Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club
Travel Soccer Program Handbook

Purpose

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club (POBSC) Travel Program (ages U9-U19) provides players with the opportunity to develop their soccer skills in a competitive environment while emphasizing sportsmanship, teamwork and respect.

These guidelines establish the expectations for players, families, coaches, and club officials participating in the Travel Program while also laying out the procedures for annual tryouts and team formation.

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1. Player Commitment

Travel soccer requires greater commitment than intramural soccer.

Players who accept a position on a travel team are expected to:

- Attend practices, league games, tournaments, and other scheduled team activities.
- Communicate absences to the coaching staff as early as possible.
- Make travel soccer their primary athletic commitment during the seasonal year whenever practical.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and represent POBSC positively on and off the field.

Failure to abide by the above could result in disciplinary action.

The coaching staff will communicate expected practice schedules, tournament participation, and seasonal commitments before each season begins.

The travel year generally runs from August through June and includes 3 seasons. Fall season runs from mid-August through November, Winter season from December through early March and Spring Season from mid-March through June. Commitment to a team covers all 3 seasons within a year.

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2. Tryouts and Team Selection

The Club conducts annual tryouts for all incoming U10 through U14 age groups. Attendance of at least one tryout session is required to be considered for a roster spot unless previously discussed with the Travel Vice President. The Travel Committee may place a player on a roster that did not attend tryouts after discussing with the Director of Coaching.

For U15 on, the need for open practices or a tryout will be determined by the travel committee based on the number of players in the division and their skill level.

For incoming U9, player evaluations will be held during spring intramural sessions.

All eligible players are encouraged to attend tryouts, evaluations and open practices where applicable.

The Travel Vice President establishes:

- Tryout dates
- Communication of those dates as well as team selection results

The Director of Coaching establishes:

- Evaluation procedures
- Selection process

Team selection is based upon factors including:

- Technical ability
- Tactical understanding
- Athleticism
- Attitude
- Coachability
- Commitment
- Positional needs

The Club is committed to conducting a fair and objective evaluation process.

Team placement decisions are final, appeals will not be heard.

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3. Team Formation and Rosters

Travel team rosters are created by the Director of Coaching and approved by the Travel Committee.

The number of teams will be based on player registration, competitive balance and like-ability.
After initial team announcement, in the event that players do not register, the Travel Committee may combine teams or age groups when determined to be in the best interest of the majority of affected players.

The Club strives to provide travel opportunities for as many players as possible while maintaining an appropriate developmental environment.

Roster sizes will comply with league regulations.

Teams may be added or discontinued when necessary. Divisions/Age groups may be combined based on numbers and at the discretion of the Travel Committee

Roster adjustments may occur throughout the seasonal year as permitted by league rules and when determined to be in the best interests of the player(s) and team(s).

Players are selected for one travel year (August through June).

Players may be removed from a roster by the club for extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Extended unexcused absences
- Behavior detrimental to team development
- Failure to meet club obligations
- Serious misconduct
- League eligibility issues

Any roster removal shall require Travel Committee approval.

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4. Registration and Fees

Players accepting a roster position must:

- Complete all club registration requirements.
- Pay all club registration fees by the deadlines established by the Board.
- Purchase the required club uniform.
- Pay any additional team expenses approved by the coaching staff and communicated to families in advance.

Players may not participate in league competition until all required registration requirements have been completed.

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5. Coaching Staff

All Travel Team Head Coaches are appointed annually by the Travel Committee.

Assistant coaches are recommended by the Head Coach and approved by the Club.

All coaches must:

- Meet all league and club eligibility requirements
- Maintain required certifications and credentials
- Complete all required background checks and safety training
- Promote player development, sportsmanship, and respect for officials

Only approved and properly credentialed coaches or club-authorized adult supervisors may coach or supervise a team during games or practices.

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6. Playing for Other Teams

Players are expected to remain committed to their assigned POBSC travel team throughout the seasonal year.

Significant absences due to attendance for outside soccer teams may result in disciplinary action.

Players planning to play for multiple clubs should discuss the commitment requirement with their assigned head coach prior to the start of the season to ensure expectations are aligned.

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7. Playing Time

POBSC believes meaningful game participation is an important part of player development. However, travel soccer is also competitive and players are incentivized to continuously improve their play to earn additional playing time.

Unless affected by injury, disciplinary action, attendance issues, or other extraordinary circumstances, players will receive at least the following minimum playing time:

Age Group	Minimum Playing Time
U9-U10	40% of the game
U11-U12	33% of the game
U13-U16	20% of the game
U17-U19	No minimum requirement

Any reduction below these minimums must be discussed with and approved in writing by the Travel Vice President. Additionally, the Head Coach must communicate any approved reductions directly to the parents of the affected player prior to the implementation of the reduction.

Minimum playing time requirements should be followed for each game, however over the course of a season there may be minor discrepancies from game to game so this will be evaluated in a season long view. For the avoidance of doubt, at no time should a player in attendance for a game receive significantly less than the minimum requirement for that age group unless due to extraordinary circumstances.

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8. Conduct and Sportsmanship

Players, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on POBSC.

Everyone associated with the Club shall:

- Respect referees and game officials.
- Treat opponents with respect.
- Support teammates positively.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Follow league, club, and tournament rules.

The Club maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward abusive behavior, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or misconduct.

Disciplinary action may include warnings, suspension, or removal from team activities.

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9. Red Cards and Discipline

Any player, coach, or team official receiving a red card shall comply with all league-imposed suspensions. Should a red card be issued to any player, coach, trainer or spectator during a match, the coach is required to notify the club President and Travel Vice President immediately.

The Executive Board reserves the right to review incidents involving misconduct and impose additional disciplinary action when appropriate.

Failure to comply with league or club disciplinary requirements may affect future participation.

Teams are also responsible for payment of league or tournament fines assessed due to team or spectator misconduct. POBSC will not pay for any fines assessed as a result of team or spectator misconduct. Failure to pay fines may jeopardize an individual's or team's eligibility for continued participation in league activities.

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10. Team Responsibilities

Each team is responsible for supporting club operations, including field setup, equipment care, and other assigned responsibilities.

Each team must select or be assigned a trainer according to the club's policies.

Each team game must be supervised by a parent with a valid coaches pass in addition to the team's trainer. If the team's trainer is not present, 2 parent supervisors with valid coach's passes must be present.

Each team practice must be supervised by an adult parent in addition to the team's trainer. This adult does not need to hold a valid coach's pass.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring these duties are completed.

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11. Residency and Community Commitment

POBSC is a community-based travel soccer club serving the Plainview-Old Bethpage community as defined by primary residence in 11803 & 11804 postal codes, or current enrollment in a school that falls under the supervision of the Plainview Old Bethpage School District. Exceptions apply to any player enrolled in POBSC Intramural Program or Alliance FC for a period of 1 year.

Preference for roster placement is given in accordance with club residency policies and applicable league rules.

The Executive Board may approve exceptions when:

- permitted by league regulations,
- necessary to field a team,
- consistent with the Club's mission, or
- in other circumstances determined to be in the best interests of the Club.

For teams that are U13 or older, players outside of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community will be rostered based on skill level as determined by the Director of Coaching. The club will continue to make best efforts to provide an opportunity for all members of the POB community based on skill.

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12. Board Authority

The Executive Board is responsible for interpreting these policies and resolving situations not specifically addressed within this handbook.

The Board reserves the right to modify these policies as necessary to remain consistent with league requirements and to serve the best interests of the Club.