

Dear WUSC 3rd Grade Parents

As the Spring season is underway, planning has begun for the 2021/2022 soccer seasons. And, while we are all busy with current activities, the Spring tryout date (for those players interested in playing on a stratified team next year) has now been posted online. As you may remember WUSC held one tryout for this age group last Fall so we will only hold one more this Spring. While this can often be a time of stress for parents and players, please remember that we are going to do everything we can to place your child on the appropriate team for their development. Please keep an open mind and maintain some perspective throughout the process.

Transition from Wellesley's In-Town Program to BAYS Travel Program

In the 4th grade, Wellesley United Soccer Club (WUSC) transitions from the in-town program to the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) travel team program. BAYS offers multiple levels of play and Wellesley fields teams from division 1 to division 4. Note that all children will travel as part of the BAYS travel teams next fall, whether on a “stratified team” or a “balanced team”.

WUSC’s tryouts are for players that are interested in playing on one of the stratified teams. Attending tryouts is mandatory to playing on a stratified team and everyone is invited to participate each year. Please note however it is purely voluntary. If you do not feel that your child/children would like to try out for a stratified team then he / she does not need to attend tryouts and they will be placed on a balanced team that will also play in BAYS and travel to play other towns in the league.

For those not familiar with how WUSC transitions from intra-Wellesley soccer to the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) league and would like to learn more, please see the information on the [Tryout Policy](#) on the WUSC website.

Tryout Process

The tryouts have been designed to select the appropriate competitive level for all players. For this age group, we hold 2 tryouts: 1 in the Fall (which has already occurred) and 1 in the Spring. All interested players must sign up and attend both tryouts. If for some reason (illness, injury, family event), you have a conflict and your son/daughter cannot attend a tryout, please contact the Age Group Coordinator BEFORE the tryout. We must know ahead of time so that it can be noted. As well, please DO NOT show up at the field on the day of tryouts if you have not signed up beforehand. We cannot accept walk ons and will have to turn you away.

3rd grade players should wear their 3rd grade uniform to tryouts. If you do not have a uniform a tryout pinnie will be supplied.

All players must be registered for the Tryouts AND the 'Fall 2021 Travel Season ' before attending the Spring Tryouts. Registration is now open - click here for the [Tryout Schedule](#) and [Fall Registration](#). Please follow your child's CURRENT grade (3rd grade girls / boys) for day / time of tryouts. If you signed up for the Fall tryout you will not need to register again. The \$25 fee was paid in the Fall and covers the Spring tryouts.

We recognize that the tryouts can be stressful for both kids and parents, so we would like to make a couple important notes:

- Tryout evaluators are made up of independent, professional, soccer-knowledgeable people. Parents of children on the field will not have a role in the tryout evaluations.
- During the tryouts, parents are asked to leave. **Please do not walk out onto the fields or stand on sidelines.**

Any player interested in trying out specifically as goalie should sign up for both the regular grade level field tryout and the goalkeeper tryout. Your son/daughter is welcome to attend the goalkeeper tryouts as they will be held on a different night from the regular tryouts. They must still attend the regular tryouts though to qualify for a stratified team. If you would like to be considered as a goalkeeper, please click on the google doc link on the website.

Team Selection Process

We want all parents to understand the process of selecting the stratified teams. Information from both tryouts and coach evaluations from the current spring and previous fall seasons are consolidated by the Age Group Coordinator, who will then facilitate a player evaluation meeting.

The purpose of the player eval meeting is to have all head and assistant coaches have the opportunity to discuss the players that attended tryouts. Our goal is to gather as much information as possible before selecting the stratified teams.

Immediately following this meeting, the WUSC Travel Committee representatives will determine the final rosters for the stratified teams. This group is composed of the WUSC GM, Director of Coaching, age group coordinator and board members who do not have a child in the age group. Coaches for all teams are NOT selected until rosters are set. A separate application process is followed for all parents who would like to coach their child's team.

All remaining registered players are placed on balanced teams via a draft to ensure a good experience for all players.

What are the expectations if your child is selected to a stratified team?

It is expected if you commit to a stratified team that you will participate in both the fall and spring seasons. While we understand that soccer will not be a child's only activity, it is expected that a player selected to a stratified team will make a commitment to that team for both for practices and games. While conflicts with other sports are sometimes unavoidable, especially in the spring, we ask that your child place a priority on his/her BAYS soccer games (practice conflicts should be shared 50/50 with other sports practices).

Overall the goal is to place players on teams where they can succeed and have fun. Our process is designed to create teams that match appropriate skill level with anticipated level of competition.

Team Announcements

Fall team placements will be announced after all spring season activities are concluded (typically end of June). Notification will be by email to your family email account on your registration. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your coach or [Age Group Coordinator](#).

Thank you for your continued support of WUSC and look forward to seeing all of your kids out on the fields!