Grade 4-7 WUSC Parents,

Planning is already underway for the 2024/2025 soccer seasons.  And, while we are all busy with current activities, tryout dates (for those players interested in playing on a stratified team) have now been posted online.  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.

We intend on starting our tryouts for the Fall 2024 season this Fall and continuing come the Spring of 2024. You can read more about the process by viewing the [**Tryout Policy**](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/_files/Wellesley%20United%20Soccer%20Club%20Tryout%20%26%20Placement%20Policy%20-%209-27-21.pdf) for Wellesley United Soccer Club (WUSC) on the club website.

WUSC’s tryouts are for players who are interested in playing on one of the stratified teams (this includes current stratified players who must tryout again for the following year).  Attending tryouts is mandatory to playing on a stratified team and everyone is invited to participate each year.  Please note however that it is purely voluntary.  If you do not feel that your child/children would like to try out for a stratified team then they do not need to attend tryouts and will be placed on a balanced team that will also play in BAYS.

**Tryout Process**  
The tryouts have been designed to select the appropriate competitive level for all players. We hold one tryout in the Fall and one in the Spring to help with over scheduling. Please refer to the tryout schedule for your specific age group. Players are expected to attend both tryouts (one in the Fall 2023, one in the Spring 2024).   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](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/about-wusc/age-group-coordinators) BEFORE the tryout.  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. Please sign up 72 hours before the first tryout.   
  
**All players must be registered for the Tryouts ($0 tryout fee for grades 3-7). Registration is now open - click here for the**[Tryout Schedule Fall 2024](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/register-here/new-tryout-info-page)**. Please follow your child’s CURRENT Fall ’23 grade for correct day / time of tryouts. The registration will cover both the Fall and Spring tryouts with the Spring dates to be released next season.**

All travel players should wear their **red BAYS uniform** and bring their **gray training jersey**. Pinnies will be available if you do not have the correct uniform. We are also using a new piece of technology so the players roster numbers will be used when trying out.  
  
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 goalkeeper should sign up now for the regular grade level (field) tryout AND then for the goalkeeper tryout in the spring when details are announced. Goalkeeper tryouts are only held in the Spring. (please see WUSC website for specifics).   Please note that all players interested in trying out as a keeper, must also attend both field tryouts to qualify for a stratified team.  For more information, see the Goalkeeper Tryout info on the [**Tryout Information**](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/register-here/new-tryout-info-page) page.

**Team Selection Process**

We want all parents to understand the process of selecting the stratified teams. Information from the tryouts and coach evaluations from the current spring and previous fall seasons is 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 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 interested in coaching next year’s teams.

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).  **Previous season attendance and participation is a factor in team placement.** Please be sure to think about your childs participation in other sports and how this might affect their attendance and playing time for a stratified team. If they cannot commit to the stratified team please let us know as soon as possible.  
  
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 for your team 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.](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/about-wusc/age-group-coordinators)

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

WUSC