

BASA COMPETITIVE AND TRAVEL SOCCER GUIDELINES

June 17, 2024

Competitive and Travel soccer is a higher level of play than found in the in-house program. BASA expects registered Competitive Travel teams to play in PA West Division that best benefits the players and team. Parents should understand that registering a child for Competitive and Travel soccer does not guarantee that they will be placed on a team. Rosters will be developed using the registration criteria contained in these guidelines. Attendance at all practices and games is expected. Competitive and Travel teams usually practice at least twice a week and play games on Sunday afternoons. By registering, parents are committing their child to this schedule.

Definitions:

Board – the Blackhawk Area Soccer Association (BASA) Board of Directors.

Coaching Committee – the coaching committee consists of the Coaching Director, Travel Coordinator, In-House Coordinator, and Referee Coordinator.

Excused Absence – a player may be excused from practices and games due to injury, illness, school related activities, or any other legitimate reason as defined by the coach and Board.

Good Standing – any soccer player who has no history of unexcused absences or tardiness at practices and/or games in previous seasons or has shown no other behavior that was determined detrimental to the team. A player must have one season of in-house soccer experience to determine good standing. It may be determined during a playing session that a player's absences, tardiness, or conduct is detrimental to the team, the Coaching Committee may determine that the player is no longer in good standing and remove the player from the travel team's roster during the playing session.

Moving Up – any soccer player wants to move to the next level of play as defined by the PA West Age Matrix.

PA West Divisions

- Classic / Competitive = division 1, 2, 3 – may have try outs or skill demonstration and no playing time requirements
- Competitive = division 4 – club may have tryouts or skill demonstration and no playing time requirements
- Travel = division 5 and 6 – may have try outs and skill demonstration, playing time requirements for only U12 and lower age brackets

Playing Season – August 1st of one calendar year through July 31st of the following year, includes fall and spring.

Playing Session – the period of play for either fall or spring, not both.

Playing Up – any soccer player who based on experience, talent, ability and skill, or lack of players to roster a team in his/her age bracket who moves to an older age bracket.

Travel Players – a player who is rostered with PA West to play travel soccer.

Same Team – equals more than 50% of the original roster from the previous travel session

Registration Criteria:

The Board has determined that the following criteria will be used to roster travel teams. Each criterion is dependent upon the player being in good standing and has registered by the last registration date posted for the upcoming session.

The one season of in-house soccer experience requirement may be waived by participating in a skill demonstration for the Coach and Coaching Committee, to determine that the player has the skills to compete at this level.

PA West Classic and Competitive Divisions:

Tryouts or skill demonstrations to qualify a player for this division may be required if deemed necessary by the Board.

All players playing in Classic and Competitive divisions are not guaranteed equal playing time.

If there are enough players to roster more than one team for an age group, skill demonstrations may be held to determine which players to place on those teams. The teams may be split according to skill, and when possible, will play in different skill appropriate divisions.

PA West Travel Divisions:

Tryouts or skill demonstrations to qualify a player for this division may be required if deemed necessary by the Board.

All efforts will be made for all players playing U12 and lower in Travel divisions to play one half of each game except for absence, injury, illness, or discipline problem.

If there are enough players to roster more than one team for an age group, skill demonstrations may be held to determine which players to place on those teams. The teams may be split according to skill, and when possible, will play in different skill appropriate divisions.

Rosters shall be determined as early as possible to give players who may not get onto a team adequate time to find another club.

Attendance in all Divisions:

Attendance at all practices and games is expected. Failure to attend practice or games for other than legitimate reasons as defined by the Coach and Board may result in lost playing time for disciplinary reasons.

Chronic absences and/or tardiness from practices and games will be brought to the attention of the Board as soon as possible and before the end of the session that the chronic absences occurred. Chronic absences or tardiness may result in a loss of good standing with the association which will have an impact on future travel registrations.

Conduct Detrimental to the Team:

It may be determined by the Coaching Committee during a playing session, that a player's conduct, absences, or tardiness from practices and/or games is detrimental to the team. At BASA, we are committed to creating an environment that enables our players to grow their love for the game of soccer and their skills. Our players are expected to attend practice and games on time with the appropriate soccer equipment (cleats, shin guards, soccer socks) to compete in a safe manner.

Playing Up:

Players shall play within their age group as defined by PA West.

BASA provides for the following exceptions in allowing U12 players and older to play beyond their own age-group. The Travel Coordinator and Coaching Committee will use the following criteria to make this determination:

- It is in the best interest of the player.
- In order to facilitate team formation.
- Written parental consent and BASA Board approval is required to move one age-group beyond their own.

To Determine age group, please see the PA West age matrix below (Season - Fall and Spring of those years listed)

Season	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Birth Year							
2020							U5
2019						U5	U6
2018					U5	U6	U7
2017				U5	U6	U7	U8
2016			U5	U6	U7	U8	U9
2015		U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U18	U19					
2000	U19						

Late Registration:

Players who register late will be placed on a team if there is room after everyone else is rostered including those players playing up.

Travel Tournaments:

Travel Tournaments are an additional opportunity for players to compete and create lasting memories. While attendance in these tournaments is not mandatory, these opportunities provide our players with additional opportunities to play in competitive environments. We believe that these tournaments are excellent experiences that further cultivate our teams and the culture of the organization.

Past Travel Tournaments Include:

- Plum Kick-Off Classic (Typically Last Weekend in August)
- Arrowhead Tournament – Peters Township (Second Weekend in June)
- PA West Open – Edinboro (Third or Fourth Weekend in June depending on Age Group)

BASA has been committed to providing the registration fee for one tournament for the same team in one playing season (August – July). Playing time in tournaments will be at the coach's discretion to enable the team to be competitive and successful.

If BASA is not able to fill a full tournament roster for a team, coaches may seek transfer players (at the Coaching Committee's discretion) from other clubs to provide an adequate roster to provide a safe and competitive environment for the team. Transfer players will be required to pay their portion of the tournament registration fee based on the team's roster size.

Players from Other Clubs:

Article 1.2 of BASA Constitution "The territory designated as BASA will include the Blackhawk Area School District, the area defined as the 15010 zip code, and any surrounding districts which are not then represented by any soccer organization officially recognized by PA West."

In accordance to PA West Youth Rules, recruitment of players from outside their normal geographic area by a coach, player, parent, administrator, or club/team representative is considered recruiting. BASA will protect itself from potential disciplinary actions from PA West by vetting players from outside the defined BASA territory prior to finalizing the travel rosters through a BASA Board vote.

Travel Coaches:

Anyone wishing to coach a travel team must submit their interest through the registration page for the playing session. A coaching resume may be requested by the Coaching Director. Any items (resume, licenses, clearances, and SafeSport Certification) must be received by the date established by the Board. Coaches are not guaranteed to keep their positions through both fall and spring seasons and may be replaced as recommended by the Coaching Committee. All coaching candidate names will be submitted by the Coaching Committee to the full BASA Board for final approval before rosters are finalized.

Travel Uniforms:

If a travel team is to use a different uniform other than the BASA uniform, the uniforms must be approved by the board and be within the PA West uniform rules.

Travel Practice and Games:

Only approved fields by BASA for all travel activities may be used. Any game or make up game from the regular schedule or friendly games with clubs that use the same field during the regular season are considered approved by BASA. All scheduled games are to be played in accordance with PA West Youth Rules.