

## **Peabody Youth Soccer Association – Travel Soccer Information Sheet**

Peabody Youth Soccer Association (PYSA) holds a tryout every spring for player selection to the Travel Program governed by the PYSA and Essex County Youth Soccer Association (ECYSA). The following Q&A was developed to help explain the tryout process and address some commonly asked questions. Please note that the information provided in this document is subject to change.

### **Should my child tryout for the Travel Program?**

PYSA offers two distinct soccer programs:

The Intramural (in-town) Program is intended for players that wish to pursue soccer on a more recreational level or for those that need additional time to develop their skills for the Travel Program. Practices are held once per week, depending on the grade level, and all games are played at the Kennedy field.

The Travel Program is intended for players that are genuinely interested in developing their soccer skills and exhibit a passion to practice and play games in a competitive environment. The Travel Program is a full year commitment, both the fall and spring seasons. Practices are held two times per week and all games are played on Saturday (times vary). There are 8 games in the fall running from September through early November and 8 games in the spring running from April through June. Half of the games are played at home on the Kennedy Field and half of the games are played away. The away games are played in surrounding towns, usually within a 45 minute drive.

### **What grade levels are eligible to tryout?**

Any child entering Grade level 3 through Grade 8 in the Fall. For clarity, a child currently in Grade 2 at the time of registration but entering Grade 3 in the Fall is eligible to tryout.

### **How do I sign up for the tryout?**

You must register for the Fall 2025 soccer season on the PYSA website at least 24 hours before the tryout date. Your child will automatically be placed in our in-town program in the event they do not make a travel team.

### **When and where does the tryout take place?**

All tryouts take place at the Kennedy Field in Peabody. Please visit the PYSA homepage for the tryout dates and start times for your child's grade level and gender. The tryout session for each grade level lasts approximately 60 minutes.

### **What if we have a conflict with the tryout dates?**

All players should attend both tryout dates, however we recognize conflicts exist. Players must attend at least one (1) tryout date to be eligible for selection to a travel team. In the rare event a player cannot attend both tryout dates, a written notice must be sent to the Travel Directors indicating the reason for the absence.

### **What should my player bring?**

Players should wear cleats, shinpads, and appropriate training gear in addition to bringing plenty of water. If your player currently plays on a travel or club team, they may not wear their uniform or jersey to the tryout. If they arrive wearing their uniform or jersey, they will be required to change before they can attend the tryout.

### **What is the format of the tryout?**

The tryout consists of approximately 30 minutes of small-sided games (e.g., 3v3, 4v4) and approximately 30 minutes of a modified game (e.g., 7v7, 9v9, or 11v11) based on the grade level.

### **Can parents watch the tryouts?**

We strongly discourage parents staying at the field to watch the tryouts, particularly for Grades 5 and above. Aside from putting added pressure on the players, space will be limited at the field during tryouts. If you decide to stay at the field, you must remain in designated areas off the field and refrain from cheering, coaching, or otherwise addressing the players at all times.

### **What is the criteria used to evaluate the players during the tryout?**

Players will be evaluated based on physical ability, technical skill, tactical understanding, and fair play.

### **Who evaluates the players during the tryout?**

The evaluators include personnel from the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) as well as travel coaches from PYSA. Travel coaches from PYSA are only allowed to evaluate players outside of their team's grade level, or any grade level of the opposite gender. For clarity, the coach of a Grade 3 Boys team may only evaluate Boys at or above the Grade 5 level and all Girls at any grade level.

Head coaches for the travel teams are allowed to observe their respective age group tryouts, which may include taking notes. Head coaches do not submit tryout scores to MYSA as an evaluator.

MYSA oversees the tryout process and collect scores from the evaluators at the end of each session, and all evaluation scores remain in the possession of MYSA.

### **How are the players selected to the travel teams?**

The head coaches work with the Travel Directors to select players to their respective teams. Players are selected based on the tryout scores provided by MYSA as well as feedback from coaches regarding the player's performance and behavior during the season as applicable.

### **How many travel teams will there be in each grade?**

We will form one team for each grade level and gender (e.g., one team of all Grade 3 Girls, one team of all Grade 4 Girls, etc.). We will form additional teams for each grade level and gender based on the remaining pool of players. The final number of additional teams, and the grade level make-up of those teams will be based on several factors including (1) the availability of qualified head coaches, (2) the ability to meet roster size requirements, and (3) consideration of the number of remaining players at each grade level with competitive tryout scores. For clarity, an additional team may consist of all players at the same grade level (e.g., a second team all Grade 3 Girls) or a mix of players from different grades within the same division (e.g., a mixed team consisting of Grade 3 Girls and Grade 4 Girls).

### **Is my child guaranteed a spot on a travel team if they played on a travel team last year?**

No, we cannot guarantee your child makes a travel team. Your child's placement will depend on their performance at the tryouts, feedback from coaches on the player's performance during the season, as well as the makeup of the player pool each year. The tryout represents a fresh start for each player and team for the upcoming year.

### **What if my child doesn't make a travel team?**

It is PYSA's goal is to provide every child an opportunity to play soccer and develop as a player. If your child doesn't make a travel team they will automatically be placed in our Intramural (in-town) Program so that they can continue to develop their skills and grow as a player. You should not look at your child's placement as defining who they are, nor should you compare their placement to another child. As noted above, there are a number of factors outside of your child's control, such as the availability of coaches and the overall player pool each year, that may impact their placement on a team.