



Charlton Youth Soccer Travel Policy

It is the philosophy of Charlton Youth Soccer that CYS make the efforts under its jurisdiction to find any player willing and interested in playing travel soccer a team that is suitable to their skill and development. Finding a suitable team includes, but is not limited to, playing with and against players of a similar ability; being coached by knowledgeable coaches; and being provided with feedback on strengths and areas of improvement each season. The following policy outlines the methods CYS uses to achieve the above stated philosophy.

I. Travel Waivers

For a waiver to be reviewed for approval the player must be registered with CYS and have participated in a CYS tryout.

Travel waivers are requests made by parents and/or players to play on a team not sponsored by CYS. CYS grants travel waivers under the following circumstances:

- CYS does not have a team available for the player to play based on his/her CYS evaluated ability and/or age; or
- If team roster limits result in the player getting cut from a CYS team.
- The parent has exercised school choice for their child

II. Coaching Selection

Any individual interested in coaching a CYS travel team is required to submit a coaching application at the time of the upcoming season's registration, and provide CYS with updates to the application as things change. The application outlines the coach's qualifications which, at a minimum, include coaching and playing history; certifications or course work completed; and references. Each coaching application is reviewed by the CYS Board. The CYS Board votes to determine if the coach has the necessary qualifications/credentials to coach a CYS-sponsored travel team. Following the CYS Board's decision, the travel director determines a role (head coach or assistant coach) for the approved coaches. If the selected coaches disagree with their assigned role, the coach(s) may request the CYS Board vote on new determinations. At which time any coach impacted by the decision has the opportunity to state their case in person to the CYS Board, respond to questions from CYS Board members and be present for the vote.

Effective January 2014 for all first time CYS travel coaches, the CYS Board is suggesting the following minimum Massachusetts' Youth Soccer active certification standards or equivalent from another certified entity be met to be the head coach for the respective age groups:

- G3+4-F certificate
- G5+6-F certificate
- G7+8-E certificate
- HS-E certificate

III. Player Evaluation

Any player interested in playing travel soccer for CYS is required to participate in a CYS-sponsored evaluation/tryout prior to the start of the season in order to rate their ability against their peers; and the player must be registered to play 1 day in advance of the tryouts (registrations are not accepted the day of tryouts). Tryouts are scheduled prior to the upcoming season's registration and facilitated in-person by the travel directors. When possible, at least two tryout dates and one make-up date are scheduled for each age group and gender in the later third of the current playing season, prior to the Thanksgiving holiday for the spring season and before the last day of school for the fall season. Players need to attend the tryouts set for their age group and participate in at least one (1) of the tryouts for their age group. If a player is unable to attend a tryout prior to the team assignment deadline, the player is assigned the lowest available ranking. Medical exceptions (Dr.'s note required) will be reviewed and placements will be based upon prior tryout evaluations as well as coach's feedback.

At the discretion of the CYS Travel Committee, G1+2 players in their last age-eligible year (fall and spring) of G1+2 may be permitted to play G3+4 travel. Similar to age-eligible travel players, these players must be registered before tryouts and attend at least one (1) of the CYS-sponsored evaluation/tryout for the G3+4 age group. The CYS Travel Committee may solicit input from other resources (i.e., past and present coaches) to determine if any G1+2 player is ready for the G3+4 travel program.

Tryouts consist of a series of opportunities (individual drills; small sided and expanded sided games; and/or scrimmages) for players to showcase their soccer knowledge, skills and abilities in front of a panel of evaluators consisting of both the coaches and independent evaluators, but excluding the travel director if they serve in a coaching capacity. Prior to becoming an evaluator, the evaluators are required to participate in a training session to review the evaluation and

evaluation standards such as not being able to evaluate your own child to encourage greater consistency amongst the evaluators. This training may be held by a third party entity. Among the areas being evaluated include, but are not limited to, dribbling, passing, trapping, shooting, defending, field awareness, attitude and situational play. At the beginning of each G5+6, G7+8 or HS tryout, the travel directors will inquire about players' interest in being evaluated for goal keeping skills. All players expressing an interest will have the opportunity to be evaluated during the tryout. All skills or skill groupings are evaluated on a six (6) point scale with one (1) being the best. When possible, skill areas are consolidated to allow the evaluators to focus on watching the play, rather than filling in their evaluation sheets.

At the conclusion of all the tryouts, the travel director tallies the results to determine an average score for each player, and rank orders the players from those with the best score (i.e., lowest average score) to those with the worst score (i.e., highest average score). The information is then reviewed by the other travel director for quality assurance. CYS does not have the resources to provide players with individual feedback after the tryouts so it is recommended that all CYS coaches from G3+4 to high school provide each player with a short list of areas of strength and for improvement after each season of play.

IV. Roster Sizes

CYS adopts the maximum roster limits set by MAYSL (refer to http://maysl.com/MAYS_Files/constitution.pdf) for the respective age groups and divisions 2, 3 and 4. For teams competing in division 1, CYS allows the team's head coach to set their own roster size in order to field the most competitive team possible. Aside from a division 1 team, roster sizes for each age group and division are set by the CYS Travel Committee, and based on several factors including, but not limited to, the number of available, qualified and CYS Board-approved coaches and player conflicts that may impact their attendance at practices and/or games. The CYS Travel Committee consists of the CYS Board President, Travel Director(s) and at least three (3) other CYS Board Members.

CYS recognizes that players get better by playing more and getting more opportunities to touch the ball. It also recognizes that players may not have the ability to recognize their physical limitations and health needs such as dehydration. As a result, setting roster sizes needs to balance player playing time and the physical demands players may face over the course of the season.

V. Team Selection

Once head coaches and roster sizes have been identified for the respective travel teams, players are assigned to teams. Players are assigned to a team based on their rank order as a result of the tryout(s) evaluation. The head coach of each team is assigned the number of players up to their roster size. The head coach may choose to swap any player within their assigned group of players with a player from the remaining pool of players who were evaluated at a tryout to complete their roster. The head coach should be prepared to justify their selection to the CYS Travel Committee for approval. If the coach requests to swap a 2nd player it will be up to the Travel Committee to approve. For example, if 30 players tryout for G3+4 and the Travel Committee determines that the league is going to consist of three teams of ten players, the coach selected to coach the top team is assigned the players who ranked 1-10 and he/she may select from any of the remaining players, who were evaluated at a tryout, to fill their roster. Dedicated goal keepers for G5+6, G7+8 and high school divisions are factored into the roster size and team selection process. Dedicated goal keepers are players who are committed to playing goal every game for the full game unless situations arise (e.g., lopsided score) when the head coach deems the dedicated goal keeper may play a field position.

If players have scheduling conflicts with their identified team's practice times, they may request to practice with another team within the same division.

VI. Division Determination

The travel director with coach(s)' input prepares the team's profile which is used to determine the division to play each season. The division determination may include if players are dual rostered (i.e., playing for CYS as well as club or premier team). The fall season allows for greater flexibility with the division determination. However, MAYSL has the final say in what division a team plays in the spring. The travel director and coach are involved in any negotiations if they wish to appeal MAYSL's division placement of a team.

VII. Feedback

All CYS coaches from G3+4 to high school provide each player with a short list of areas of strength and for improvement after each season of play. CYS is committed to their players and welcomes feedback through formal and informal means, the CYS president, or designee, facilitates an end of season survey.