

HADDONFIELD SOCCER CLUB, INC.
TRAVEL PROGRAM, PHILOSOPHY, COMMITMENT, PARTICIPATION RULES AND PLAYER
EVALUATION SESSIONS
Updated: **September 2019**

This memo summarizes the Club's revised program, philosophy and rules for participation in Travel Soccer and Town Soccer.

HSC Mission Statement

The Haddonfield Soccer Club (HSC) is a private, non-profit organization serving the community of Haddonfield. Through both in-town and travel programs, HSC strives to deliver age-appropriate soccer development and promote growth in sportsmanship, team play and self-efficacy through competition. HSC is volunteer-led and designed to serve the needs of the Haddonfield community, first and foremost. HSC strives to provide every eligible child in Haddonfield with a chance for a positive and soccer experience.

Club Overview

The HSC provides recreation and travel soccer as follows:

- “Little Dawgs” is an introduction to soccer for children ages 3-4 in a group setting coached by a hired trainer
- “Squirts” is a continued introduction to soccer for kids ages 4-6 (through Kindergarten), divided into mixed ability teams coached by volunteer coaches (typically parents); there are no standings or scores in this league
- After Squirts, and dependent upon player interest, HSC offers recreation leagues (“Town Soccer”) as follows:
 - K/1st Grade: Boys and girls leagues designed for kids in Kindergarten and 1st grade; players are divided into mixed ability teams coached by volunteer coaches (typically parents); there are no standings or scores in this league
 - NOTE: we recognize the range of ages and ability levels among Kindergartners and allow them to play in either K/1 or in the Squirts program
 - 2nd/3rd Grade: Boys and girls leagues designed for kids in 2nd and 3rd grade; players are divided into mixed ability teams coached by volunteer coaches (typically parents); there are no standings or scores in this league
 - 4th/5th Grade: Dependent on 20 players and willing volunteer coaches, this program is designed for players who want to continue playing soccer in a “scrimmage” setting (co-ed)
- Starting at age 7 (depending on birth year) and through age 17 (depending on birth year), HSC offers a more competitive travel soccer program. See details in the “Travel Program Structure” section of this document.

Travel Program Overview

HSC offers a competitive travel soccer program, which is sanctioned by the South Jersey Soccer League (Boys), South Jersey Girls' Soccer League (Girls), and the Eastern Development Program (EDP). These leagues are governed by USClub Soccer and the United States Youth Soccer Association.

Travel Program Structure

The Haddonfield Soccer Club fields mixed ability or “balanced” teams in the U-8 thru U-9 age groups to provide an entry-point into the sport and encourage broad participation. HSC’s use of “balanced” teams in the U-8 and U9 age groups develops a pool of interested players at the ages of 7 and 8 years old and provides age-appropriate skill development. Teams in these age groups play 7 vs 7 on small-sided fields. Players in these age groups train together with the club’s professional trainer and with the team’s coach.

Beginning at the U-10 through U-17 age groups, the travel program shifts to a more competitive team environment entailing “professional evaluations” annually to build rosters out in an tiered format, based on ability (i.e., an A, B, etc. team). Players in these age groups are exposed to higher-level, age-appropriate skills and strategies. Teams in these age groups play 9 vs 9 and 11 vs. 11 per side on mid-size and regulation sized fields.

Travel Program Playing Time

Playing time is earned by performance, development, commitment and behavior/attitude and is determined by the team’s head coach; based upon his or her observations, as well as input from the team’s trainer and assistant coaches. On game day, the club encourages coaches to provide a fair amount of playing time to all players, but recognizes that all playing time does not have to be equal. HSC provides coaches with guidelines for playing time by age and by level of play. Still, at every age group, the intent is to have all willing players grow their soccer skills through significant in-game experience. Coaches are expected to comply with expectations for playing time as conveyed by the Director of Coaching and Training. Playing time may be diminished for players who are not committed to the program or are behavior problems at practices and/or games.

Evaluations and Player Placement

Player placement is determined by the Director of Training and Coaching and the Player Development Committee (PDC), based on information derived from three primary sources:

1. **FORMAL FALL AND SPRING (IF AVAILABLE) PERFORMANCE FEED-BACK** from the previous year’s head and assistant coaches (to be completed in writing and submitted to the PDC). NOTE: “Town Soccer” coaches do not submit formal feedback on players.
 - a. At the start of the season, Travel coaches are provided with the rubric and evaluation form on which players should be evaluated.
2. **PLAYER EVALUATION SCORECARD** from spring evaluation, based on the same rubric provided to coaches.
3. **FORMAL IN-SEASON TRAINING SESSION ASSESSMENT FROM ASSIGNED TRAINER**

Club teams are formed for each year in accordance and alignment with US Youth Soccer “Fall and Spring season” (August 1 to July 31). Except in extremely rare and extenuating circumstances, movement of a player or players from an “A” to a “B” team and from a “B” to an “A” team do not happen in-season. As well, this applies to a “balanced” team to another “balanced” team within the age group . Player

movement is determined by the PDC and is performed to provide appropriate player placement, participation and development.

Out Of Town Players

HSC fields travel teams primarily comprised of players who are residents of the Borough of Haddonfield or whom attend one of the many public and private schools in the Borough of Haddonfield (“residents” or “in-town players”). Out of town (“OOT”) players (defined as neither residing in nor attending a school in Haddonfield) can be considered for Travel teams. OOT players may be permitted to play on a Travel team under the following circumstances:

1. HSC may choose to recruit and are allowed to tryout players from outside of Haddonfield. Individual Teams and/or coaches may not recruit or tryout players from outside of Haddonfield without express Club approval, which may be withheld for any reason. The Club is not obligated to tryout or add OOT players. OOT players must attend tryouts held by the Club in the spring immediately preceding the applicable Fall Travel season.
2. Recruitment of OOT players, with prior approval of the HSC board, is permitted starting with U-12 teams, with limited exceptions, as explained further below. U-12 teams may add up to 2 OOT players to their rosters with Club approval.
3. U-13 and U-14 teams may carry up to three OOT players on their roster, subject to HSC board approval.
4. There is no limit to the number of OOT players permitted for the U-15 teams when additional players are needed to make a team viable.
5. If necessary to keep teams viable and to provide a place for Haddonfield residents to play in HSC, HSC may opt to recruit OOT players to complete the rosters of “B” Travel teams in the U-11 and up age groups when teams cannot be filled with residents of Haddonfield.
6. Subject to the restrictions stated above, an OOT player can replace a Haddonfield player on a travel team roster as long as there is a roster spot available for the Haddonfield player on a lower level travel team. For example, an OOT player can supplant a resident player from an A team only if there is a roster spot available for the resident player on the B team at that age group. Similarly, an OOT player can take a spot on a B team if there is an available spot for the supplanted resident player on the C team. An OOT player cannot take a roster spot on any team if doing so will cause a resident player to be without a roster spot on any team within an age group.

After completion of one full year of participation (a full Fall/Spring cycle) on an HSC Travel team, an OOT player will be considered in-town within the Club for purposes of player participation, retention and HSC status. This means that the player will no longer be subject to be removed for another in-town player, however said player will retain “OOT” status as it relates to the OOT roster player limit from U12-U14.

Travel Program Player Commitment

HSC travel teams participate in both Fall (August - November) and Spring (February - May) seasons within their respective leagues. Participation in the Spring is optional for all players; however, a player must declare if he or she is going to participate in Spring soccer at the time of registration (open in March of each year).

Generally, (SJGSL) games for girls are played on Saturday afternoons while (SJSL) games for boys are played on Sunday afternoons. Girls’ teams in the U-15 age group and above may play their games on Sundays as determined by the appropriate league. Teams that play in the EDP league may play games scheduled at their coach’s discretion. In addition, State and SJ Cup games can be played on any

day of the week as agreed upon between both teams and will have a “play by” date assigned in each round.

The South Jersey Soccer League and the South Jersey Girls’ Soccer League cover a geographic area ranging from Trenton, NJ to Cape May, NJ and across the width of the state. Teams playing in the EDP league or in the State and SJ Cup may find themselves playing all over the state of NJ and southeastern PA.

In addition to regular season play, each travel team and its players are encouraged to participate in at least one travel soccer tournament per Club calendar year (August - July). These tournaments are held on holiday weekends such as Labor Day (September), Columbus Day (October), Thanksgiving (November) and Memorial Day (May). Tournament play is usually scheduled over a two or three-day period. Teams may participate in both in-out-of-state tournaments, as sanctioned by either USClub Soccer or the United States Youth Soccer Association. The HSC does not pay for any tournaments, except for U9-U12 teams that participate in the HSC Kick-Off Classic (The Keith Schwabb Memorial Tournament).

Club players are expected to participate in at least two practices per week (one coach led and one trainer led) in the Fall and in at least one practice per week in the Spring. However, players who have a game or practice conflict with another Spring sport will be strongly encouraged to attend the Spring sport activity instead of soccer.

Travel team players are not required to participate in HSC’s Town Soccer programs but may participate in their age appropriate Town program at the discretion of the player and his/her parent(s).

Rules for Participation

- 1. PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION:** A player must be registered and paid (parent completes online registration form and makes payment of appropriate fee) or make approved arrangements for payment with the HSC board to participate in any HSC sanctioned travel program. Receipt of payment after the close of registration does not guarantee participation or placement on any travel team. Any player participating without payment of proper fees may be suspended until HSC receives payment of all fees and charges. It is possible that placement may be lost as a result of non or late payment.
- 2. AGE/BIRTH YEAR:** Club teams are formed based on a player's birth year as set out by US Soccer. Accordingly, the date range for each age group is January 1st through December 31st. Players are not permitted to play in an age group other than the age group for his or her birth year. There may be rare circumstances where a player is permitted to play up a birth year as determined in a case by case basis by the PDC. These may occur for whole team viability or player inclusion in the club whereby in age group options are not available
- 3. EVALUATION SESSIONS:** HSC is not required to accept a registration and payment for any player who will not be able to attend player evaluation sessions held in March and April.
 - a. However, there may be extreme circumstances in which a new player cannot attend the evaluation sessions (injury, illness, absent etc.). The PDC will evaluate each of these cases independently.
- 4. SPRING ONLY PLAY:** HSC will also allow players to register to play Spring Only subject to the following:

- a. Players will be added on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - b. Players will be assigned to teams based upon the player's skill level, and only after consultation with the team's head coach, former coach, prior evaluation or current PDC evaluation.
 - c. A late arriving player may be evaluated and placed on the proper team according to his/her skill level assuming that team has room for the player on the current roster. This can only happen when space available exists and therefore does not force an existing player down to the next team.
 - d. Players may be added until the club roster limits have been met.
5. **INJURY:** A player who is determined to be injured prior to, or in the midst of the season, and cannot participate in HSC training and evaluation will not lose placement on his/her current Travel team, solely as a result of the injury. If the player is injured prior to evaluations, the PDC will utilize the latest and most recent evaluation information (Coach, prior PDC) to assist in placing that player on a team that best suits their ability.

Player Evaluation Sessions and Team Selection: U-8 thru U-9 Age Groups

1. Potential participants in these 'birth age' groups will participate in player evaluation sessions to be held in March and/or April of the spring prior to the start of the fall season. Location and times will be noted on the club's website 'www.haddonfieldsoccer.org'. Each player should report to his/her noted session 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to record attendance and receive session number.
2. To be considered for travel team participation, a player must attend at least one evaluation session.
 - a. If a player does not attend at least one session (unless excused by the PDC), he or she will not be placed on a travel team unless there is a roster position available on the lowest level team at that age group. A player who is determined to be injured and cannot participate in HSC evaluation sessions will not lose placement within the age group. However, all injury excuses must be discussed AND submitted in writing via email to the PDC prior to the start of evaluations.
3. HSC will provide professional evaluators for the age group who will evaluate each player in these sessions in line with a rubric used for all age groups.
4. The PDC will create a team roster from registered and evaluated players within a 'birth year' age group. The targeted roster sizes are as follows, with no guaranteed participation beyond the max players per team in these age groups:
 - a. 7v7 (U8-U10) age groups: minimum of 9 players, maximum of 14 players per team
 - b. 9v9 (U11-U12): minimum of 11 players, maximum of 16 players per team
5. A second team will not be created if there are less than 18 (7v7) or 22 (9v9) players registered to play by June 30th. It is not the Club's responsibility to find additional players to field a second team.
6. Team rosters will be posted on the Club's website in June of each year. PLEASE NOTE – ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAID AFTER JUNE 1. Should a player decide that they do not want to play for HSC, this MUST BE COMMUNICATED IN WRITING to PDC before rosters are posted.

Player Evaluation Sessions and Team Selection: U-10/U-11/U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16 Age Groups

1. Potential participants in these ‘birth age’ groups will participate in player evaluation sessions to be held in March and/or April of the spring prior to the start of the fall season. Location and times will be noted on the club’s website ‘www.haddonfieldsoccer.org’. Each player should report to his/her noted session 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to record attendance and receive session number.
2. To be considered for travel team participation, a player must attend at least one evaluation session.
 - b. If a player does not attend at least one session (unless excused by the PDC), he or she will not be placed on a travel team unless there is a roster position available on the lowest level team at that age group. A player who is determined to be injured and cannot participate in HSC evaluation sessions will not lose placement within the age group. However, all injury excuses must be discussed AND submitted in writing via email to the PDC prior to the start of evaluations.
7. HSC will provide professional evaluators for the age group who will evaluate each player in these sessions in line with a rubric used for all age groups.
8. The PDC will create a team roster from registered and evaluated players within a ‘birth year’ age group. The targeted roster sizes are as follows, with no guaranteed participation beyond the max players per team in these age groups:
 - c. 11v11 (U13-U17) age groups: minimum of 13 players, maximum of 18 players per team
 - d. 9v9 (U11-U12): minimum of 11 players, maximum of 16 players rostered per team .
 - e. 7v7 (U10): minimum of 9 players, maximum of 14 players rostered per team.
9. There is no guarantee of a spot on a team beyond the 18 rostered players.
10. A second team will not be created if there are less than 26 players registered to play by June 30th. It is not the Club’s responsibility to find additional players to field any additional teams in an age group. Minimum of 12 players registered as ‘fall/spring’ players with balance comprised of highest ranked players chosen strictly through the evaluation criteria.
11. Team rosters will be posted on the Club’s website in June of each year. PLEASE NOTE – ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAID AFTER JUNE 1. Should a player decide that they do not want to play for HSC, this MUST BE COMMUNICATED IN WRITING to PDC before rosters are posted.

New Haddonfield Residents

- For new players moving to town after completion of tryouts (but before rosters are posted): The player is to be evaluated by a trainer of the age group who, along with PDC, determines proper placement of player.
- Player will then be placed on a roster with matching skill level assuming that roster has space available and the move will not force an existing player down a level.

Coach Training – All Age Groups

First-time travel coaches will be required to attend a pre-season meeting, at which time the importance of team culture, coach/trainer interaction and youth player development concepts will be discussed.

Travel Team Placement Within Travel Leagues

- The Club PDC will make recommendations to the respective travel leagues for proper flight placement of our teams within each league. This will reduce travel league conflicts due to HSC’s philosophy of ‘balanced’ teams at U8 and U9 (not consistent with SJSL and SJGSL power rankings) and the evaluation of a team’s potential compared to its actual ability.

- PDC reviews the rosters of the newly created club teams and asks for suggestions regarding division placement in the respective travel league from any applicable trainers and coaches.
- PDC reviews this information and makes recommendation to Girls/Boys Travel Reps for placement of teams with the following considerations:
 - U-8 and U-9: Club's philosophy of 'balanced' teams at these three ages conflicts with SJSL and SJGSL 'power' rankings, and thus HSC will seek conservative placement of these teams.
 - U-10: As HSC's travel philosophy changes from 'balanced' to 'competitive' (A-B) teams, placement of teams will also be based on conservative recommendations to continue development of players.
 - U-11 and up: HSC will make recommendations for specific team placement based on evaluation of players and team skill and ability with input from trainers and coaches.

Parents

- Parents are expected to read the HSC travel policy for his/her child's participation in the Club's Travel Soccer Program. The rules can be found on the Club's website:
<http://www.haddonfieldsoccer.org>.
- All HSC parents are expected to read and comply with the USYS Code of Conduct. This can be downloaded from the following address:
http://www.sjssl.org/images/USYS_code_con-duct_spectators.pdf
- Any parent determined to create an issue through disruptive or disrespectful behavior will be asked to attend a meeting with the HSC board.
- Upon resolution, HSC can terminate the participation of all children of the parent at HSC's discretion. An appropriate refund of fees will be provided to the parent upon termination. Future participation may be prohibited at the discretion of the HSC board.