

Dear WUSC 3rd Grade Parents,

As the Spring season is underway, planning has begun for the Fall 2026/Spring 2027 soccer seasons. In 4th grade, your child will be moving from WUSC In-Town program to the BAYS Travel Program. BAYS offers multiple levels of play, but all children will travel as part of the BAYS travel teams next fall, whether on a “stratified team” or a “balanced team”.

Tryouts:

WUSC’s tryouts are for players that are interested in playing on one of the stratified teams. Attending tryouts is mandatory to playing/being placed on a stratified team. If your child isn’t interested in trying out for a stratified team, then he/she **does not** need to attend tryouts and they will be placed on a balanced team (as long as they register each season through WUSC). All players interested in trying out for a stratified team must be registered for BOTH the ‘Tryouts’ and the ‘Fall 2026 Travel Season’ on the WUSC website before attending the Spring Tryouts. Registration is now open. Tryout evaluators are made up of independent, professional, soccer knowledgeable people.

Tryout Expectations:

This Spring, we will hold **two tryouts** for current 3rd graders interested in trying out for a Stratified team for Fall 2026. The expectation is that your child attends **BOTH** tryout sessions, but we understand that the spring is a busy season, and everyone has conflicts. If your child has a conflict with one of the tryout sessions, please email your AGC **BEFORE** the tryout date. Make sure you include: your child’s name, tryout date that they will miss and reason (sickness, injury, conflict). 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 we 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. During the tryouts, parents are asked to leave. You can sit in your cars, but please do not stand on the sidelines or walk along the fields.

Goalkeepers:

Any player interested in trying out specifically as goalie should sign up for both the regular grade level field tryout **AND** the goalkeeper tryout. The goalkeeper tryouts are held on a different night from the regular tryouts. Goalies must still attend the regular tryouts to qualify for a stratified team.

Team Selection Process:

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. There is a great deal of data, time, and effort that goes into the coordination and selection of stratified teams. Information from spring tryouts, WUSC coaching staff evaluations, and coach evaluations from the current spring and previous fall seasons are consolidated and presented at the Evaluation Meetings for each grade and gender. The purpose of the player evaluation meeting is to have all head and assistant

coaches have the opportunity to discuss the players on their current team. The independent evaluators tryout data, in combination with the coach's feedback and evaluations, are compiled and brought forth to the WUSC Travel Committee for review, determine and finalization of the stratified rosters. The Committee will consist of the WUSC GM, WUSC Director of Coaching, WUSC coaching staff, Age Group Coordinator, Travel Director and Board Members who do not have a child in the age group. Please note that Coaches for all teams are NOT selected until rosters are set. Teams for the Fall will be announced in late June after the Travel Committee has concluded the selection process. Notification will be sent via email to your WUSC family email account.

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 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).

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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your AGC or The Travel Directors.

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

Sean Riley – Boys Travel Director
Ashley Delahunty – Girls Travel Director