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P.O. Box 415 Belden Station  
Norwalk, CT 06852

## **POLICY REGARDING TRAVEL TEAMS**

*Revised July 2014*

The Executive Board of the Norwalk Junior Soccer Association (“NJSA”) has adopted the policy set forth below for all NJSA-sponsored teams which participate in Travel, Rec-Plus and Premier league (collectively “Travel Teams”).

1. All Travel Teams shall be organized under the auspices and comply with the rules, regulations and policies of the NJSA. All players on Travel Teams must meet eligibility requirements as adopted by the NJSA. All coaches shall be required to have entered into a written agreement with the NJSA as a material condition to service on a Travel Team’s coaching staff and the NJSA reserves all rights available to it under such written agreements and the law to re-assign, suspend and terminate such coaches.
2. The Travel Director (which is a position on the Executive Board), or the person designated by the Executive Board to serve as Travel Director in the event that the person serving in that capacity is not a member of the Executive Board, shall be (a) obligated to conduct at least one meeting per season with all coaches and assistant coaches of Travel Teams, (b) expected to educate coaches and assistant coaches of this Policy, (c) expected to communicate to and educate parents and guardians of this Policy and (d) primarily responsible for enforcing this Policy.
3. All coaches and assistant coaches of Travel Teams shall be provided a written copy of this policy annually at the time of roster selection and will be expected, as a material condition of their position as a coach or assistant coach, to be familiar with this Policy, comply with this Policy, and enforce this Policy with respect to their players, player’s family members and spectators. The Travel Director will provide sufficient copies of this Policy for all Travel Team coaches to distribute to players and their parents/guardians.
4. All Travel Teams coaching staff and players must comply with the applicable rules, regulations and procedures of the NJSA and the following regional, state and national soccer associations (in addition to any other leagues or organizations in which the NJSA and/or a particular Travel Team participates): USSF, USYSA, Region 1, CJSA, the South West District of the CJSA.
5. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the NJSA reminds all Travel Teams coaching staff and players that it will strictly enforce compliance with CJSA Rule 1011 which states: The CJSA promotes good sportsmanship by players, coaches, and spectators and expects the support of players and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating comments or actions directed at officials, players, coaches, team representatives, or spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of the competition and for disciplinary action.
6. The Travel Director, in consultation with Travel Team coaches and the Executive Board, shall arrange for annual tryouts for positions on travel teams in late spring of each year. The Travel Director shall work closely with Travel Team coaches in recruiting young people for participation in the try-outs, in selecting team members and in filling vacancies as they occur during the season. The Travel Director may arrange for assessors or evaluators to assist in the planning of the try-outs and to assist in the evaluation of the players.
7. The NJSA shall use all reasonable efforts to field boys and girls teams in each age bracket and reserves the right to combine teams, as long as combining of teams complies with applicable league, state, regional and national soccer association and other applicable league rules. Furthermore, younger players may be



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- assigned to an older team, and female players may be assigned to boys' teams, provided any such assignment (i) complies with applicable league and soccer association rules, (ii) is approved by the player and his/her parent or guardian, (iii) is in the best interests of the player and (iv) is approved by the Travel Director.
8. Players cannot play on a Travel Team and on a team in the Recreational Leagues at the same time during the same season. Nothing shall prevent a recreation player from "moving up" to a Travel Team during the season, nor shall any Policy be deemed to prevent a player on a Travel Team from resigning his/her position on said travel team and playing on a Recreation team.
  9. The Travel Director may promulgate any fair and reasonable rules and regulations governing the formation of Travel Teams in Premier League. Any Travel Team playing in a Premier League must maintain on its active roster the following number of players with a legal residence in the City of Norwalk: 50% of the total active players on the roster plus one player. Furthermore, all coaches in a Premier League of a Travel Team must hold, at a minimum, a "D" license or an equivalent certificate.
  10. Coaching Certification. Travel Team head coaches shall be required to maintain a "D" license from the USSF or an equivalent certificate. The Executive Board, upon a case by case basis, upon recommendation of the Travel Director, may modify this coaching certification requirement for good cause shown.
  11. Scheduling of games and officials.
    - a. The Referee & Field Assignor shall be responsible for coordinating field use for all games of the Travel Teams. In the event of a game cancellation, the coach of the NJSA Travel Team affected by such cancellation shall immediately notify the Travel Director.
    - b. The Travel Director shall provide to the NJSA's Referee & Field Assignor (or such other person as is designated by the NJSA Executive Board to perform that function) the schedules and contact information for the teams and coaches, and such Referee Assignor shall be solely responsible for assignment of officials for games.
    - c. Coaches shall monitor the NJSA website to learn of, and provide working telephone numbers and email addresses to be advised of game cancellations and field closures.
  12. The Travel Director shall fairly and impartially investigate claims made against any Travel Team coach and provide a report of his investigation to the Executive Board which may, in its discretion, move to terminate, suspend or re-assign any coach. The Executive Board must have just cause in removing a head coach and must comply with the rules established in any written agreement existing between the coach and the written agreement in effect between the coach and the NJSA. In the event of any conflict between said contract and this Policy, the terms of the contract shall govern.
  13. Travel Team uniforms must be approved by the Travel Director; no commercial logo or sponsor detail may be added to a Travel Team uniform without approval of the Executive Board. Each player shall be responsible for the purchase of his/her uniform.
  14. The NJSA, with recommendation from the Travel Director, reserves the right to hire trainers and other individuals or companies with experience in training soccer players and coaches to provide assistance to players and coaches. The NJSA also reserves the right to register Travel Teams in local, regional, state and national tournaments, provided the entry into such tournaments is in the best interests of the players, the team and the NJSA. Coaches, with the consent of the Travel Director and the Executive Board, their players' parents and guardians, may seek contributions from the parents and guardians of Travel Team players to fund additional entries into tournaments and such other team needs which meet the goals of the Travel Team.
  15. Upon the approval of the Travel Director (which shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or



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conditioned), after due investigation of a request to allow same, “guest players” as defined and regulated by CJSA and South West District rules and regulations, will be allowed to participate on Travel Teams.

16. Protection of player and family information. No member of NJSA will give out names, addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, or any other personal information of NJSA players or parents to anyone outside of NJSA without prior permission of the parents.
17. The drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverages, including beer or wine, by any player, coach, assistant coach, manager, club official or spectator before, during or after a game, at the playing site is strictly forbidden. Violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action (which may include suspension and/or termination) and may subject any party violating this rule to sanctions as allowed by CJSA Rule 4410.
18. Mutual respect and non-solicitation. No member of the coaching or management staff of any Travel Team may recruit players from any other Travel Teams.
19. Player safety. Coaches shall require all players to wear appropriate footgear and shin guards for all practices and games. Coaches shall require all players to wear the NJSA practice uniform and/or game uniforms based on the competition. With the exception of medical ID bracelets and necklaces which must be taped flat to the player’s body, no other jewelry may be worn during practices or games. Watches may not be worn during practices or games. Players may not wear pajama bottoms or other loose-fitting clothing which is not conducive to strenuous exercise and active play. Hair ties, hair clips and similar hair accessories may not be worn if they are made of metal, or have sharp or pointed edges or parts. Hats (except those required for religious observations, or soft caps worn in cold weather) may not be worn during practices or games.
20. Players that are registered with a NJSA travel team are registered to that team for one year starting in the fall season, unless the Travel Director deems that it is in the player’s best interest developmentally to move to another NJSA travel team during the course of the year. In this case, a meeting must be held with the player’s parents, the Travel Director and a member of the Executive Board.
21. Refunds for players who surrender their roster positions shall be provided for as set forth on the written agreement signed by the player and his/her parent or guardian.

Approved

By the **NJSA Executive Board**