

# TORINGTON YOUTH SOCCER TRAVEL PROGRAM

## **Overview**

It is the intention of Torrington Youth Soccer to sponsor travel teams in Division I (Classic League) and Division II (Recreational League) for all age groups for which there are sufficient players' and available coaches. TYS travel teams compete in the Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association. Travel soccer is intended for those players interested in pursuing soccer with more intensity than is provided by the In-house program. Compared to the in-house soccer program, travel soccer provides a higher level of competition and requires a greater time commitment.

The TYS Board of Directors has the authority to make all final decisions concerning the travel teams in the club. These include, but are not limited to, selecting a team's coach, approving assistant coaches, selecting the division that a team will participate in, approving any additional fundraisers a team may hold.

## **Playing Seasons**

Travel teams play both a fall and a spring season. Players in the travel program are **expected** to play in both seasons. In the fall season players are expected to make soccer their primary sport. The fall season runs from August to the middle of November; the spring season runs from late March to the middle of June. An optional indoor season is frequently offered for one or more sessions.

## **Registration**

All registrations are due by the Registrar's deadline. Your registration package should include a roster and for each player, a signed registration form, picture, birth certificate (for first time travel players), a signed signature label and payment.

A player cannot be processed without all of the above. Incomplete packages will be returned to you.

Each team must have at least one (1) assistant coach. All coaches must have a coach's pass and be listed on the roster. All coaches are encouraged to get the appropriate youth module and/or coaching license. On the successful completion of the youth module and/or coaching course TYS will reimburse the fees.

Each travel team, U-11 or older, must roster a minimum of sixteen (16) players. Each travel team, U-9 and U-10, must roster a minimum of twelve (12) players. Per CJSA rules, players on Division II teams must play 50% of each game. (Definition 1277) Players on Division I, per TYS guidelines, each player should play at least 25% of each half. This is a minimum in keeping with our mission statement. Every player should play as much as possible. Exceptions may include injuries, illness or discipline.

All players' passes are to be turned into the Registrar at the end of the spring season.

## **Division I Tryouts**

### **Selection Criteria:**

Torrington Youth Soccer strives to make a fair and objective decision when selecting the most appropriate players to participate in its program. Players will be selected based on their athletic ability, soccer ability, potential, desire, and discipline appropriate for their age group. A player will not be denied a position on a team based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin or financial ability.

**All** players, including returning players, must participate in the annual tryout (regular or make-up) in order to be selected for a Division I travel team for the

following year. The only exception is in the event that a player is injured and cannot participate. The injured player is still expected to attend the tryout. The above guidelines do **not** apply to the U9 and U-10 age groups.

**Age Requirements:**

- U-9:** third and fourth graders who turn 9 years old after August 1.
- U-10:** fourth and fifth graders who turn 10 years old after August 1.
- U-11:** fifth and sixth graders who turn 11 years old after August 1.
- U-12:** sixth and seventh graders who turn 12 years old after August 1.
- U-13:** seventh and eighth graders who turn 13 years old after August 1.
- U-14:** eighth graders who turn 14 years old after August 1.  
ninth graders who turn 14 years old after August 1 may play the spring season, without trying out in June, with the head coach's permission.

**All players must play in their "age appropriate" group.** For example, the "age appropriate" group for a player born between 8/1/91 and 7/30/92 and in the fifth grade would be U-11.

The **only exception** to this policy is made for a player who is in an older grade relative to his/her "age appropriate" group as defined by our age requirements. For example, if the player born between 8/2/90 and 7/30/91 were in sixth grade, not fifth grade, that player would be eligible to choose to "play up" (grade appropriate) to the U-12 team. A player that falls in this example can choose which age group he/she wants to tryout for. If this player chooses to play "age appropriate" he/she must remain in that group for the duration of his/her time in the travel program. If this player chooses to play "grade appropriate", fine; however, if after a year or more of "playing up" (grade appropriate), the player wants to switch to "age appropriate" the player is allowed to do so **but** the player will **not** be allowed to return to the older age group and "play up" again.

Girls, from the U-11 age group and older, should try out for a gender appropriate team if one is available. If one isn't available a girl may try out for a boys team, however, per CJSA rule, a boy can't try out for a girls team.

These guidelines are not meant to move players off of their current teams. Any player that, as of the spring season 2003, does not follow the above guidelines for age and/or gender shall be "grandfathered in". Any new player or any returning player that wishes to change teams must follow the above guidelines. Once a player has moved to the age and/or gender appropriate team they can **not** return.

A parent or guardian may petition the TYS board with any individual situations.

### **Tryout Process:**

Any team that has played in the U-11, U-12, U-13 age groups in the 2002-2003 season are to be "grandfathered".

The head coaching positions of the Division I teams shall be advertised in the local papers and on the TYS web site. Any persons interested in the head coaching position shall submit a written application to the Travel Coordinator by the posted deadline. The 3 person Travel Coaching Committee shall review the applications and make their recommendation to the TYS Board for approval. If there is more than one applicant the Committee has the right to interview the applicants. This process shall be held yearly.

At the U-11 age group TYS will hold tryouts for a Division I team. These teams will hold tryouts each year (June) from this year (2003-2004) on. All players that wish to try out must register by phone with the head coach. The coach must keep a log of the phone calls. The log will consist of the players name and date

and time of the phone call. This information will be used to establish a list in the event that there are enough players to field a Division II team. A copy of this list will be given to the Coaching Coordinator at the tryout. After the Division I roster is set, **if** there are enough players to field a Division II team **and** if there is a head coach that is willing to make a two (2) season commitment, TYS will sponsor a Division II team. The roster will be selected by the date and time that the players registered by phone up to 22 players. Any remaining players will be put on a waiting list and play in the in-house league.

Starting in the 2003-2004 season, all Division I travel teams, U-11 to U-14, are required to hold tryouts in June each year. The Travel Coordinator is responsible for publicizing the tryout information. Dates, times, and locations of tryouts are to be publicized in the local newspapers as well as on the TYS website with as much advance notice as possible.

To select players for the next fall and spring travel year, up to four tryout sessions will be held for each age and gender group. The tryouts are conducted one week apart and on different days of the week, if possible. The Coaching Coordinator may schedule additional tryouts for those players unable to attend tryouts because of illness or emergency; the Travel Coordinator's approval is required. A player that can **not** attend the tryout should contact the Head Coach as soon as they know they will not be able to attend. Teams do **not** conduct separate tryouts.

The Coaching Coordinator is responsible for conducting the tryouts, selecting the players, and determining the dates, times, and locations of the tryouts. The players will be evaluated for technical ability (e.g. dribbling, passing, trapping), tactical understanding (e.g. positioning, anticipation, judgment), physical ability (e.g. speed, agility), and mental attitude.

Once the tryout sessions, as well as any additional "make-up" tryout sessions have been completed, the players will be evaluated according to the travel program selection criteria. The head coach shall be given the opportunity to give his input on the players. Players are ranked from highest through lowest, with the players who are ranked the highest receiving the positions on a Division I team. The head coach shall have the input in the number of players they will roster, but must roster the minimum of 16. Players are notified by the head coach, within 48 hours, if they have been selected for a Division I team. All players should be notified and the roster finalized (all players selected are willing to play on the Division I team) before the remaining players shall be notified if there is to be a Division II team or if they will be returning to the in-house program.