

Jefferson Kiwanis Youth Soccer Club

Travel Division

I. Purpose

The role of the travel soccer program is to help Jefferson Kiwanis Youth Soccer Club to create a diverse soccer program that supports all players in achieving their maximum potential.

To accomplish this mission, we seek to:

- Provide a high quality competitive soccer program for boys & girls growing up in the Jefferson County Area.
- Create an environment where every player is provided the opportunity to be the best.
- Use the game of soccer to teach life lessons that will make Jeff. Co. children better people as well as better soccer players.

II. Structure

The travel program will field soccer teams in PA West. All teams will be under the direction of the Director of Travel. U-12 to U-19 teams will have a maximum of 16 players. The teams will be known as Jefferson Kiwanis United.

III. Positions

The following positions have been established to provide leadership and direction for the travel program:

A. Director of Travel

A Director of Travel who will be responsible to the JKYSC Board of Directors on all matters relating to this division will manage the travel soccer program. The director will make all day-to-day and longer -term decisions with the assistance of an advisory board. This person must have at least five years coaching experience and have a full understanding of competitive soccer in Jefferson Co.

B. Advisory Board

The advisory board will consist of three to five members nominated by the Director of Travel and approved by the Board of Directors. Advisory board members must have a solid understanding of travel soccer and how it relates to and differs from recreational and premier soccer. The role of the advisory board is to (1) provide advice and counsel to the director of travel and (2) to help the Director of Travel make head coaching appointments.

C. League Representatives

The travel program will compete in PA West. Two league representatives, who will be appointed by the Director of Travel, will be responsible for player & team registration, team scheduling, field assignments and serving as the liaison between the league and PA West.

D. Director of Coaching

A high school head varsity soccer coach may serve as the organization's director of coaching. In this role, he will (1) provide advice and counsel on soccer matters and (2) work directly with the coaching staff.

E. Coaches

The Director of Travel, subject to the approval of the JKYSC Board of Directors, will make coaching assignments. All coaches must have at least a USSF "E" license (or equivalent) or higher and be Kidsafe certified by the State every two years. All coaches serve at the will of the

Board of Directors and the Director of Travel for a period of one-year (spring). Coaching assignments will be made on the candidate's ability to prove that he or she has:

- A solid understanding of the game as a player and/or coach
- A proven track record of success coaching kids
- Agrees with the goals, rules and philosophy of the JKYSC
- The ability to serve as a proper role model for the players

F. Team Managers

Selected by the coach, the team manager will be responsible for disseminating information from the coaches or league, as well as the collection of all player dues and fees. It is recommended that team managers attend coaches' meetings to stay current with all issues.

IV. Policies

The following policies have been established to deal with certain questions and situations that affect the manner in which the organization runs day to day:

A. Commitment

When a player accepts a position on a travel team, the commitment is for the spring season. This commitment includes attending all practices, league games and tournaments that the team decides to participate in during that soccer year. Parental support to insist that their sons or daughters live up to this commitment is not only expected, but also required. The policy of this program is to encourage players to play other sports besides just soccer. Toward this end, coaches will do everything possible to work out scheduling conflicts with players to enable them to play other sports and participate in non-athletic activities. The Director of Travel will mediate conflicts that cannot be worked out between the parents, player and the coaching staff.

B. Playing Up

Our policy is that all players must play in their proper age group. The proper age group will be determined by the player's date of birth in relation to the USYSA age grouping; and the player's grade in school. In general, a player's proper age will be that group with whom he will attend high school. The Director of Travel will have the final authority for granting any requests for a player to play in an older age group. Requests will, however, be considered for playing an entire team up an age group if the competition in that team's age group is not sufficient to challenge the players.

C. Teams

Teams will be formed for the U-12 through U-14 age groups. All teams, where applicable, must be formed in the spring season, in accordance with Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines. Teams will be formed based on the availability of talent and coaching.

D. Tryouts and Team Assignments

Team Assignments will be determined by the Director of Travel. Travel players will be selected annually from the registration process. If the number of sign-ups is greater than the maximum roster, having open try-outs will be used to determine placement on a team. Try-out procedures will consist of objective and subjective measurements as defined by the Director of Travel. Once try-outs and registration are completed, the Director of Travel will fill any openings that still exist (or those that develop later). Players will be notified if they have been selected for a team within 10 days of the tryouts. Tryout results will not be made public. The Director of Travel soccer will place players who move into the community after tryouts on the appropriate travel team, when possible.

E. Fees

The travel program will be self-funded. Fees will be paid to JKYSC every season and kept in the JKYSC checking account. The fees for participation in the travel program will be determined annually by the director of travel, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Families will be billed in advance of each season and fees must be paid in full by the first game of the season or player will not be allowed to participate until payment in full is received.

F. Playing Time

Playing time is not guaranteed. Each player based on his skills, abilities, attitude, coach-a-ability, and work ethic earns it. In general, players should expect to play a minimum of 30% of the game, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Also, the policy of this organization is that the penalty for missing practices is not necessarily being benched for the next game. The real penalty for missing practices is that the other players on the team who are attending and working hard at practices will eventually become better players than those missing practices and therefore get more playing time accordingly.

G. Uniforms

All players must wear the approved uniform. The Director of Travel will determine any changes to the uniforms worn by teams in the travel program. The team's second jersey will be a tee shirt.

H. Tournaments

All travel teams are encouraged to play in one or two tournaments. The coaching staff and the director of travel will select all tournaments, based on the level of competition expected at the tournament and the level of play being exhibited by individual teams.