

Delaware Soccer Club Travel Soccer Policies and Procedures
www.delawaresoccerclub.com

Mission Statement

Pursuant to our Bylaws, the Delaware Soccer Club will form Travel Soccer teams to participate in the Buffalo & Western New York Junior Soccer League (BWNYSJL) and New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) in order to provide youth soccer players an opportunity to play at a level more competitive than our recreational or house program and to provide them the opportunity for physical, emotional and character growth.

The Travel program will endeavor to emphasize fair play as well as individual and team development.

Delaware Soccer will promote a learning environment that stresses that soccer is a game and maintains FUN as its primary purpose.

BUFFALO AND WESTERN NEW YORK JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE (www.bwnysjl.org)

It is recognized that the BWNYSJL is a travel league which fields travel teams in all age groups with divisions for players of differing abilities. Teams can compete in this league against teams of similar abilities.

NEW YORK STATE WEST YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (www.nyswysa.org)
New York State West Youth Soccer Assoc. is the parent organization for over two hundred affiliated clubs and leagues in the Western New York State. NYSWYSA is affiliated with United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation de International Football Association (FIFA).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Meeting policies:

Delaware Soccer Club will hold at least two Travel Coaches meetings per season. It is mandatory that each team be represented by either the Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager. A team must be represented at every meeting. Attendance at these meetings assures that every team is aware of the requirements of DSC, as well as the procedures and rules that must be followed during league participation.

2. First Aid Policies:

First Aid should only be administered to the extent that the Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager is qualified. Call for medical help immediately when needed. Inform a parent of the injured player immediately.

First Aid Kits should be present at every practice and game. Ice should also be available at all activities. Medical Release Forms should be at every practice and game also.

3. TRAVEL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES:

- a. Medical Release Forms – In case of emergencies, the forms must be available to the Coaches at all practices and games. DSC has a standard form, which must be filled out by every DSC travel player.
- b. Try Outs – Tryouts are held each August and September at various sites. Tryouts are open to any player who meets the age requirements of DSC. Teams will be formed at the discretion of coach, club trainer and VP of Travel. Teams do not necessarily stay intact from year to year, and players must tryout and earn a spot on the roster every year. Players will be assessed on soccer ability, as well as, past performance and commitment to the club and team. The DSC will contact all players regarding try out results by October 19th. Players who have made the team must register online on the DSC website to secure their spot on the roster and show their commitment to the team.
- c. Play Up Policy – The Board of Directors of DSC endorses a policy of playing within your age group. Over time, it has been proven that most players benefit from staying at the USYSA specified age group. Exceptions are made for those players who exhibit the maturity and ability to play with older children. At his/her discretion, the VP of Travel will have the authority to restrict the number of underage players on each team. Allowing to many players to move up in age weakens the next group and jeopardizes the formation of a team. The DSC Board of Directors and the VP of Travel reserve the right to combine players of several age-groups for the purpose of forming a team, for instance: there are 7- U11s and 7 – U12 players to form a team. Without combining the group, there would be no possibility of forming a team. To provide a place to play for the players involved, we will waive the “play-up” rule.
- d. RECRUITING WITHIN THE TRAVEL PROGRAM – The practice of recruiting players from other DSC teams playing in the BWNYSJL league is forbidden; the Coach or other party is subject to disciplinary actions, which may even be immediate dismissal.
- e. Indoor Soccer - Many teams play indoors at one of the area’s indoor soccer facilities. Participation in any indoor leagues or tournaments depends upon the interest and motivation of the Coach, parents and players. Additional fees will be required depending upon the level of participation.

- f. Annual Request to Coach - Coaching assignments and changes will be at the discretion of the DSC Board on the recommendation of the VP of Travel. Individuals who are interested in coaching a DSC travel team must fill out an application which can be found on our DSC website. They also must submit a Risk Management Disclosure Form which is on the New York State West Youth Soccer Assoc. website, to the DSC Registrar.
- g. Policies and Procedures – Coaches, parents, Board Members, etc. may submit a request to change the Travel policies. All changes must be brought to the Board of Directors for approval. No changes in policies or procedures affecting the current season may be enacted after May 1st. Any changes affecting the upcoming season must be made prior to the tryouts. All changes must be provided in writing to Coaches at the next Travel Coaches meeting.
- h. Discipline/Protests/Other- Please refer to the BWNYJSL Policies and Procedures on their website.

4. Team Organization and Administration Policies

- a. Email addresses/communications – It is strongly suggested that each team establish a policy of communicating by email. The DSC Director of Communication will require an email address that is checked regularly by a coach or manager to communicate with teams.
- b. Player attendance - Coaches are encouraged to keep written records and stress regular player attendance at practice and games with advance notice of absences. Coaches should be reasonable about conflicts with other sports, especially High School sports, and activities. Coaches should consider penalties for repeated unexcused absences or failure to notify the coach. It is strongly encouraged for coaches to discuss with parents prior to the season any potential conflicts or vacation plans in an attempt to avoid surprises.
- c. Team Management - It is strongly recommended that each team appoint a Manager to free the coach from administrative duties. The manager could be responsible for obtaining volunteers for tournaments, collecting tournament fee money, making phone calls, etc.
- d. Parent Meeting – Team Head Coaches should have a parent team meeting prior to the season. At this meeting the Coach should outline his objectives for the upcoming season, their soccer philosophies, attendance policies, tournaments etc. This way everyone knows what to expect for the upcoming season.

5. Player Eligibility Policies

- a. U10 Player Minimum Age – DSC requires that players be at least 9 years of age by 7/1.

6. Equipment and Field use policies

- a. Uniform - DSC provides a travel uniform to each player as part of the registration fee. Teams may elect to purchase additional jerseys at the team and coach's discretion and expense.
- b. Equipment – Each team will be issued two game balls, corner flags and pinnies. These equipment items must be returned to the Club should the coach not return the following year.
- c. Fields - Teams are assigned their home fields in February. Practice fields are limited based on the number of fields we have. Coaches should share fields for practice with two teams per field.

7. Registration and Fees

- a. Registration fees will be set prior to the tryout period each August. This fee is to be paid in full (\$130) by Dec. 1st by all players selected to DSC travel teams or they can pay \$75 by Dec. 1 and another \$75 by Feb. 1st. If a player is unable to pay the fee they must make arrangements to set up a payment schedule or submit a scholarship request to the club. The fee includes the travel uniform, insurance, outdoor referees and administrative fees. No payment or payment arrangements or scholarship request, no player pass or uniform issued.

- b. Registration - All players should register and pay either online or download a travel application and mail to the DSC office with payment no later than Dec. 1st.

- c. Team Division Alignments – Each team is encouraged to play at the highest level/division of competition where the team can be successful. Wins and losses are less important than proper development.

- d. Outdoor Schedule Registration - VP of Travel will register DSC travel teams with the league by Feb. 1st. The Club Registrar will process the team with New York State West on Roster Pro and will generate Coaches and Players passes and official rosters.

- e. Indoor Soccer Registration - Additional fees will be required depending on the level of participation. If the teams decide to participate in an Indoor Soccer league or Tournament, the Coaches and Team Manager are responsible for registering the team, uniforms, equipment, and player

passes. They will need to contact DSC Club Registrar to get a roster and have the players insured. Each team is responsible for payment of any fees associated with the indoor league.

- f. Roster Changes/Additions/Deletions - the DSC Club Registrar should be notified to make the appropriate changes. Refer to BWNYSL for league policies on roster changes.

8. Tournament and Tournament Fee Policies

- a. Tournaments - Participation in other tournaments in the local area and outside the area is strongly encouraged providing the team is capable of competing at the level of the tournament. Permission to travel form is required when traveling outside the New York State West Youth Soccer Assoc. area. The individual team pays fees for these tournaments. Please consult with an experienced DSC member as to the quality and difficulty of tournaments. Please keep in mind the age of the players when committing to weekend tournaments. A consultation with the parents in advance of entering tournaments is highly recommended to be sure you have enough players available.

9. Game Related Policies

- a. Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking – As coaches of young athletes, we need to model appropriate behavior; therefore smoking and alcohol are not permitted at games home or away or practices. Coaches need to remind the parents who smoke, to leave the game sideline areas if they cannot refrain from smoking during the game. Also, parents are not allowed to drink alcoholic beverages on the sideline .
- b. Control of Spectators - It is the Coach and Assistant Coach's responsibility to control the parents and spectators on the sidelines. A warning to the parents in advance of the season might head off any problems. Instructing the players and parents regarding league rules (BWNYSL) is a good way of promoting good spectator behavior. Fines will be imposed upon the Coaches by the league if this type of behavior is reported.
- c. Control of Players – It is the Coach and Assistant Coach's responsibility to control the players on the field and on the sidelines. Coach's expectations for player behavior on and off the field should be clearly defined and communicated. Profane language, verbal abuse, retaliation and rough play should not be tolerated.
- d. Abusing and Arguing with the Referee - BWNYSL does not tolerate this type of behavior by player, coach or spectator. Fines will be imposed upon the Coaches and players by the league if this type of behavior is reported.

Any fines levied against the team will be paid by the DSC and charged to the team.

- e. Coaches Behavior - Any travel coach who is ejected and Red carded by the referee at a game for inappropriate behavior will be fined \$50 by the league and will be required to serve a one game suspension. Please refer to the BWNYSJSL website regarding this policy.

f. PLAYING TIME

For U9-U12 age groups, DSC and BWNYSJSL, require that every player MUST play at least ½ of the game. Nothing discourages a young child from continuing in the sport more than not being given the chance to play. Regular attendance, good attitude, consistent effort should be rewarded as well as ability. At all other levels, we encourage reasonable substitution and playing time for all players unless a player is being disciplined. Try to equalize playing time over the course of a season. USYSA recommends that players under age 12 should be rotated through various positions throughout the year to develop the total player.