

Grade 4-7 WUSC Parents,

Planning is underway for the 2021/2022 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.

Barring any additional state COVID-related issues, we intend to start the process in late April moving through to late May. You can read more about the process by viewing the [Tryout Policy](#) for Wellesley United Soccer Club (WUSC) on the club website.

WUSC's tryouts are for players that 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 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. Typically we hold one tryout in the Fall and one in the Spring. However due to COVID and player protocols, WUSC decided to forego some of the Fall dates for some of the age groups. Please refer to the tryout schedule for your specific age group (some will have 1 tryout while others will have 2). Players are expected to attend both tryouts if 2 have been scheduled for the Spring. 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. 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.

**All players must be registered for the Tryouts (\$25 tryout fee) 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 Spring '21 grade for correct day / time of tryouts.**

All travel players should wear their **red BAYS uniform** and bring their **black training jersey**. Due to COVID protocols we can only use pinnies if the player does not have their 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 for both the regular grade level (field) tryout AND the goalkeeper tryout. These tryouts are held on different nights (please see WUSC website for specifics). Please note that all players interested in trying out as a keeper, must attend both tryouts to qualify for a stratified team. For more information, see the Goalkeeper Tryout info on the [tryout information](#) 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 years 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.**

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](#).

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