



PARENT HANDBOOK FOR TRYOUTS

April 2016



Introduction

Parents,

The tryout season can be a daunting time for clubs, parents and players. Pottsgrove Soccer Club's tryout program is designed to create a common experience from team to team, age group to age group – with a system that is designed to provide a fair assessment of all players.

While we think every child deserves a chance to play, our travel program is fundamentally set-up to develop kids by offering them the ability to remain challenged. We thank you for bringing your child to us and we hope that the tryout process is smooth and pleasant for both you and your child.

Our club is always striving for a high level of consistency, professionalism and fairness and we've designed our tryout procedure to fall in line with these principals.

Please help us create a good experience for the children. The kids are going to perform their best when they are not in the cross-hairs of judgment and sarcasm. It sounds like we're stating the obvious, but we all see the news and we hear about what happens at times. Nobody sees "that moment" coming, or else they would avoid it and it would never happen. No matter how obvious or subtle the moment is – it can be devastating to the confidence of the player and ruin their sports experience. Lack of "fun" is the #1 reason given as to why 70% of youth athletes in America quit organized sports by the age of 13 years old. When they leave, gone is the opportunity to learn amazing life skills such as resilience, self-control, leadership and sportsmanship.

Thank you once again, we look forward to a healthy and enjoyable tryout process,

Chris Paul
Stretch_523@yahoo.com/ 610-906-2618



The Tryout Process

All players will be given a chance to show both their current level and their potential through the planned sessions that we have designed. Through our review process we will focus on many aspects including:



Tryouts are merely a snapshot of each player, but it's the most effective and reasonable way to identify the players who will create an ideal environment for each other within which to develop. Our club has taken steps to ensure a fair tryout for every player and a consistent experience across all age groups. Evaluators have also been assigned to each team.

Pottsgrove Soccer Club will offer three tryout sessions – of which each player must attend at least two.

Once the tryouts have concluded the coaches/club will process the data that they have collected and create rosters accordingly. A reasonable expectation would be to hear from a club representative within 2 weeks regarding the results.

In the event of bad weather, we will do our best to cancel with as much notice as possible. We will often play through rain, but will have to stop if the rain gets too heavy or in the event of thunder / lightning. Sessions will not be made-up unless rain impacts more than one tryout session for a particular team.

Items to Bring

Water / Drink	Cleats
Shin Guards	GK Gloves (if applicable to you)
Properly-inflated ball	Inhaler (if applicable to you)

FIELD ADDRESS FOR TRYOUT

**Gerald Richards Park
2150 Buckert Rd, Pottstown PA 19464**

Expectations for Parents During Tryouts

- Please plan to arrive at least 10-minutes prior to the start time of your session. There are a lot of moving parts during tryouts and this gives us the opportunity to organize and begin on time.
- Be supportive of your child, as well as other children and adults, or be silent.
- Nobody is to take the field other than players and approved adults (evaluators, club representatives)
- Please do not approach coaches or evaluators at the fields unless there is a safety concern. There is so much for them to focus on and this is not the ideal time to answer questions. However, you are welcome to email the coach (listed within this document) with team-oriented questions or concerns.
- Please take a positive support role for your child. There is real science behind the power of filling emotional tanks and nobody's praise will mean more to the players than that which comes from their parents. Being honest and specific is important so that it doesn't sound insincere – kids see through



that and your attempts to be supportive become ineffective. Allow the coaches the opportunity to coach. This is a proven system for building confidence and creativity from players.

Parents Meeting

Each individual team typically will hold a Parents meeting sometime between try outs and the start of the Fall season.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Travel soccer is generally considered a year-round commitment, in that the team will be active for the greater majority of the year.
- There is typically a “primary” season for soccer. Our primary season is the Fall, during which time the team will be playing in league games and possibly some tournaments.
- Tournaments add an additional cost which varies from one to the next – but we do our best to seek out reasonably priced options.
- Non-primary season activity: teams will tend to be actively training and may be involved in competitive play such as a shorter league season and/or tournaments. While we like to see travel players with us as often as possible, those with a desire to play a different sport outside of the Fall season are welcomed to do that. We will accommodate those players into training / games as reasonably as we can if the player is able to balance the two activities.
- Average travel time for away league games is about 35 minutes.

Fees 2016-17

Yearly Fee.....\$450.00
 Fees for all travel players cover costs for mandatory Travel Summer Camp and Paid Training, as well league fees, referee fees, field maintenance, insurance, and several other operational and administrative costs.
 Uniform Fee (every two calendar years).....\$115.00
 uniforms (two jerseys, one shorts, two pairs of socks)

Tournament fees are handled by each team on their own, either thru fundraising or by collecting the fees. Each team is required to participate in 2 tournaments each year.

Club Representative

If you have a question or concern about something pertaining to tryouts and you do not wish to ask the coach of your child’s team – you may contact the club representative listed below. Please understand that this is a busy time of the year and all volunteers will do their best to respond quickly to you.

Chris Paul	<i>Travel Director</i>	610-906-2618	Stretch_523@yahoo.com
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