

# **Kings Park Soccer Club Travel & Tournament Team Guidelines**

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## Section 1 Travel Guidelines

### 1- 1 Mission

To create the most competitive teams possible in the travel divisions, and to create a level of competition aimed at maximum development of the player skills.

This Section is intended to cover any KPSC team participating in a sanctioned league (e.g. LIJSL, SSI, etc.)

### 1- 2 Coach Selection and Qualifications

Travel coaches should whenever possible be selected from within the club itself. Travel coaches should have a minimum of 4 years coaching experience, preferably with at least two years inter-league experience or prior travel experience. Travel coaches should possess the minimum coaching requirements as outlined in the KPSC Coaching Requirements Policy or be committed to acquire the appropriate license within the season year. Successful completion of a referee-licensing course will be considered a plus. All positions for travel coaches should be advertised 30 days in advance of team selection and applications should be submitted to the travel committee by posted deadline for review. Coaches deemed qualified should be presented to the entire board for ultimate approval. Any changes of coaches for existing teams should be brought before the committee for their approval and ultimate approval by the entire board.

It is preferred that travel coaches limit their coaching endeavors to their travel soccer team, during the season and not divide their time among various other sports or teams. It is strongly discouraged to allow an individual coach to be the head coach for more than one team at the travel level. However, travel coaches will be permitted to be an assistant on another travel team or a head coach on an intramural program.

It is expected that the selected travel coach will schedule and conduct at least 2 practice sessions per week during the regular season and frequent practice sessions during the off-seasons so as to improve the overall soccer skills of the players on his/her team. *The only exception to this will be during the fall season, for teams with players participating in school soccer.* Practices for these teams should be limited to once a week. Further, travel coaches are strongly encouraged to take their teams to at least 2 – 3 Travel Tournaments during the course of the year.

**\*\* Note: Please refer to Appendix C for the Tournament Participation Guidelines**

### 1- 3 Player Selection

Selection of players to travel teams should be conducted through open tryouts. The tryout should be advertised throughout the club well in advance of the tryout date. Only players willing to commit to play both the Fall and the Spring seasons will be considered.

It is strongly recommended by the KPSC that the best players at a given age level should play at their own age level (Refer to Appendix A). No player will be allowed to play up two age groups. The only player guaranteed a place on any existing team is the child of the selected travel team head coach. Please refer to Section 1-4 "The Tryout" of these Guidelines for full details on tryout procedures.

Players desiring to play up one age group, will be required to tryout and place in the top half of the starting field players line up or, with the approval of the Travel Committee, a goalkeeper for the "A" team in the older age division (i.e., if the team that they try out for plays in a 9 v 9 format, then they will need to place in the top 4 players of the tryout). **Established teams not in compliance with this guideline, prior to January 1, 2010, will be allowed to keep those players already on the team roster, but will be expected to adhere to this guideline with respect to future player acquisitions. Once a player has made a travel team, via, a previous tryout, and this player is playing in a older age group; this player is grandfathered in all subsequent years on that team.**

**(Note:** Exceptions to this guideline will only be permitted for U16 and above. The Travel Committee's emphasis is to have the players playing in their own age group as per Appendix A.)

**\*\*\*It is required that any player desiring to play up one age group also try out for their appropriate age group so that they maximize their opportunity to be selected for a team.\*\***

The players attaining the highest scores from the evaluation committee during tryouts are to be placed on the respective teams. The Independent Evaluator, Chair and Co-chair of the Travel Committee will meet with the appointed head coach to review and receive input on the final roster. The Club reserves the right to assign or re-assign players to a specific team. The Travel Committee's decision is binding. It is recommended that the final roster should have one to two players over the required minimum.

#### **1-4 The Tryout**

Every KPSC Travel Team will be required to hold an open tryout annually by no later than 15 days prior to the registration deadline of the LIJSL. For Travel Teams fielding a team in the Fall Season the final date for tryouts will be no later than June 30; for Travel Teams fielding a team in only the Spring Season the final date for tryouts will be no later than December 31.

Open tryouts will be advertised well in advance of the tryout date and will be scheduled through the KPSC Travel Chairperson/Committee; preferably in age order with older teams holding their open tryouts at the earliest possible date allowed by LIJSL Guidelines.

Open tryouts for any new Travel Teams, Pre-Travel Teams and Tournament Teams will be conducted by either the KPSC Travel Committee or an independent evaluation company selected by the KPSC Travel Committee and the KPSC Board of Directors. If tryouts are conducted by the KPSC Travel Committee, every participant at the tryout will be assigned a number. Only the master sign-in sheet will feature the participant's name and number. Only the player's number will be utilized in scoring their performance at the tryout. Roster(s) for all travel teams will be approved by the KPSC Travel Committee. Teams will be established based upon "A team"/"B team" scenarios.

Existing Travel Teams may conduct their own open tryouts; however, it is strongly recommended that all Travel Teams utilize the services of independent evaluators (such as their Trainers) or independent evaluation companies that have been approved by the KPSC Travel Committee and the KPSC Board of Directors. The cost of this will be borne by the individual travel teams.

Only players attending a Club sanctioned tryout, approved by the Travel Committee and/or the KPSC Board of Directors, for their specific age group, will be eligible to be placed a team roster.

The tryout evaluators will compile the results of the individual tryouts and select Travel Teams based on the scores attained by the players in attendance at the specific tryout. Kings Park players are to be given preference in this selection process as per the guidelines established by the KPSC Travel Committee. These guidelines can be reviewed in Appendix B.

#### **1- 5 Notification**

The final roster will be turned over to the selected coach. Only the coach will notify those players selected. All players not making the team will be notified by the chair and co-chair.

Results of the tryout will be made available for the players and parents within 48 Hours of the session(s).

#### **1- 6 Roster Changes**

Roster changes can only be made at the end of the playing season. The only reasons for midseason changes are: injury, illness, player resignation, and players moving out of the area. If other midseason changes are required, the Coach of this team must contact the Travel Chairperson to review this request. Team rosters, whenever possible, should remain stable throughout the year. A new and full tryout for new players will be held at the end of each Spring season. In accordance with LIJSL rules, open roster spots can be filled up until the 6th game of the season.

#### **1- 7 Player Poaching**

Any attempt by a coach (or team parents or players) to persuade a player from any other Travel Team (including Kings Park Travel Teams) to join another team is strictly prohibited. Coaches (or team parents or players) suspected to be engaging in this type of behavior will be investigated by the Arbitration Committee and dealt with accordingly.

**1- 8 Selection of New Players for Existing Teams**

If existing teams are looking to “add” players, openings should be advertised via widely distributed flyer(s) or local publication(s) well in advance of tryout process. A Travel Committee member should be present at any tryout of new players. Kings Park Soccer Club should be given preference as per defined in Appendix B.

**1- 9 Red Cards**

The head coach is responsible for the conduct of the parents and spectators. All red cards should be brought to the Arbitration Committee for proper hearing and required action. This is in addition to any action(s) by LIJSL or other sanctioned league. Any party involved with the issuing of a red card may be called to hearing.

**1-10 Coaching Changes**

The KPSC Travel Committee has the right to replace any existing travel team head coach for any cause. Typical examples of cause include violations of any portion of this Guideline, the KPSC Coaching Requirements Policy or KPSC By-laws.

## **Section 2 Tournament Team Guidelines**

### **2 - 1 Mission**

To create the most competitive Tournament Team(s) possible and to create a level of competition aimed at maximum development of player skills, while preparing these teams for the future Travel Divisions.

### **2 - 2 Tournament Team Defined**

Tournament Teams can be established annually at the U7-U8 age level. The objective will be to establish 1-2 Boys & Girls Tournament Teams, based on the commitment and the availability of the coaches and players in the age group. If (2) individual teams within the same gender are established, the players will be distributed equally by their skill level. The teams will be established by August 1st of each year. The teams will be expected to participate in 6 – 8 ENSYAA sanctioned tournaments annually; the mandate is that they participate in 6 tournaments. Each individual team will roster 13 players with most tournaments being played in 7v7 format. All players on the roster are expected to play 50% of a game.

All players selected for the Tournament Team are also expected to participate within the Intramural Program. Tournaments will be selected, ensuring that there will not be any conflicts with regularly scheduled KPSC games or practices. All Tournament fees and expenses are solely the responsibility of the team and its participants.

Younger teams wishing to participate in tournaments will be allowed to do so. The coach will attempt to limit the player selection to their current in house roster for that team. If additional players are still required, the coach can attempt to fill their roster requirements by acquiring players from other teams within that age group. The coach of the requesting team must inform the age group coordinator or the travel coordinator with their intent to use guest players. The acquisition of additional players should be conducted with strict adherence to our “Guest Player Policy”. Tournament participation should not interfere with regularly scheduled KPSC games or practices.

**\*\* Note: Please refer to Appendix C for the Tournament Participation Guidelines**

### **2 - 3 Coach Selection and Qualifications**

All coaches desiring to coach Tournament Teams must submit a resume of their coaching qualifications to the KPSC Travel Committee. Candidates should possess coaching credentials in accordance with KPSC Coaching Requirement Policy or be committed to obtain the appropriate license(s) within the seasonal year. The committee will review all qualified candidates and choose the individual(s) most qualified for the position(s).

### **2 - 4 Player Qualifications and Selection**

All players must be 6 years of age prior to August 1st of the seasonal year. Players who turn 6 between August 1st and December 31st are also eligible. However, they must place in the top 51% in the evaluation process. Participation on a Tournament Team is limited to Kings Park players only as defined in Appendix B.

Player selection will be based on the player’s end of season “Coaches Rating”. Based on the rating, the players will be invited for a formal evaluation, where the roster(s) will be determined. All players are eligible for selection to a tournament team. When possible, multiple, balanced teams will be established. When multiple teams are not possible, the selected coach shall establish a roster rotation allowing all players as equal playing time as possible.

No player shall be allowed to play outside of their appropriate age group (i.e. no “playing up”). The only exception will be with the approval of the Travel Committee for the sole purpose of formation of a team. If a player is allowed to “play up”, this will be permitted for 1 year (fall & spring) only, after which the player will be placed back into their appropriate age group. No “grandfathering” will be permitted.

Selection to the team only guarantees a slot on the team for one seasonal year. Players will be evaluated again at the beginning of each seasonal year. Likewise, selection of a player or coach to a Tournament Team does not guarantee a selection on a Travel team.

## **2 - 5 The Evaluation**

Every participant will be assigned a number. Only the master sign in sheet will feature the participant's name and number. Only the player's number will be utilized at each individual station for scoring. Stations are to be created for each individual (skill) area of evaluation.

Evaluators will be placed at each station with the players being evenly distributed throughout the stations. After the participant's have completed performing at a particular skill station and have received a score 1-5 (with 5 being highest), they will be rotated to the next skill station. At the end of the session, all stations will turn their sheets into the committee chair and co-chair. The KPSC Travel Committee Chair and Co-Chair will compile the data and select the team(s) based on the scores submitted.

## **2 - 6 Notification**

The final roster will be turned over to the selected coach. Only the coach will notify those players selected. All players not making the team will be notified by the chair and co-chair as soon as possible. Results of the tryout will be made available for the players and parents within 48 Hours of the session(s).

## **Section 3 KPSC Guest Player Policy**

### **3-1 Guest Player Policy**

In an effort to avoid any misunderstandings regarding "Guest Players", the KPSC has adopted the following guidelines:

1. It is suggested that no player from any KPSC Travel Team will be permitted to participate as a "Guest Player" for any other team in any tournament during the regular season or for the 2 weeks prior to the start of a regular season. The individual coaches will be given the discretion of granting exceptions to the in season policy. However, all exceptions must still comply with the remainder of the policy as outlined in section 2a – 2e of this Guideline. The requesting coach is also responsible for apprising the age group coordinator or the travel coordinator of their intent to use guest players.
2. Players from the KPSC will only be allowed to participate as "Guest Players" at tournaments held between the end of a regular season and 2 weeks prior to the start of a regular season if, and only if:
  - a. Their own KPSC Travel Team is not participating in a conflicting tournament or event.
  - b. The Coach of the "Host" team contacts the Coach of the "Guest Player", personally, at least 14 days in advance of the tournament sign up deadline to discuss the request for a "Guest Player". The only exception will be in the case of injury to replace a player that was committed to the tournament
  - c. The Guest Player is not playing up more than one year in accordance to the LI Junior Soccer League age groupings.
  - d. The Travel Committee Coordinator for the KPSC is advised of the request for the "Guest Player".
  - e. The appropriate Guest Player paperwork is completed and approved by the KPSC Travel Registrar or the Club President.
3. The KPSC will only accept "Guest Players" under the same circumstances as outlined above.
4. Any Coach, Player or Parent who ignores these guidelines will be brought before the Arbitration Committee of the Kings Park Soccer Club for possible disciplinary action.

**Appendix A - Date ranges for each age group are as follows:**

Visit <http://kpsc.org/news.html> for current ages of all Travel Teams.

**Appendix B - Kings Park Player Definition and Eligibility**

1. Travel Teams and Pre-Travel Teams must consist of a majority (minimum percentage requirement) of players with any of the following requirements:

- a. Played four seasons for the Kings Park Soccer Club.
- b. Lives within the Kings Park School District.
- c. Has a Kings Park address.

2. The minimum percentage requirement varies by age group. The breakdown is as follows:

- a. U9 and below 100% - Non-residents accepted only if open roster spots remain
- b. U10 50%
- c. U11 50%
- d. U12 50%
- e. U13 25%
- f. U14 25%
- g. U15 and above 0%

**Appendix C - Tournament Participation Guidelines**

- All tournaments must be sanctioned by ENYYSA.
- Strict compliance with the KPSC Guest Player Policy is mandated.
- Player participation should not interfere with In-House Teams games or practices.
- Email notification to the age group coordinator\* and Travel Committee of your intent to participate.

Notification should include:

- Specifics of the tournament. (When & Where)
- Player Roster of who will be attending. (Must indicate any Guest Players)

- Permission to Travel forms will need to be completed if traveling outside the physical boundaries of Eastern New York or the country. (Forms available from the Travel Coordinator)

\* Age Group Coordinators Email Addresses:

**U5 email: [u5@kpsc.org](mailto:u5@kpsc.org)**

**U6 email: [u6@kpsc.org](mailto:u6@kpsc.org)**

**U7 email: [u7@kpsc.org](mailto:u7@kpsc.org)**

**U9 email: [u9@kpsc.org](mailto:u9@kpsc.org)**

**Interleague email: [interleague@kpsc.org](mailto:interleague@kpsc.org)**

**Travel Committee email: [travel@kpsc.org](mailto:travel@kpsc.org)**

**Appendix Z - Exceptions to the Travel Guidelines**

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Any policy contained herein may be appealed first to the Travel Committee, and then the KPSC Board of Directors. The decision of the Travel Committee and the KPSC Board of Directors in any appeal is binding.