

Wellesley United Soccer Club Tryout & Placement Policy

BAYS:

At the start of 4th Grade, WUSC transitions from its in-town league to the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) league where we play teams from other towns. All WUSC teams (stratified and balanced) play in BAYS starting in the Fall of 4th Grade. The BAYS league has multiple divisions (1, 2, 3 and 4), and brackets within divisions (e.g., 2A, 2B, 3B). Typically the level of play is stronger in division 1 over 2 and 2 over 3. Brackets are determined by both record and geography.

BAYS teams are grade-based vs. date of birth based so players play with their grade regardless of date of birth.

Each grade for WUSC 4-8 will have some combination of stratified and balanced teams. Stratified teams play in BAYS divisions 1-3 based on strength of team, record and geography. Balanced teams typically play in divisions 3 and 4. Both stratified and balanced teams “travel” and play both home and away games vs other BAYS town clubs.

WUSC Philosophy on Team Placement & Tryouts:

Team Placement / Tryouts :

Team placement is an extensive and detailed process. Led by an impartial Age Group Coordinator (AGC; who is a member of the WUSC community but does not have a son/daughter in the specific age / grade being reviewed) and supported by the WUSC Travel Committee, player placement decisions are made based on two key components:

1. Tryouts
2. Past performance / coach ratings and input

It is important to note the following:

- Every player (if desired and able) will be given the opportunity to tryout for a stratified team
- Every player (including current stratified players) interested in playing on a stratified team for the following year MUST attend tryouts
- No player is guaranteed a position on a stratified team - any player can be moved up/down
- Tryouts are voluntary. If a player desires to play WUSC soccer but not on a stratified team, they will be placed into the balanced draft that occurs after stratified tryouts / selections have been made. Again, both stratified AND balanced teams play in the BAYS league.
- Players who move into town after tryouts must contact the appropriate AGC for further instructions. These situations are assessed on a case by case basis.

1. Tryouts:

First, attendance is critical to the evaluation process. Every player should make every effort to attend the scheduled tryout night(s). Only approved excuses (communicated in advance to your Age Group Coordinator) will be acceptable. Unexcused absences may impact a player's ability to be chosen to play on a stratified team.

The age group coordinator (AGC) and the Director of Coaching (DOC) manage the tryouts with on-site evaluations performed by independent and impartial paid soccer evaluators.

The tryouts are designed to evaluate age-appropriate individual and team skills.

Typically, tryouts are held mid-spring for the following school year's Fall and Spring seasons. Teams remain in tact from Fall to Spring however some player movement can occur and these instances are assessed by the WUSC travel committee on a case-by-case basis. All changes are approved by the DOC.

WUSC holds goalkeeper tryouts separately from field players. If a player chooses to attend a goalkeeper tryout, that player is agreeing that he/she will play a minimum of 50% in goal every game. It's possible, based on coaches discretion, that this percentage may be higher. Before a player accepts a position as a GK on a team, this policy will be communicated to and accepted by both the player and his/her family.

2. Past Performance:

Each coach is asked to complete detailed player evaluations at the end of each season. This data is reviewed by the AGC and used in the selection process. Coaches will have an opportunity to discuss their specific comments in person during the selection meeting.

Team Selection:

The Age Group Coordinator hosts a meeting for all coaches in the age group to review each player who attended the tryouts. Data from player past performances along with tryout information is compiled, reviewed and utilized as a basis for discussions with coaches. These meetings are 100% confidential in nature. No coach is allowed to discuss player rankings or data with anyone outside of this meeting.

Immediately following this meeting, the WUSC Travel Committee selects the stratified teams. Overall registrations are considered when determining size of teams / number of total teams in the age group.

After stratified teams have been completed, a balance draft is held and even teams are selected.

Teams are announced in early summer. At that time, players will be instructed to accept their roster spot and agree to the player participation policy.