

# **LIVINGSTON SOCCER CLUB TRAVEL PROGRAM**

## **GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

### **PROGRAM INSIGHT**

The purpose of the Livingston Soccer Club (“LSC”) Travel Soccer Program is to foster organized soccer at a more competitive level. In so doing we provide the opportunity for the more dedicated and committed Livingston child athlete to develop into the best soccer player they can become (the “Travel Program” and references herein to “Travel” or “Program” have the same meaning). References to a “Team” or “Travel Team” mean a team that forms part of the travel program according and pursuant to the rules and procedures for the creation and formation of such team as provided in these guidelines. The LSC will form, in its discretion and based on its considerations, as many quality Travel Teams as possible.

In order to accomplish this goal the athlete must play two (2) full seasons of soccer - Fall and Spring. If an applicant and his/her family cannot commit to two (2) full seasons of soccer, the athlete should not try out for this Program. The Travel Program does not include, sponsor nor is accountable for any winter and/or summer Team activities (training, tournaments, games, etc.) or any other activities in which members of a team choose to participate as a team or in any other manner.

In addition to teaching soccer skills and team play, good sportsmanship is an important part of the Program. Both the athlete and his/her parent must abide by a code of conduct that exhibits the requisites of good sportsmanship. This program is called “Set A Good Example,” or “S.A.G.E.” Both the athlete and his/her parent will sign the S.A.G.E. pledge prior to the beginning of the soccer year.

All Travel Teams are trained by outside professional trainers and, in most cases, will also be coached by their trainer on game-day. Training and coaching for most Teams usually begins in late August or early September and continues through mid-to-late November. Training usually resumes for the Spring season in early March and ends in early-to-mid June.

Travel team players participate in a competitive youth soccer league. Most recently Teams have competed in the Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (“MNJYSA”) or the Northern Counties Soccer Association (“NCSA”). MNJYSA is part of the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (“NJYSA”) and NCSA is part of US Club Soccer. Participating in these leagues gives the athlete the opportunity to evaluate himself/herself against this talent and establish individual goals to measure one’s own performance and skill level.

In addition to playing approximately 20 league games, 10 in the Fall and 10 in the Spring, Teams typically participate in travel tournaments. Each Team is expected to participate in at least three (3) such tournaments, usually 2 in the fall and 1 in the spring. One of the fall tournaments played is the Essex Fall Tune-Up Tournament (EFT), which is run by the Livingston and West Orange Soccer Clubs.

Some of these tournaments not only attract teams from New Jersey, but also teams from throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Tournament play has been a very rewarding experience for our athletes.

Teams are encouraged to compete in The New Jersey State Cup.

Players who have participated in the Travel Program are typically more likely to achieve recognition at the high school level. This has been the case at Livingston High School as well as soccer programs such as those at Seton Hall Prep, The Pingry School, Montclair Kimberly Academy, St. Benedicts, and Newark Academy. If playing high school soccer is a child's objective, then the Travel Program is the first step in that direction.

As you evaluate whether this Program is right for your son and/or daughter, and your family, please keep the following objectives of the LSC Travel Program in mind:

- To enable our children to have fun playing competitive soccer;
- To teach the attributes of good sportsmanship toward teammates and opposing players;
- To provide an ongoing program of high quality, expert professional soccer training for Livingston's more dedicated and committed youth soccer players so that they can become the best players they are willing to work toward;
- To provide continuity by requiring each player and each Team to play two (2) outdoor seasons per soccer year (Fall and Spring);
- To retain these children in the Program rather than having them leave to play for other clubs in order to meet their needs;
- To make it more likely that our children will continue to play competitive soccer at higher levels upon "graduating" from our Travel Program;
- To increase the exposure of our competitive soccer players to high school and college coaches; and
- To have a Travel Program that is financially self-sustaining.

## **NON-LIVINGSTON PLAYERS**

No LSC sponsored Travel Team may roster out-of-town players if there is a Qualified Livingston player for that roster spot. If there is no Qualified Livingston player available, then that Team may roster up to three (3) non-Livingston players. These non-Livingston players must tryout and pay the requisite fees as set forth above. The phrase "Qualified" means a player who has the requisite skills to play with that Team.

For the purpose of team formation, a non-Livingston player currently rostered on a LSC Travel Team is considered a Livingston player.

## **CONFLICT POLICY**

Needless to say we all live very busy lives. Our children participate in many activities with sports being only one of them. Conflicts arise.

During the Fall and Spring seasons athletes often engage in more than one sport at a time. This is especially true in the Spring with baseball, softball and lacrosse. We encourage this activity, but also stress the two (2) season commitment you have made to Travel soccer. The LSC's official policy regarding the potential conflict between soccer and other sports in which the athlete may engage was adopted by the LSC Board of Trustees in December 1996 and clearly states the "Conflict Policy" as follows:

The Livingston Soccer Club reaffirms its policy that Travel soccer is a commitment for two (2) seasons - Fall and Spring. It is not the policy of the Livingston Soccer Club to take any position in the event of a conflict in scheduling between (a) any individual soccer game or practice and (b) any softball, baseball, or other athletic game or practice. The Livingston Soccer Club believes the decision in the event of any conflict rests solely with the player and his or her family.

An athlete should not miss a game in one sport in order to participate in a practice in another sport. The real problem occurs when games are scheduled at or about the same time. Travel soccer games are once a week (except in the case of make-ups) and generally played on Sundays (except for U8 which normally plays on Saturdays). Other sports are played several times a week. When conflicts occur we encourage you to remember that as a participant in the LSC Travel Program you have made a commitment for (2) seasons of soccer - Fall and Spring.

### **TRAVEL SOCCER PLUS**

This Program is designed for full-sided Teams that have the ability and interest to play at an elite level of soccer. The Travel Committee of the LSC will determine which Teams will qualify for this Program. Should a Team qualify an invitation will be extended to that Team. At this time, the Livingston Soccer Club Travel Program does not have established guidelines for the Soccer Plus program. This program is not active at this time.

### **ROSTER MOVEMENT**

After a Travel Team is formed and the roster is set by the Travel Committee, players will not be released from a Team once that player has been officially "carded." The term "carded" is used to describe the technical process of having a player officially registered to play soccer for a specific Travel Team. This is done by the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association ("NJYSA") or US Club Soccer, not the league in which the Team plays. "Carding" includes the completion of all forms, including submitting proof of age.

Only the LSC Travel Committee, under exceptional circumstances, may release a player from a Travel Team roster. In the rare instance where the Travel Committee does release a player, that player may not be permitted to immediately play for a new team pursuant to NJYSA rules.

All Add/Drop release forms must be signed by the Director(s) of the Travel Program. Managers and/or trainers are not authorized to sign these forms.

## **REPLACEMENT PLAYERS**

As noted earlier, after August 1st the wait list will no longer be used to fill vacancies on Travel Team rosters. Should a roster spot become available after August 1st any interested athlete, including those who previously attended tryouts in the Spring, will be able to try out for that open roster spot. If an athlete is playing on an In-Town team that athlete may attend a tryout during the In-Town season, but, if selected, will not be placed on a Travel Team roster until the completion of the entire Fall In-Town season (including the Carpini Cup Tournament). If, on the other hand, an athlete is not playing in any organized soccer league, he/she may be placed on a Travel Team roster if deemed qualified. The exact format of the tryout, and the number of tryouts, will be determined by the Travel Committee. No athlete may try out for a Team until he/she receives the prior approval of the Travel Committee. Upon successful completion of the tryout process the decision to add the player will be made by the trainer, coach, and/or manager. Once that decision is made, the Travel Committee will be notified, and then, and only then, can the manager notify the athlete.

No athlete can join any LSC Travel Team as a mid-year replacement player (after August 1st) more than once unless injury, illness, or lack of residency prevented that child from trying out the preceding Spring. The purpose of this Guideline is to reinforce that the LSC Travel Program is a two (2) season (Fall and Spring) commitment. Athletes will not be permitted to abuse this policy by attempting to only join the Travel Program for a single season multiple times.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Travel Committee encourages players who wish to enhance their soccer skills by obtaining individual outside training. Such training is not provided by Livingston Soccer Club and is not part of the Travel Program. In the event a player wishes to obtain such training, he/she may do so at the player's cost. However, unless approved in advance by the Travel Committee, players are not permitted to obtain additional individual training during a particular Travel Season by his/her Travel Team's current trainer, as it presents a conflict of interest.

## **THE ESSEX FALL TUNE-UP SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

The LSC is proud of its association with the West Orange Soccer Club in the development of this very successful pre-season soccer tournament. It began in September 2002 and has become a permanent fixture of the LSC and West Orange soccer Programs. Teams from all over the metropolitan area participate in this 2 and one-half

day tournament in early September. Should an athlete become part of the LSC Travel Program parents are expected to volunteer 2 hours of their time over the weekend to ensure the continued success of this Tournament. To learn more about the Tournament please view the web site at [www.eftt.net](http://www.eftt.net).

### **INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE**

The LSC's Travel Soccer Program must follow all rules and regulations of the various leagues and associations in which our Teams compete. Should anything in this document be or become contrary to any of those rules and regulations such rules and regulations will always supersede those of the LSC unless specifically addressed by the Board of Trustees of the LSC.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

The LSC's Travel Committee and Board of Trustees reserve the right to modify, update, and amend these Travel Program Guidelines & Procedures from time to time as the Travel Committee and/or Board of Trustees deem necessary.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

We hope these Guidelines have been informative and have acquainted both the athlete and his/her parents with the Livingston Soccer Club's Travel Soccer Program. Travel soccer is exciting, but not intended for everyone. The LSC sponsors the very successful, competitive, and enjoyable single-season Fall In-Town Soccer Program for those not willing or able to make the time and expense commitment of the Travel Program. For those who do meet the requirements outlined in these Guidelines we encourage you to attend the tryouts for this Program. For more information on the Travel Soccer Program please visit the LSC web site at [www.lsclub.com](http://www.lsclub.com).