

Welcome back to Wellesley United Soccer's Bays travel program! While many of you have been through team selection assignment process before, given changes to the tryouts and evaluation we ask that you read through the important information in this email prior to viewing the team assignments that will be sent out in the next few days. We understand this can be a stressful process for children and families and WUSC has taken steps over the years to make this a transparent and highly quantitative process to ensure the most equitable outcomes possible.

- We use data inputs such as: coaches rankings, WUSC staff reviews, independent evaluators at tryouts, and end of season coach meetings to help assign players to teams.
- The Travel Committee is comprised of WUSC staff and board members without children in the class undergoing team assignments and coaches are only selected after teams are finalized.
- Team sizes get bigger over time allowing for players quickly developing their skills to move up the next year.

We hope that by sharing details of the team selection process, players and families will have a good understanding of the inputs and have confidence their team assignment will lead to the best experience for the following BAYS season.

Team Selection Process:

Overall, the goal is to place players on teams where they will have fun, be challenged, and improve as teammates and players. 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 with independent evaluators, WUSC coaching staff player evaluations during BAYS games, and BAYS 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 staff evaluations, are compiled and brought forth to the WUSC Travel Committee for review, determine and finalization of the rosters. The Committee consists of the WUSC GM, WUSC Director of Coaching, WUSC coaching staff, Age Group Coordinator, Travel Director and WUSC Board Members. It is important to note that NO parents who have a child in a grade are involved in the team formation process for that grade. Further, please note that Coaches for all teams are NOT selected until rosters are set. Notification will be sent via email to your WUSC family email account in the coming days.

Team Evolution:

Placement on a team is not permanent. We recognize in the team formation process that players at this age develop at different speeds. Further to that, games are played 7v7 in 4th grade. In 5th and 6th grade, this moves to 9v9, before finally moving to 11v11 for 7th and

8th grades. What this means is rosters will change and expand over time, giving players ample opportunities to move between teams as their child develops as a player. We ask that you keep this in mind as you learn which team your child will be joining.

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 often 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).

BAYS Expectations:

Due to a general uptick in poor sportsmanship and parental disrespect of referees over the past few years, BAYS has recently updated their guidelines regard parental sideline behavior, including increased penalties for both violators and the clubs they are affiliated with. Please see www.bays.org/referee-abuse-prevention-policy for more details. Referees and BAYS take this policy and parental sideline behavior incredibly seriously. We ask that you remember this as you approach games in the upcoming seasons.

Code of Conduct:

In addition to BAYS expectations, Wellesley United has its own Code of Conduct for all WUSC events. Everyone should please review this [Code of Conduct Policy](#). that was communicated as part of the registration. Wellesley United Soccer Club expects all players, parents and coaches to follow these guidelines.

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 Boys or Girls Travel Directors](#).

Thank you and have a great summer!

The WUSC Board