

**Approved and Adopted Greenbush Youth Soccer  
Travel policies 7/26/2011**

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The intention of Greenbush travel soccer is to allow children to extend their soccer season, further develop their ball skills and team play and continue their soccer careers into competitive school level teams. The focus is on building healthy bodies and minds, teaching the concepts of teamwork, commitment, accountability, sportsmanship, loyalty, honesty and pride. The teams are guided by the principle that exceptional athletic skill and winning games is only a secondary mission and the team should at all times reflect the aforementioned ideals.

Travel soccer for U8 and U10 teams are deemed to be developmental levels with an emphasis on learning the skills and fundamentals of the game. Each child with an interest in playing travel will be placed on a team providing there are coaches and enough players to fill a roster unless the child is deemed not physically capable of participating.

In the event that there are enough players for two teams at these levels, they will generally be divided by age (birth date); thus a U10 and a U9 team both competing at a U10 level.

All players who attend practices regularly, behave in a sportsmanlike manner, are prepared and on time for games and practices will play at least one-half the game to the best of the coach's ability throughout the indoor and spring outdoor seasons.

If there is an opportunity to play additional games due to player absences or small roster sizes at the indoor level, children will be given the same chance for more playing time on a rotating basis; dividing supplemental games evenly between all players on the U9 and U10 teams.

Levels U12 and above are more competitive in nature. If there are enough players for two teams, they can be divided at the coaches' discretion which may include, alphabetically, by age or by ability with the two coaches making the final decision. In the event that coaches are unable to agree on how to split the teams, the roster committee will divide the players. These teams will be set by November and will remain the same with the ability to make some modifications to the rosters for the outdoor spring session.

During the indoor season, for levels U12 and above, all players who attend practices regularly, behave in a sportsmanlike manner, are prepared and on time for games and practices will play at least one-half of the game to the best of the coach's ability. During the outdoor season, all players will participate in the game; playing time is at the coach's discretion.

Playing up

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

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

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

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

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

Guest Players

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

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

Deviations from this policy must first be approved by the roster committee. Failure of players and coaches to comply with these policies could result in expulsion by the Greenbush soccer board.