccer ball. The coach's long-term goal is to prepare the player to successfully recognize and solve the challenges of the game on his or her own. It is vital that the coach approaches soccer with this in mind. The BSC hopes to provide coaches with a clear goal and idea of what should be accomplished at a practice:

- **NO LINES, NO LAPS, NO LECTURES.** Create exercises/games/activities that replicate and repeat the movements and situations that are found in soccer and that allow the player to grow comfortable and confident with the ball.
- **ONE BALL PER CHILD (size 4 and/or size 5).** Every practice should have time dedicated to footwork. Encourage players to move with the ball at his/her feet and deal with boundaries, opponents, teammates, goals and importantly...juggling.
- **PLAYERS ARE TAUGHT BY WATCHING AND COPYING.** Keep in mind that soccer is a pretty simple game. If you are involved in soccer for long enough, you begin to realize that all the many little games that work are really just variations on the same basic concepts.
- **When drilling keep numbers from 1v1 to 5v5 never more.** As long as the parameters that you have established in your exercises/ small-sided games are true to soccer (goals for scoring and defending), creates the problems that you want the kids to solve (protecting the ball while dribbling, receiving/passing etc .), and allows your players to be challenged and find some success, you're on the right track.
- *Some teams choose to bring in professional training (i.e. Coerver) – if you choose to do this, you must receive approval from the Travel Director.*

"I don't believe skill was, or ever will be, the result of coaches. It is a result of a love affair between the child and the ball" – Manfred Schellscheidt

Characteristics of Game/Activities

Dynamic
Organized but unstructured
Free Movement
Fun
Decision Making
Age Appropriate



Field Logistics:

The travel registration fee covers expenses for the fall and spring seasons. As such, practices can and should happen throughout the fall and spring at all available BSC fields – travel games happen primarily on three fields in Beacon.

Practices: Practices should happen twice a week for 90 minutes each. Things that coaches should be aware of:

- **U9-U10** typically play at Sargent. Teams can practice there when fields are available (Tuesday and Thursday evenings are usually reserved for the Recreational league's training).
- **U11-U12** typically play at Hammonds field. Usually a practice schedule is worked out with the other coaches for availability.
- **U13-U14** typically play at the turf field at BHS. Practice schedule is worked out with the Athletic Department (teams can also practice on the JV field). Games are on Sundays.
- Please be aware of the time change in the fall – this impacts available daylight and teams may need to move to Memorial Field to train under the lights.

Games: Games in HVYSL occur on Sunday. Below are some details that you should be aware of:

- Coaches are responsible for the game day preparations of the field (this means primarily putting out the corner flags and field signage).
- On rainy weekends, coaches of the teams playing at Sargent and Hammonds might have to “shovel” out the goalmouths if there is water accumulation. Generally, our fields drain really well.
- Bathrooms should be open on Sunday morning at Sargent and porta-pots are at the turf field.

Indoor/Winter: While the Travel season is in the fall and spring, the BSC does try to provide indoor training options for all of our travel teams who wish to train.

- U9-U11 – These teams are provided indoor training space in the gyms of some of Beacon's elementary schools. Teams should plan to train once a week (maybe more). Drills should be done with regular soccer balls and scrimmages should be played with Futsal style balls (to avoid balls pinging around a gymnasium).
- U12-U14 – These teams are provided with indoor training space at local soccer facilities (i.e. The Armory in Newburgh or The Dome in Milton). These facilities are turf and players should have turf shoes.
- Teams can play indoor tournaments at their discretion – cost is borne by the families.
- *Coaches might consider offering a true off-season and encourage players to try another sport or different activity.*

Supplemental Training/Soccer:

Over the years, many players in the BSC Travel Program have participated in various supplemental training/playing programs that are offered around our region. As the BSC is an affiliate of both HVYSL and Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association, we can refer our players to their supplemental training programs. These programs are offered specifically for players in the HVYSL and ENYYSA.

[HVYSL Academy](#) - The Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League (HVYSL) Academy Program is a training and winter/summer tournament-based program that is focused on professional level training and competitive events in a developmental environment. HVYSL Academy is supplemental to what players are doing at their HVYSL clubs (there are no conflicts). Therefore, it enhances the training that the players receive at their clubs. Tryouts begin in mid-September for U7 thru U13 age groups. The Academy Season begins in November and runs through the last summer tournament in late July. Teams will play in 2 summer tournaments. Those would be the Seaside Classic in Rhode Island and Lititz in Pa.

[HVYSL Premier](#) - The Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League (HVYSL) Premier Soccer is a supplemental training and games-based program. HVYSL Premier is a complimentary program. Players train once a week with HVYSL Premier during the season while also practicing with their local travel team. The program allows players to train at a high level and play in premier league games. EHP HVYSL Program begins at U12 so these teams will begin Premier play in the fall. Teams that are U13 and up will begin training in November and play in Spring Premier league. HVYSL Premier teams play league games on Saturdays. This is done to ensure that Premier games do not interfere with EHYSL travel teams that play on Sundays.

[Olympic Development Program \(ODP\)](#) - ENYYSA holds ODP try-outs on an annual basis (FALL SEASON). All players are eligible to attend tryouts. Any player who is not playing for a team affiliated with ENYYSA will pay a higher tryout and registration fee. Players may only participate in the state where they reside. If you play for a US Soccer Development Academy you are not eligible, as per their guidelines. ODP is a supplemental training program that takes place in the winter and spring – with some non-conflicting tournaments in the spring.

Tournaments:

The Beacon Soccer Club recognizes the value and special significance of participating in tournaments, both locally and outside of our immediate area. There are many benefits to these types of events including:

- Gaining experience in playing a higher level of competition
- Playing in a high-pressure atmosphere
- Building team camaraderie
- Seeing and playing against different styles of play
- Participating in a professional soccer environment
- Showcase our Teams and Players to the outside soccer community

In order to present ourselves in the best possible light as players, teams, and as a Club, we have adopted some guidelines that all players and teams should follow.

Pre-Trip Activities

- It is highly suggested that players stay in the same hotel. Where there are multiple teams playing in the same event, it is also highly suggested that the teams try and stay in the same hotel.
- Families should be made aware that per tournament rules, there may be limitations to the hotels available for booking and the hotels may not always be the closest or most convenient to field locations. Teams should do their best but patience and understanding are expected and appreciated.
- Families are not permitted to book rooms independently as tournaments require that their designated travel company be used. We will not risk our teams being disqualified from the tournament for violating this requirement by the tournament.

Team Behavior Rules

- Coach, players, and parents should review and agree on general travel behavior requirements and consequences if violations are committed.
- Families should know that playing time rules change for tournaments. It is highly suggested that a coach speak with the players and families about playing time.

Player Responsibilities

- Because of the importance of tournament play to the development of a team, all BSC players are expected to participate in every event unless injured.
- The Club insists on making player safety the top priority when players are traveling.
- Players are to act responsibly and appropriately at all times in any public place as they are representing themselves, their family, their team and the BSC.

Tournaments (cont'd):

- Each Player is required to be where the Coach wants them to be at the time the Coach sets.
- No one goes anywhere alone or leaves the hotel without the express permission of the Head Coach
- Hotel rooms must be kept neat and organized.
- We are guests of the hotel. Footwear and proper attire should be worn in the public areas of the hotel. Our reputation for future stays by Club teams is on the line. Some hotels will ask families to sign a behavior waiver – please pay attention to this document.
- Players are to be punctual and strictly follow all curfews.
- Any problems must be communicated to the Coach immediately.

Team Activities

- The Coach will determine all team soccer and non-soccer activities during the trip.
- Parents and players should remember that team activities take priority over any personal agendas you may have.
- Soccer trips are not vacations. Obviously having fun is a part of all trips but we must remember that soccer must remain the top priority at all times.

Travel Dress

- Players should wear a standard outfit such as the Club warm-up top or some other appropriate team attire at any team activity such as flights and opening ceremonies.
- Players and families should dress appropriately throughout the tournament – this includes common areas (like a pool or restaurant).

Guest Players

- Guest players are invited to play at the discretion of the Coach.

Hotels

- If more than one BSC team is going to a particular event, it is desirable that teams stay at the same hotel to promote camaraderie amongst teams
- Hotels that include continental or full breakfasts are preferred.
- If players are sharing rooms, and someone leaves early, they are still responsible for their share of the total cost of the room.
- Team meetings should be in a common area of the hotel (never host a captains meeting or team meeting in a coaches personal hotel room).

Meals

- Teams should strive to eat together at team meals if possible – be thoughtful of cost of the restaurant. Team dinners in hotel common rooms are fun!
- Obviously, all players should be following their own team's prescribed nutrition and hydration policies.
- It is recommended that players have healthy snack-type foods and drinks for in between meals.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need to be a certified coach?

Yes, all coaches on the sideline must go thru the entire registration process required by HVYSL. Any coach on the sideline must hold a current coaches pass provided by HVYSL. Currently, this includes:

- Risk Management (through getsoccer.com)
- Heads-Up – Safe Sport (through getsoccer.com)
- USYS Grassroots Field Course (all coaches must take this)
- [How to Complete the Coach Certification Requirements.](#)

How do I put together a team?

Once you are approved as a coach (see APPENDIX), you will then host a try-out process to select your team. These tryouts should happen in the early spring. Teams and players should be registered by the first week of June for the upcoming fall.

Returning teams and coaches should conduct open tryouts in early spring with the same time-line as above.

When do we have practices?

Coaches can schedule practices at their convenience – ideally when all players can attend. *Please note: Tuesday and Thursday night are the primary nights for the Pee Wee and Jr. Pee Wee leagues.* Normal practice nights are M-F from 5-8pm (depending on available daylight). In the fall, many teams practice under the lights at Memorial field. A training schedule will be worked out with the Travel Director.

Outdoor practices for the fall season run from late August to the end of November. Outdoor practices for the spring run from late March to the end of June.

To lessen wear and tear on the fields, we do encourage coaches to train at Memorial Park or other available open space around Beacon.

Does our team get an expense budget?

Yes, at the start of the fall season, every coach is given a check for the cost of their home game referees – you are to pay the referees in cash at every home game. The BSC also provides coaches with an amount of money for incidental expenses – this money can be used for equipment, tournament fees, team building activities, etc. Once you have exceeded your incidental budget, you or

your team's families will bear to cost of additional expenses. Teams have conducted legal fundraising activities to raise monies for tournament costs.

Additionally, any team participating in the ENYYSA State Cup will have their registration fee paid for by BSC.

What is the Age Group Coordinator (AGC) and what do they do?

HVYSL will have someone in charge of each age group - this person works with coaches to navigate the week-to-week challenges and logistical issues that might be presented during a season. Your AGC will reach out to you at the start of each season.

How do I get a team roster & Gameday Roster?

GOT SOCCER - Gameday Requirements & Instructions

Obtaining Gameday Match Cards

- In gotsport.com, go to Coaches Account and follow the listed instructions:
- Go to Team Management
- Go to Matches – on left hand side in menu
- Go to Search for your Team
- Select the event - East Hudson Fall 21 Schedules
- Select the Game & Click the options (3 DOTS) on the right:
- Select from the following options:
- Print Match Card with Photos - Deliver to Referee on Gameday
- Print Match Card (Standard) for Coaches to retain for their own game management records

Reporting Game Scoring Information:

Using the Match Card listed info in the header of the forms for the following options:

1. Use Match Day Card listed information and codes for scoring website access.
2. Via QR Code Option - which will directly access the listed game scoring website, using Smartphone camera to access site.

Go to: <https://gotsport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360052832054-How-to-Print-a-Match-Card>

Is there a playing time minimum for travel team players?

Yes. As per HVYSL guidelines, the requirement is “that each developmental player (U12 and younger) plays at least a half game (50% of the minutes in a match).”

How do I get a club pass or guest player?

Please refer to this process in the game day operations at HVYSL.

How do team's get their game schedule?

The schedules are posted at hvysl.net – usually 2-3 weeks before the start of the season. Fall season usually starts the weekend after Labor Day. The spring season usually begins around the first weekend in April.

What are the different divisions in HVYSL and how does the seeding work for those divisions?

Depending on how many teams are signed up per age group, HVYSL will divide teams in each age group usually by location (North, South, etc). As the playing levels of the teams become more apparent, divisions within age groups are divided up by quality.

How do players order uniforms?

Once a coach has selected their team – jersey numbers will then be assigned to the players (by the coach). Player's names, parent email, and number must be send to the BSC so that information can be uploaded to soccer.com. A uniform kit will be available for purchase by each family. Additional BSC gear can be purchased at soccer.com.

To ensure that players have their uniforms at the start of the fall season, uniforms should be ordered by families by the third week of June. Uniforms remain the same for two seasons, then a new uniform brand is created by soccer.com. Most players will be ordering uniforms every two years. Depending on when a player joins the team, that family might have to purchase a uniform in consecutive years.

Other than coaching, are there other game day responsibilities?

Yes...yes there are. For Home games:

- Print out gameday roster at gotsoccer – provide to ref at start of game.
- A coach should set up the field – double check the goals & nets and put out the corner flags.
- Referee payment is due at the start of each game. Have cash for the referees as per the HVYSL payment schedule.
- Put out signs marking the sides for the Home team and Visiting team.
- If it has been raining, a coach may need to shovel out a goalmouth if there is standing water. Do not add any type of drying agent to the field.
- Prior to the game, send an email to the opposing coach giving them game day details (field gps address, NO DOGS, uniform colors, spectator location, bathroom availability, etc.).

Can I use social media for communicating?

The vast majority of players in our league are not of appropriate age to use social media so, we do not encourage teams to set up their own social media pages. If a team does set up a page, these accounts must be in line with the BSC's social media policy.

Please know, TEAMSnap allows for the sharing of pictures and media on their app. A team can create a robust picture/media album for the families thru TEAMSnap.

Can a team move from HVYSL to EDP?

Yes...however, a U10-U14 team that wishes to move to EDP must meet certain criteria. The criteria is usually but not limited to:

- Winning the top division of HVYSL at their age group (or going undefeated).
- ALL family approval.
- Understanding of the additional travel and distance of travel.
- Awareness that registration cost might be higher.
- Focus on Beacon players.
- If you are considering this option, reach out to the Travel Director.

Due to the make-up of the critical mass of our players, you might find that some players might be appropriate for a higher quality of play (such as EDP or USYS National League), while some of your players might not be ready for that level. Please be aware, there are options available for interested players to play in the EDP leagues thru the supplemental HVYSL Premier program.

Our team wants to create it's own logo/crest, can we do that?

No. The Beacon Soccer Club has been in existence since 1978 and, as a result, we have a rich history that we are very proud of. All teams that play thru the Beacon Soccer Club must use the BSC logo. If you would like a clean PDF of the logo, please reach out to the Travel Director.

If some teams wish to create team gear or "letterhead" for communication, a team can include some sort of imagery related to their team name (ie. Beacon Fire, Lady United, Beacon Wolves). But teams must always use the BSC logo/crest on anything related to their team – see *Sample Tryout Letter in Appendix*.

Can our team hire professional trainers?

Yes. Many teams have the need or desire to bring in additional training options for their players. Unless otherwise notified, the expense for this training is borne by the team's families. For liability purposes, any/all professional training (such as Coerver) that is brought in to work with your team must be approved by the Travel Director.

How does the BSC decide on teams for age divisions?

For boys, we try to have one team at every age division. Part of our responsibility is to try to maintain a team thru the U14 age bracket, so we want to ensure a critical mass of players at each age bracket. Our intent is to have each child play on the team of their birth year.

For girls, we have a team every two years. Our experience shows that it is very difficult to generate a critical mass of players to put together a team for every age bracket.

APPENDIX



Travel Coaches Application

Season Applying For: i.e. 2024/2025_____

Full Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone #:_____

Email:_____

Date of Birth:_____

Team you would like to coach: _____

What position? (circle) Head Coach or Assistant Coach

Prior Coaching Experience:

Prior Playing Experience:

Certifications Held: (circle) CPR, AED, First Aid, Other_____

Referee Certified: (circle) Yes or No (if yes, provide the last renewal date)

Coaching Certification: (circle) Yes or No

If yes provide a copy of the license to the Travel Director.

Email: Beaconsoccer1978@gmail.com



Player TRYOUT Registration Form

Child's Birth Year - _____

Players Full Name/Nombre: _____

Players Birthday/ Nacimiento: _____

Previous Soccer Experience/Experiencia de fútbol anterior:

Parent/s Contact Information/Información de contacto de los padres:

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Players understand that this is a travel team try-out - If your player is chosen for the team, expectations are that players attend practices and games.

Also, all parties understand this is a COMPETITIVE level of play, the players will have fun but will be challenged.

All potential players MUST ATTEND 2 Try Out Sessions. Bring this form to each tryout and give it to the coach. The coach will contact you within 7 - 10 days as to whether your player has/hasn't made the team.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sample Tryout Letter



Beacon Fire – U11 Girls



May 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you for bringing your daughter to U11 Girls Travel Team Tryouts.

The Beacon Fire is hosting open & competitive tryouts for the upcoming 2019-2020 season. If your child makes the team, then this will be a one-year commitment (Spring 2019 & Fall 2020). The Fire will practice twice a week with a game on Sunday. We plan to play in additional tournaments throughout the year and will have training sessions during the winter months.

- The cost will be about \$350 for the Spring and Fall seasons - this will include registration and uniform.
- The team will have two practices during the week
- Games will be played on Sunday, usually sometime between 12noon and 6pm.
- We will play against other local towns such as Cortlandt, Wappingers Falls, Cornwall, Philipstown, Beekman and East Fishkill - so the games should be very local (no more than 30 minutes away).
- Teams play about 5 home games and 5 away games - so we would travel 5 times over the course of a season.
- Participate in the Arch Cup State Tournament (3 additional games in the Fall)
 - *One of these games may require traveling a distance - we play in the East New York division, so maybe Long Island or maybe Albany.*
- Optional Summer workout sessions (usually Saturday mornings).
- Two winter tournaments (indoors).
- Additional Fire events throughout the seasons – fundraisers, team outings, etc.
- **If able, attend a summer Soccer Camp.**
 - Suggested Camp - Lady Bulldogs Camp, July 29 - Aug 2, 2019

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Coach (Name)
914.XXX.XXXX

Asst. Coach (Name)
917.XXX.XXXX

<http://teams.sportssignup.com/BeaconFire>

Sample Welcome Email

Dear Beacon (Team Name) Parent,

Congratulations! Coach (Name) and I are excited to offer (Player's Name) a spot on the U11 Beacon (Team Name) 2019-2020 travel team roster. We are looking forward to your child joining our team.

Believe it or not, the Fall season will soon be upon us, so I want to prepare you for the next steps as we approach the new season:

- Players will be expected to register right away, to ensure that our roster is set by league deadlines. We will send out registration information as soon as it comes available.
- Attached is the expectation letter that was handed out during tryouts.
- Throughout July and August, we will host optional Saturday morning practices - these are optional in the truest sense of the word - if you are around bring your child, if you are not around then enjoy wherever you are! We will send out a summer soccer schedule in upcoming weeks.
- Our official practices will begin during the week of August 26th. The dates and locations will be determined later.
- Below is a list of local soccer camps. If you are able, please register your child for the Lady Bulldogs Soccer Camp from July 29-Aug. 2. That registration form is attached.
- Please check out the Beacon (Team Name) TeamSnap page at -

Again, welcome to the team. We are excited to work with your child!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Coach (Name) and Coach (Name)

Mt. Saint Mary College (July 8-12) - https://www.msmc.edu/Athletics/mount_summer_athletic_camps

West Point Camp (July 8-12) - <https://armywestpointssportscamps.com/womenssoccer/index.php>

Beacon/Rud Bulls (July 8-12) - https://www.rbnytraining.com/user-pages/public/camps/select-session.asp?CAMP_ID=3515&F_REGION_ID=&F_DISTANCE=&F_SEASON=&F_AGE_MAX=&F_STATE=&F_PROGRAM_CATEGORY_ID=&F_PROGRAM_ID=&F_ZIP=12508&F_AGE_MIN=

Vassar College (July 15-19 & 22-26) - http://www.vassarsportscamps.com/Co_Ed_Soccer.htm

Sample Rejection Email

Dear (Parent),

Thank you for bringing your child to try-outs for the U11 Beacon (Team Name).

Unfortunately, we are not going to keep (player name) for the travel team. We had 20 players tryout and are just not able to keep all the players.

We were impressed with (player's name) effort and enthusiasm. Her needs right now are to work on her foot skills with the ball (dribbling and passing), most specifically using the instep of her foot to control the ball. The Coerver training, that is offered by Beacon Soccer Club, is really helpful for that because the lone focus of that program is foot skills.

Our team will grow again in 2 years when we age up to U13. I hope to see (player's name) at tryouts then.

If you have additional questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Coach (Name)

Beacon (Team Name)



BSC Travel Policies and Guidelines

Last updated 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, coaches must complete all certification processes:

- 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.

Approved by the BSC Board of Directors: March 2024