



Southern Lehigh Soccer League Travel Soccer Policy

Version 2.0

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1 Introduction

This document will define the rules under which the Travel Soccer program at Southern Lehigh will operate.

1.1 *Mission Statement*

The goal of the SLSL travel soccer program is to provide the best possible soccer experience for all our players and to do this in an environment that will allow the players to reach their maximum potential. To attain this objective, the program aims to teach and develop within our players the techniques, tactics, fitness, and psychology necessary to be quality soccer players. The travel program is an elevated level of competition from the league managed intramural program and should give the players with advanced skill the opportunity to compete against players of equal or better skills and the opportunity to have better coaching and training available. The ultimate goal of the travel program is one of player development and not necessarily one of winning and losing. The goal of this program is to provide the fundamentals necessary to allow the kids to achieve success when they leave the program and continue their soccer experience in High School and College.

2 Travel Soccer

This section will outline all the rules by which the Southern Lehigh Travel Soccer program will be governed. Additional rules will be added to this document as they are approved by the SLSL Board and/or adopted at a General Membership meeting.

2.1 Exceptions To Policy

Director of Travel has the right to grant exceptions to any of the contained policies, where it is deemed in the best interest of the league or there are extenuating circumstances that warrant the exception.

2.2 Coach Selection

Coaching applications for the Head Coaching Position for each team are distributed and made available in February. For those teams who play their primary season in the fall, applicants must submit their completed applications in early March to the Director of Travel. There is no timetable for teams playing their primary season other than fall. The director of Travel makes a recommendation for the Head Coaching positions for each fall team to the SL Board (at an executive session) prior to the March meeting. Head Coaches are announced at the March League meeting. Head coaches select their own assistants.

2.3 Coaching Licenses

The league must have valid coaching licenses (Minimum EPYSA E License or NSCAA Regional Diploma) for all head and assistant coaches. It is the responsibility of the head coach to submit copies of all licenses held by all coaches on the team to the SLSL registrar prior to being registered for the season. If the league currently has a copy on file for the coach, there is no need to submit another. However, the coach should be prepared to provide a copy of his current licenses on league request. It is also strongly recommended for new coaches to take the youth module prior to taking the above licenses.

2.4 Tryouts

The Director of Travel sets the period for tryouts. It is usually a two to three week period starting in May. Each coach must then submit to the Director of Travel his specific tryout dates. Each team must set from 3 to 5 tryout dates. The tryout dates for each team must be spread out over at least a 10 day period. If a team seeks to have an additional tryout prior to the coaches meeting, all players who attended at least two of the original tryouts must be selected for the team provided they wish to be included on the roster as a primary player. Director of Travel will prepare a tryout and field schedule for the tryouts. Teams with primary seasons other than the fall must coordinate their tryouts with the Director of Travel.

If a team seeks to have an additional tryout during the year but after the coaches meeting, it must be advertised and coordinated through the Director of Travel.

2.4.1 Adding Additional Spring Players

For all teams that have their primary season in the fall, but are in need of players to fill their roster in the spring will be permitted to allow the coach to just pick some players to fill the roster spots without being required to conduct a formal tryout or advertise the availability of these positions.

If a team is newly forming or their primary season is the spring, they are still required to advertise and conduct a formal tryout which will be coordinated through the director of travel.

Fee for players who join a team whose primary season is Fall, but only join for the Spring season will have to pay no more than 50% of the seasonal registration fee. The exact amount of this fee will be determined by the board each year. Any team whose primary season is the Spring will be responsible for 100% of the current league fee.

2.5 Player Eligibility

A player must attend two tryouts to be eligible to be selected as a primary player on a SLSL team. A player wishing to secondary on a SLSL team, who will be a primary player for a club other than the SLSL, must also attend two tryouts to be eligible. There is no eligibility requirement that a player must attend a tryout to be eligible to secondary on an SLSL team if their primary team is also an SLSL team. The decision on whether to allow a secondary player (who is a primary player on another SLSL team) to secondary on an SLSL team will be made at the coaches meeting. The criteria for this decision will be based on the need of the secondary team for additional players.

An exception to the tryout requirements may be made by requesting permission to have this requirement waived to the Director of Travel. This may happen due to injury to a player prior to tryouts where the evaluator is familiar with the player's talent; however every effort should be made to have players attend tryouts if the player is physically able to do so.

The age ranges for each team are set according to EPYSA.

SLSL policy is that all children should play on their age appropriate team. A player must fall within this specific age range (as set by EPYSA) to be eligible for the team. A player will be eligible to tryout for an "older team" (a team one year above their age appropriate team) only in the following cases:

1. If there is no team offered in the player's age range, the player will be permitted to tryout for an "older team" or for the next offered age group.
2. If a player is grade appropriate for a specific team, the player will be permitted to tryout for their grade appropriate "older team". The reason for this exception is to allow the players with equivalent skill level to still be permitted to play on a team with their classmates who may have a slightly earlier birth date. Players in this category are not considered to be playing up as they are playing with their classmates.
3. If a player is age appropriate for a U-15 or above team. In this case the player is not subject to the rules regarding playing on an age appropriate team and not subject to the rule of playing up only one age group.
4. If a player believes he or she is exceptional as compared to the other players of his or her appropriate age group AND the player believes he or she would gain very little or no benefit by playing on his or her age appropriate team AND the player believes he or she would be a top player on the older team. This player will be required to tryout for both the age appropriate team and the older team.

If a player desires to try to play up on the older team, they must notify both coaches that they are trying to play up on the older team and the final decision of which team they will play on will be made at the coaches selection meeting in discussion with Dir. of travel.

The player will be allowed to play on the older team only if all three of the below conditions are met (If any of the 3 conditions are not met the player must play age appropriate):

- a) Player is one of the top 2 players on the younger team.
- b) Player is one of the top 3 players on the older team for 8 vs. 8 or player is one of the top 4 players on the older team for 11 vs. 11.
- c) Dir. Of Travel after speaking with both coaches, reviewing any documentation submitted and observing the player as needed must also feel it is best for this player to play up.

Intent of the provision is to give all SLSL players priority consideration over out of area players

It is the intent of the program to give all SLSL players priority consideration over out of area players. Whenever possible, a full-sided team must primary roster no more than 4 players who do not live and/or attend school in the Southern Lehigh School District. A small-sided team must primary roster no more than 3 players who do not live and/or attend school in the Southern Lehigh School District. This rule is waived for U15 and above teams.

A coach and team are asked to seriously consider possible ramifications before adding secondary players to their team's roster. While evaluating the items below, consider that a secondary player must attend all his or her primary team's functions before he or she is released to participate with the secondary team. Other considerations include:

- 1) Will these secondary players be able to attend practices with the team and if not, how will this affect the team moral if the secondary players play only in games? How will it affect practice sessions if secondary players attend either not at all or only on a limited basis?

- 2) How many games will the secondary player actually be able to attend?
- 3) Will the team have enough players to attend tournaments? Remember that secondary players are counted as guest players at tournaments. Most tournaments restrict the number of guest players to a maximum of 3, while others allow no guest players at all.

After careful consideration of the above, a team may have no more than 3 secondary players who have their primary player registration with a club other than the SLSL.

Any coach requesting that a secondary player(s) be added to his roster (who are primary players on another SLSL team) need to make this request at the coaches meeting. The criteria on whether to allow these secondary players will be based on the need of the secondary team for additional players. This rule is waived for U15 and above teams.

Girls will not be permitted to primary roster on a boys team unless there is no team offered in their age group. They will however be permitted to be added as a secondary player to the boys team.

2.6 Player Notification Process

Players should not be notified as to their status on the team until after the SLSL Coaches Meeting in early June. All players who have attended a tryout must then be notified by the coach within 7 days of the meeting as to their status on the team.

2.7 Coaches Meeting

This meeting will be held in early June for those teams having their primary season in the fall. Other teams will not have this meeting but must coordinate with the Travel Director and Registrar the same type of process.

At this meeting coaches will present to the Director of Travel and the Registrar a list of players who have made their teams. This list will rank the players by dividing them into top, middle and bottom group based on the coach's evaluation. At this time the Director of Travel has the ability to make a recommendation to move players to different age groups for the benefit of the team, player and/or club. Of course these moves must then be agreed upon by the parents of the players. This is one of the reasons players should not be notified of their status on a team until after this meeting.

2.8 Uniforms

All teams must wear the league approved uniform and alternate. This requirement is waived for U15 and above teams.

2.9 League Meetings

Coaches or their representatives must attend the monthly SLSL meetings. A representative of a team is defined as a coach of that team; or a guardian or parent of a player on that team. A team may request to be excluded from the requirement to attend league meetings in seasons which they are not participating.

2.10 Team Fines

Team fines assessed by LVYSL or any other league occur when teams don't report game scores, forfeit games, etc. These fines will be charged back to the team.

2.11 Travel Team Funding

Each team has a sum of money to pay their expenses for the year. The amount of this sum is determined by SLSL each year, which is currently \$650 plus all ref costs. This money is normally used to pay tournament fees, training expenses or indoor season entrance fees. All teams are expected to participate in at least one tournament a season. Any use of these funds for expenses other than tournaments or indoor season entrance

fees must be approved by the board and if the team has not participated in any tournaments will most likely be rejected. The league will also cover all referee fees for the travel teams. The team must collect any additional funds needed by the team from the players. Any funds not spent by the team will not be carried to the next year. In order to receive reimbursements, the teams must submit an approved reimbursement request to the treasurer at the monthly league meeting. No payments will be made outside of the league meeting.

All Team Fund Raisers are required to be approved by the SLSL Board.

2.12 State Cup

The league will cover the cost for entrance fees and referees fees for all teams desiring to participate in Indoor or Outdoor State Cup. The league will cover the entrance fee for only one state cup entrance (indoor or outdoor), but not both. The team will pay any travel expenses required. SLSL would like to encourage our teams to give the kids an opportunity to participate in this competition.

Any B division teams or teams whose win/loss record shows that they would not be able to compete in any division of state cup competition, may petition to be granted to use money equal to entrance in the cheapest of state cup tournaments for the year to offset the cost of a tournament that they feel they can be more competitive in. This will only be approved for teams that their skill level will not permit them to compete at the state cup competitions.

2.13 Club Awards / Jackets

When a SLSL travel team between and including the ages of U12 to U14, places 1st in their division of the LVYSL during their primary outdoor season, the SLSL will contribute 50% towards the purchase of a championship jacket for each of the players to a maximum of \$25. If a SLSL team is not registered as part of the LVYSL, they will be eligible to receive the championship jackets for the league in which their player cards have been registered.

The SLSL must approve the jacket prior to the purchase in order for the players to receive the league contribution.

2.14 Recruiting Policy

SLSL does not condone the recruiting of players by coaches or administrators.

1. Recruiting is defined as:
 - a. Talking to a player from another team and asking the player to join your team as a primary player.
 - b. Making promises to a player from another team about tournaments, exposure to college coaches, state cup play, etc.
 - c. Flattering a player from another team and promising to play the player in certain positions if the player joins your team as a primary player.
 - d. Coaches who coach a team for a school district, and also coach a club team, must not create the perception that it is mandatory for a player from the team you coach for your school district to also play on the team you coach for SLSL.

SLSL recognizes that players may choose to change teams for personal reasons and they are free to do so in accordance with any other SLSL policies that are in effect.

A SLSL Travel Team Coach may do the following:

1. Regarding Contact with players from other teams:
 - a. Talk to a player or parent of a player who contacts a coach to inquire about the team.
 - b. Invite players from other teams to participate as guest players when attending tournaments, and to play as a secondary player during LVYSL competition.
2. Regarding disseminating information about the team:
 - a. Advertise the dates and times of open try-outs through the SLSL newsletter, or any other media available to the general public.
 - b. Announce at LVYSL and SLSL meetings that the team may be looking for players.

A SLSL Travel Team Coach shall, as a courtesy to that player's coach, notify the coach of a player prior to inviting a player from another team to participate as a guest player when attending tournaments, or prior to registering as a secondary player for LVYSL competition.

Any questions regarding this policy statement shall be promptly directed to the SLSL Director of Travel.

2.15 Code Of Conduct Policy

All coaches, players and parent or guardian should sign the SLSL Code of Conduct as part of registration for the Soccer team. Any player, parent, or coach that doesn't live up to a code of conduct will be subject to discipline as the SLSL board may see fit. These penalties could be suspension or removal from the team and being barred from participating in any SLSL functions.