

# CARLISLE AREA YOUTH SOCCER

## A Program of the Carlisle Family YMCA

### POLICIES & PROCEDURES – OVERALL

**MISSION:** The purpose of Carlisle Area Youth Soccer is to provide the youth of the Carlisle Area with a comprehensive soccer program, designed to help these children develop as individuals and as players, and to teach them sufficient soccer skills so that those interested can compete at the interscholastic level and beyond.

**VISION:** To accomplish its mission, Carlisle Area Youth Soccer will operate both recreational and travel soccer programs for as many age groups as possible. Through both the recreational and travel programs, the Association will endeavor to:

- Promote physical fitness;
- Teach age-appropriate soccer skills and tactics; and
- Encourage the participants to compete at the highest level appropriate within the organization.

The purpose of this document is to provide a general framework for the operation of the recreational and travel programs in a way that is consistent with the club's mission and vision. It is impossible to anticipate every issue that may arise. The CAYS Advisory Committee has the authority to resolve issues not addressed in these policies and procedures, using its best judgment, and to change this document as appropriate. CAYS encourages parents and coaches to read the Association's bylaws, which can be found on the YMCA's website at [www.carlislefamilymca.org](http://www.carlislefamilymca.org), and to read the additional materials regarding youth soccer on that website.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES – TRAVEL PROGRAM**

### **A. Goals**

1. To field as many teams as practical, for play at the highest possible competitive levels, in the Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League.
2. To prepare youth for interscholastic play by:
  - Using knowledgeable coaches and providing periodic training opportunities to the coaches;
  - Ensuring that the players are learning a high level of skills; and
  - Involving high school coaches in the program.

### **B. Tryouts and Team Selection**

Prior to tryouts for Fall travel soccer, CAYS will hold a mandatory meeting for all travel coaches and Advisory Committee members. The goal of this meeting is to encourage communication between coaches and to clearly define our clubs' goals for the upcoming season. This will be an opportunity for each coach to share insight about their team and their goals for the upcoming season.

To best serve our players who are participating in travel soccer, we most often place the players on teams of the appropriate age groups. We believe this approach is optimal for their development and success as players. It enables them to practice and play on age-appropriate sized fields and to compete against opponents of the same age and comparable skill levels. It also helps our teams to be successful both on and off the field. There are two occasions when players are placed on an older team:

- We may move a player with the hopes of a more challenging and competitive level to continue their specific progress, or;
  - A player may be moved when we are looking to create or combine a second team in a particular age group.
1. All players, returning and new, must earn a roster spot on a CAYS team by attending the mandatory club tryouts. Players who were rostered with a CAYS team in the spring are not guaranteed a CAYS team spot without a tryout.

2. Tryouts and team selection will be organized and managed by YMCA staff, with the support of the Advisory Committee.
3. Tryouts for the upcoming Fall and Spring seasons will be conducted during the Spring. If vacancies arise after the Fall season, the Program Supervisor, after consulting a team's coach, may organize tryouts for players who want to join a travel team roster for the Spring season.
4. The Advisory Committee will decide, based on pre-season signups, the age groups for which tryouts will be held.
5. The tryout for each age group will be based on the following procedures:
  - The Advisory Committee will establish the dates and times for the tryouts, which will last 1-1.5 hours for each age group. There will be a tryout on Sunday for all age groups, and two subsequent tryouts during the following week. Each participant is expected to attend the Sunday tryout, except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Advisory Committee. Each participant must attend two of the three tryouts.
  - The Program Supervisor will coordinate the drills and games for the tryouts with input from the Advisory Committee. Evaluators are required to give clear instructions for each drill or game.
  - Volunteer evaluators selected by the Advisory Committee will evaluate each participant using a scoring system developed by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will select the evaluators based on coaching and/or playing experience and knowledge of the game.
  - Coaches will not serve as evaluators for their own age groups during the Sunday tryout. Coaches will run the subsequent mid-week tryouts/practices.
6. The Advisory Committee will select the travel teams after the tryouts in accordance with the following procedure:
  - The Program Supervisor will collate the evaluator's scores.
  - Team selection will be based primarily on the collated scores, and, in the Advisory Committee's discretion, on the input of the team's past and present coaches.
  - Roster sizes will not exceed the limits imposed by CPYSL. Other factors used in determining roster sizes include: the coach's preference, playing time, and maximizing participation.

7. Subject to CPYSL's maximum age limitations, players may try out for the team of their choice, subject to Advisory Committee's approval. If they are currently rostered with a different CAYS team, they must communicate with both the head coach of the new team and their existing coach about the tryout.
8. If a player chooses to try out for more than one team, he or she must attend the Sunday tryout sessions for both teams.
9. Returning players who are currently playing up an age group can attend the tryouts for the team they are currently on.
10. If there is a returning player that is playing up an age group who wants to try out for their age appropriate team (and/or if their age appropriate team is or will be playing at a higher division), they should attend tryouts for their age appropriate team and their current team.
11. All returning players who are trying out for a team they aren't currently on must communicate this to their current coach and the YMCA Sports Staff.
12. All new players must attend the tryouts for their age appropriate team. They can also try out for an older team with permission from the YMCA Sports Staff.
13. After being selected for, and rostering with a travel team for a Fall season, a player is entitled to remain on the team's roster for the next Spring season. However, coaches are not permitted to ensure any player that he or she will be selected for a Fall roster.
14. A player can only be a Primary Player on one team. Under guidelines set forth by the CPYSL ([www.cpyssl.net](http://www.cpyssl.net)), a player may be eligible to serve as a Club Pass Player on another CAYS team. Players and coaches should communicate with each other when a player intends to play games with both their Primary and Club Pass Teams in a given weekend.
15. Because CAYS makes "cuts," accepting a roster spot on a traveling team constitutes a commitment by that player and the player's parents to regular attendance at the team's practices and games.
16. The club's Registrar, an employee of the YMCA, will be responsible for enrollment of teams in the CPYSL.

## **C. Coaches**

1. Coaches are strongly encouraged to develop their soccer knowledge by attending the semi-annual coaches' meetings and by exploring the online coaching resources provided by CAYS.
2. Coaches are required to comply with the Coaches Guidelines published by the CPYSL on [www.cpyssl.net](http://www.cpyssl.net). Coaches are expected to present complaints to CPYSL through the YMCA Sports Department.
3. The Club Registrar will inform coaches of upcoming training events.

## **D. Affiliation with CPYSL**

1. The travel program will be affiliated with CPYSL.
2. Coaches, team parents, players and the Advisory Committee will comply with the policies, rules, and regulations of CPYSL, and the club Registrar will manage compliance.

## **E. Out of Season Sessions and Tournaments**

1. Participation in out-of-season sessions and tournaments is at the discretion of the team coach; however, coaches are strongly encouraged to enroll their teams in at least one tournament each Fall and Spring season.
2. Coaches who enroll their teams in winter indoor sessions are required to invite all members of the current roster to participate in the sessions unless an exception to this policy is approved by the Advisory Committee for highly competitive indoor tournaments.
3. The Carlisle Family YMCA and the CAYS Advisory Committee do not have jurisdiction over what tournaments/clinics/trainings, etc. players choose to participate in that aren't affiliated with the Carlisle Family YMCA or the CPYSL.
4. Teams will bear the cost of tournament patches.

## **F. Playing Time**

The goal of the travel program is to foster a higher quality of soccer play for players (and parents) willing to commit to a more dedicated practice schedule, intense training session, and higher level within a competitive environment. Travel team players will receive appropriate playing time (in the coaches' judgment) throughout the season based on skill, attitude, improvement, practice ethic, and ability in game situations. Coaches have full support of the Advisory Committee when determining suitable playing time for each child with the intent to be around 50%. Travel coaches are encouraged to communicate their expectations to the players and parents prior to or during the pre-season schedule.