

Travel Season: Frequently Asked Questions



Fall 2013

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BYSA Fundraiser!

Running Scared 5K

October 20, 10:30 am

Flagg Street Fields

Visit web site for info!!!

From Bridgewater Youth Soccer Association (BYSA)

What is travel soccer?

Travel soccer is a program designed for the more serious athlete – and family – ready to make a commitment to the sport, both financially and in time. The travel season technically takes place in the Spring (April through June). However, given the dedication to the sport in Bridgewater, teams are established in the Fall and play one, two or three eight-week sessions at the Bridgewater Sports Complex – the Dome – from November through March.

Dome soccer not sanctioned by BYSA. Teams play against local area towns and are placed in divisions by skill level to ensure competitive games.

Travel soccer is sanctioned by BYSA and South Shore Soccer League (SSSL). SSSL is designee of Mass Youth Soccer and consists of member towns from our immediate area.

Notes: 1. All U8 & U10 games are non-results oriented. While scores are kept, no standings are enforced as both divisions are geared at player development, not wins or losses.

2. In 2011, Mass Youth Soccer decommissioned U8 travel soccer, so BYSA is coordinating a house league that will only participate in Dome play. We may play a series of “friendly” matches from April-June.

How are teams set?

BYSA conducts an evaluation process for all players interested in playing travel soccer.

Each year, players participate in one or more evaluation sessions, where they are measured in three key areas of the game: tactical, technical and physical. Evaluators include BYSA Board Members, coaches for that division and other knowledgeable soccer participants.

number of players per team and if the team is sharing a field.

Uniforms and Equipment: Travel teams usually have two uniforms – one for the Dome (\$25+/-) and one for outdoors (\$60); some teams use their outdoor town uniforms at the Dome. Shin pads are required.

Turf shoes are recommended at the Dome, but sneakers

may be worn. Cleats are recommended outside.

It is safe to assume a total cost of \$350-\$500.

Who are the coaches?

Coaches are all BYSA volunteers who have successfully passed a CORI check. They are strongly encouraged to participate in Mass Youth Soccer's coach education licensing program, and are reimbursed to do so.

How do we sign up?

Visit the BYSA web site for details. Please pre-register your child prior to tryouts to make the evaluation process run more smoothly. Thank you for your interest in BYSA!

After the tryouts, a Division Coordinator consolidates all ratings which yields a ranking of the players. Division coaches then participate in a placement session, where teams are set as follows: A Team, B Team, C Team, and so on. Note: U8 teams are not constructed by rank to enhance player development for all.

The number of teams is contingent upon the number of players that tryout and the number of coaches willing to take on the commitment of running a travel soccer team.

More on this topic is on the reverse side of this sheet.

How much does travel soccer cost?

There are variances in cost, mostly contingent upon the coach's preference in Dome activities. Each Dome session costs between \$70-\$90 per player. Practice for all three Dome sessions will total between \$50-\$80 per player depending on frequency, the

Additional information on reverse side.

For the complete try-out schedule, please visit our web site at:
www.bridgewateryouthsoccer.com

Tryouts and Placement FAQ



Why are coaches picked before teams are set?

BYSA's primary concern is with the players in our program. It is essential that they develop skills in a supportive, instructional and fun atmosphere. Our organization's success is dependent largely upon the coaches running each travel team.

Coaching soccer requires a thorough understanding of the game, how to teach it, and utilizing teaching methods based on the developmental stage and personalities of the players on his/her team.

We select the coaches first because it enables BYSA to choose the most qualified candidates for the job. We realize that sometimes this means a player may end up on a team that is slightly outside of his/her capabilities on the field; however, the coach is essential for team success, more so than any individual player.

Travel coaches provide their applications in August, and are decided by the board in September. The Board bases travel coaching assignments based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to BYSA
- Coaching experience and tenure
- Participation in US and MA Youth Soccer coaching education programs
- Feedback from parents

How are tryouts scored?

Tryouts are run by a division coordinator and a Board Member. Players are given scores by evaluators. We take great strides to eliminate bias in the evaluation system, including:

- Player full names are not displayed, only first name and last initial

- Evaluators/coaches do not provide a score for their own children
- The highest and lowest scores are removed when tallying results
- Using some evaluators with familiarity to the players, and some without

Upon the conclusion of the tryouts, the coordinator gathers all scores and enters them into a spreadsheet, which calculates the average score for each player.

Educate yourself on the sport of soccer via the following web sites:

www.mayouthsoccer.org
www.usyouthsoccer.org

Who are the evaluators?

The evaluators include all travel coaches selected for that division, Fall coaches for that division, as well as several Board members or other BYSA volunteers not familiar with the players in that division.

It's important to select a mix of evaluators because some children struggle in a try-out environment and others excel. This ensures balance of scores to give a true representation of the player's abilities.

What happens in the draft?

The coordinator consolidates all scores and presents a file with numerical rankings for each player to the travel coaches and Division Coordinator during the draft.

The Division Coordinator will direct the coaches as to how many players must be on each team based on how many

individuals have tried out. We work very hard to ensure there are no cuts, but sometimes the numbers do not work in our favor.

The Division I (or A team) selects its players first, followed by Division II (B), Division III, etc.

Important notes:

- Coaches must make their picks within a certain range. For example, the A team coach could not pick a player ranking very low. The only exception to this is for the goalkeeper position.
- Coaches are building a team. As they round out their rosters, they may be looking for a specific type of player (e.g., a defensive specialist), so s/he may skip a higher ranked player to fit the position.
- Given the quality of the players in Bridgewater, there's generally little difference between the bottom of one team and the top of another.

Important Message to Parents

You should not be concerned with what division your child lands within the travel system. It means very little in their soccer "careers"; it isn't an indication of their long-term potential with the sport, nor is it an indication of their level of success as an adult.

We're all here to foster a love for soccer, teach the children important lessons of the game and how they translate into other areas of life.

While the BYSA evaluation system isn't perfect, as it involves human beings and subjectivity, it has served BYSA well for many years, and will continue to develop tremendous soccer players.