



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program Changes

FALL 2026

# Agenda

- WUSC Intro and Overview
- 3rd Grade Program
  - Changes to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program
- Transition to BAYS
  - Tryouts
  - Team/Coach Selections
  - Coach Expectations

# WUSC Overview

- Main Pathway
  - Intown (Pre K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)
  - Travel (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Additional Programs
  - Wellesley Premier Club (club)
  - Wellesley Development Program
  - Wellesley Futsal Club and Academy
  - Winter and Vacation Clinics
- Other
  - Intown Referee Program
  - Memorial Day Tournament (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

# WUSC Coaching Staff



**Chris Howard - WUSC General Manager**

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# Intown vs Travel

- Intown Program
  - Hosted by WUSC
  - Wellesley players divided on teams for “in-house” league
  - Balanced Teams
  - Parent Volunteer Coaches
  - All games in Wellesley (Sprague)
- Travel Program (BAYS)
  - Players compete in BAYS League
  - Compete against neighboring towns
  - Stratified and Balanced Teams
  - Home and Away games
  - Parent Volunteer Coaches

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Changes

- Current
  - Players play Intown Fall and Spring 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
  - Coaches draft teams to create balanced teams
  - 1 weekday practice / 1 game on Saturdays
  - Tryouts in Spring for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Travel teams
  - Players are placed on Travel teams for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Fall
- New Changes
  - Players play 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Intown Program in the Fall
  - Players move to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Travel Program in Spring

# New 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program

- Fall
  - Players play 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Intown Program in the Fall
  - WUSC Staff will place players to create balanced teams
    - No Coaches Draft
  - Teams Practice once a week
  - Games on Saturday at Sprague
  - Tryout for Spring Stratified pool
- Spring
  - ALL players will play in Travel Program (BAYS league)
  - Pool to make two even Stratified teams
  - All other players play on balanced teams
  - 1 practice during the week
  - Games on Saturdays (home and away)
  - Tryouts for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams

# Why Change?

- Wide scope of talent in current Intown program
- Disengagement from players of all levels
- Allows players to compete in environment appropriate for their skill level
- Benefits all players
- Keeps in line with surrounding town programs
  - Most towns stratified in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

# Team Selection for Travel

- Each player who attends tryouts is eligible for a Stratified team
- Players are given an Aggregate Score based on:
  - Tryout data (independent assessors)
  - Coach Evaluations
  - Staff Game Evaluations
- A committee of our board members selects the teams at the end of the season

# Coach Selection

- **Feedback** from parents after every season
- **WUSC staff observations** of practice and games
- **Volunteer experience** (number of years coaching in town program and other WUSC volunteer positions)
- **Soccer knowledge and experience** (this includes understanding game rules and following BAYS guidelines)
- **Diversity** of coaching staff
- **BAYS ZT violations** and/or incidents
- **Each season is independently evaluated and coaching positions are not guaranteed year to year**

# Coach Expectation

- Qualities WUSC looks for in a coach:
  - **Positive:** We see coaches as a role model for the kids on their team. Help kids learn to develop and maintain a positive attitude even under adverse circumstances.
  - **Encouraging and Supportive:** Encourage their players to try new skills and positions throughout their development. Support the players as they work on developing the required skills to achieve success
  - **Communicative:** Communicate and interact positively and effectively with players and parents throughout the season
  - **Differentiation:** Work with the individual skill sets of each player on the team so that the players develop individually, to develop the team collectively. We expect coaches to monitor player progress based on each player's own trajectory and not against other players on the team.

# Next Steps

- Fall 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Registration
- Order your BAYS jersey
  - This will be their jersey during the Fall season
  - Unique number for each player
  - 2-year cycle



Thank you!