

LIVINGSTON SOCCER CLUB TRAVEL PROGRAM

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

TEAM FORMATION AND THE TRYOUT PROCESS

AGE QUALIFICATION

Travel soccer goes by **birth year**, not grade. Within most leagues, teams are grouped into divisions based on the **year of birth** of the players. These divisions are further subdivided into “Flights.” The Travel Program begins at the U7*-U8 level and continues all the way to U19. “U” stands for “Under” and means that all players must be **that age or “under” during the seasonal year**. By definition the seasonal year begins on August 1st and ends on July 31st of the following year.

Each Travel Team is placed into a “Flight” within its particular age division. The term “Flight” refers to a grouping of teams who are considered to be of comparable ability. The number of “Flights” per age division depends on the number of teams within that age division. Teams are often re-flighted after the Fall season. Final flighting decisions are not made by the LSC, but by the league in which the Team participates (i.e., MNJYSA and/or NCSA)

The Travel Program includes two (2) seasons (Fall and Spring) of soccer for boys and girls age levels U8 (including U7) through **U15 (unless the U15 candidate is in High School)**. It is possible at all age groups Teams may be coed, but this is typically the exception rather than the rule. To begin play in the Travel Program children must be 7* years of age between **January 1st** of the year they are registering and **December 31st**. All age groups (U8- **U15(unless in High School)**) follow this same age group guideline. For athletes of high school age (i.e. U15-U19), the LSC will only sponsor one (1) season of soccer, the Spring season.

*athletes that are 7 years of age are eligible for the program, but may be placed on teams at the U8 age level if Qualified. Please see Note in section labeled “Playing Up” on pages 6-7. All further references to U8 below are deemed to include U7.

ROSTER SIZE

Athletes will play **variations of “small-sided”** soccer in age groups U8 through U12 **as determined by the United States Soccer Federation and other governing bodies**. This means they will play on a smaller field with different amounts of players, **depending on the age group**. Starting in the Fall of 2016, U8 teams will consist of 4 vs 4 players without a goalie, U9-U10 teams will consist of 7 vs 7 players, and U11-U12 teams will consist of 9 vs 9 . The roster size for these Teams will vary depending on the age group, but could be anywhere from 12 players at the U8 to U10 level, and 13 at the U11 and U12 level, **but the rosters at each level can be bigger (maximum of 14 players) or smaller.**

Athletes will play “full-sided” soccer on a regulation size soccer field at the U13 through U19 age

levels. Here soccer is played on a standard field 11 players playing against 11 players. The roster is comprised of approximately 15 players, but the number can be smaller or greater (U13-U16 maximum of 18 players, U17-U19 maximum of 22 players).

THE COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS

Other than the high school age level teams, all athletes must attend competitive tryouts that are held in the Spring of each year to be considered for a Travel Team. Some athletes who do tryout will not make a Team. Children of past or current members of the Board of Trustees of the LSC will not be given any priority during the tryout process. Tryouts are typically held in April and May. Two (2) tryout sessions will be held at the U8 (including U7) - **non-High School U15** age levels. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend both tryout sessions. However, if an applicant cannot attend a tryout he/she should notify the LSC in advance of a conflict so other arrangements can be made. These tryouts will be held at a central location in Livingston with age groups trying out at different times.

Depending on the results of the tryout process, the Travel Committee may schedule additional tryouts at any age level.

Applicants are not permitted to wear a past or present Travel uniform, must wear shin guards and have water bottles. Soccer cleats are recommended. Soccer balls will be supplied. Jewelry is strictly prohibited.

The sole objective of the tryout process is to place the most talented and dedicated soccer players in each age group onto a Travel Team. For an existing Team, in addition to the tryout itself, the Team manager and trainer must evaluate the players on their current rosters. Once the tryout process is completed, the Travel Committee will evaluate all these findings and recommendations based mainly on the "Tryout Evaluation Scoring System" section described below. Evaluations are strictly confidential. They are only made known to the Director(s) of the LSC Travel Committee. Members of the Board of Trustees of the Livingston Soccer Club will not participate in the tryouts and will not evaluate or participate in the evaluation of the candidates in the tryouts. An outside professional entity is hired by the LSC to conduct the tryouts and provide the LSC with the results. During the assessment process, the Travel Committee must consider the tryout evaluation of each player, the manager's and coach's evaluation of the player, and the player's dedication and work ethic. At all age levels the decision of the Travel Committee is final.

Each age group will have a different evaluation process, but the goal remains the same - to have a fair, impartial, and thorough tryout process. All evaluations are comparative. The tryout process is the same for boys and girls.

TRYOUT EVALUATION SCORING SYSTEM

The Travel Committee considers the outside professional trainers to be the best evaluators of the children's soccer skills. Accordingly, the ratings given the athletes by the professional trainers will

be awarded the greatest weight in the Tryout evaluation. The scoring allocation for current Travel Team players will be approximately:

- Tryout Results - 45% of the overall weighting;
- Current Teams' Professional Trainer Evaluations - 40% of the overall weighting; and
- Current Teams' Managers' Evaluations - 15% of the overall weighting.

For an athlete who has not previously participated in the LSC's Travel Program, but was part of the In-Town Program the previous Fall, the scoring allocation will be approximately:

- Tryout Results - 85% of the overall weighting; and
- Fall In-Town Coach's Evaluation - 15% of the overall weighting.

Finally, for an athlete who has neither participated in the Travel nor Fall In-Town Programs 100% of the overall weighting will be based on the Tryout results.

All athletes who tryout (other than at the [High School U15-U19 levels](#)) will be graded using the same scoring system in a number of different categories: 1 is poor; 2 is fair; 3 is good; 4 is very good, and 5 is excellent. Athletes will be ranked according to total points.

Once the Travel Committee has made decisions at the various age levels, the applicants will be notified, typically at the end of May or June. Thereafter, a Travel Program registration will be held where candidates who received notification of eligibility to join the Travel Program and their families would be invited to officially register to join the Travel Program and, if they do, additional fees as described in the Cost section below will be required with such request and will then be collected from such families. **Travel Teams cannot and will not be formed until after Travel Registration** (as defined in the Cost section below). A player who registers is requesting a spot in the LSC Travel Program, **not onto a specific team**. A Travel Team is officially formed by the Travel Committee only upon either the posting of the roster for such Team to the LSC website, or the submission of the roster for such Team to the President of the LSC.

Notification by the Travel Committee to a player will provide for either: (i) acceptance into the Travel Program, or (ii) wait list. The wait list means that the candidate has not initially been offered to join NOR chosen to participate in the Travel Program, but depending upon the outcome of the Travel Program registration and subsequent Team formation process, there is the possibility that he/she will be chosen for and offered to join a Team. If a candidate's name has not been chosen from the wait list to play on a Travel Team by August 1st, his/her name will be returned to the In-Town Program for the Fall season. If a candidate's name is returned to the In-Town Program following the initial Team formation process, he/she can still be removed from an In-Town roster and added to a Travel Team, but no later than August 1st. After August 1st an In-Town roster will not be changed to benefit a Travel Team roster. After August 1st the wait list will no longer be used to fill Travel Team rosters.