Dear WUSC 3rd Grade Parents,

  As the Spring season is underway, planning has begun for the Fall 2023/ Spring 2024 soccer seasons. And, while we are all busy with current activities, the Spring tryout dates (for those players interested in playing on a stratified team next year) have now been posted online.  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.  We ask that you keep an open mind and maintain some perspective throughout the process.

There is a tremendous amount of information in this letter so please read until the end as it will (hopefully) answer many of your questions and provide important dates / milestones in the process towards 4th grade team selections. There will also be an information meeting for all parents:

**3rd Grade Tryout and Fall Team Selection Parent Meeting**

**Tuesday April 25th, 7:30pm at Sprague School Cafeteria and by Zoom.**

All parents are encouraged to attend to learn about the transition from Intown Grade 3 to Travel Grade 4 including the tryout process, team formation and fall travel season format.

**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.  All children who wish to play will be placed on a travel team and compete vs other towns within the league. BAYS offers multiple levels of play and Wellesley fields teams from division 1 to division 4.

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](https://wellesleysoccer.demosphere-secure.com/_files/about-wusc/tryouts-and-placements/Wellesley%2520United%2520Soccer%2520Club%2520Tryout%2520%2526%2520Placement%2520Policy.pdf) 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 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](http://wellesleysoccer.org/about-wusc/age-group-coordinators) BEFORE the tryout. We must know ahead of time so that it can be noted. As well, all players participating must be registered at least 72 hours prior to tryout- 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 2 things: WUSC Travel Tryouts (register for current grade) AND the** ‘**Fall 2023 Travel Teams (register for next fall grade)**’ **before attending the Spring Tryouts. Registration is now open - click here for the** [**Tryout Schedule**](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/current-season/tryout-information) **and** [**Fall Registration**](http://www.wellesleysoccer.org/register-here/fall-2019-4th-8th-grade-teams)**. Please follow your child’s CURRENT grade (3rd grade girls / boys) for day / time of 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 of players are asked to leave.   **Please do not walk out onto the fields or stand on sidelines to watch. You will be noted and asked to leave.**

- Please be supportive of your child after they have left the field. Asking loads of questions can lead to your child to being more stressed about the experience. Players often do not understand the evaluators methodology so rehashing afterwards can lead to misunderstandings!

**Goalkeeper Tryouts**

Any player interested in trying out specifically as goalie should sign up for and attend both the regular grade level field tryout AND the goalkeeper tryout. These are held on different nights. Players must still attend the regular tryouts in addition to goalkeeper tryout 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 give all head and assistant coaches 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 after 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.  Conflicts with other sports are sometimes unavoidable so 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.](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!