



PSA Travel Soccer Guidelines

Updated 7/8/11

PSA & Travel Soccer Overview

This document provides an overview of key policies, procedures, fees and frequently asked questions for the Plymouth Soccer Association (PSA) Travel ("Travel") Program.

As one of the largest non-profit soccer clubs in Minnesota, PSA offers youth soccer programs to players of all levels in the city of Plymouth, Minnesota and its surrounding communities. Specifically, the travel program offers youth players a competitive soccer experience, including focused skills development and MYSA league play against travel teams from other soccer clubs.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please visit our [website](#), stop by or call our office (763-450-3099) or send us an [e-mail](#).

PSA Travel Mission Statement, Policies & Creeds:

PSA Travel Mission Statement:

- The PSA Travel Soccer Organization will provide young people in the City of Plymouth, and the surrounding communities, with the opportunity to play competitive soccer at a level that will allow them to develop their individual skills and team play to the highest level at which they are capable of playing.
- The efforts of PSA Travel will be focused on the continued growth and development of every player's soccer skills and on building confidence in their abilities. PSA Travel will strive to provide opportunities for soccer players to participate in educational and competitive activities, particularly those sponsored, sanctioned and approved by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and/or its affiliates.
- Above all, PSA Travel will encourage all of its soccer players to "play hard and have fun".

PSA emphasizes good sportsmanship, fairness, and respect for the game, as highlighted in our player's, parent's, and coach's creeds. Registering to play and committing to a team, participating as a parent, coach, assistant coach and/or team manager, constitutes an agreement with and commitment to the respective PSA Creed/Policy and assumes that all have read, understand and will abide by the following:

PSA Player's Creed:

As a soccer player in a PSA program, I understand that I am a representative of my family and PSA. I recognize the importance of good behavior and proper language. I will respect my teammates, opponents, coaches and parents. I will play within the Laws of the Game, and demonstrate good sportsmanship. I will show respect for game officials and their calls. I will have a positive attitude, be prepared and properly equipped for all practices and games. I will practice hard and play to the best of my abilities.



PSA Player Policy:

By registering for and being selected for a PSA Travel Soccer (PSA) team the player agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of PSA and of Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). Those rules and regulations include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Each registered player will be assigned a MYSA player identification number. MYSA and PSA will use this number as long as the player remains in MYSA Competition.
- At the time of registration each player will provide information on the registration form which will be relied on by PSA as correct and accurate. If at any time there is a question by any party regarding the correctness or accuracy of that information the player shall be prepared to provide supporting data such as birth certificate or other pertinent information.
- Upon being assigned to a team roster the player becomes a part of that team and is responsible for a proportionate share of the team costs including MYSA fees, tournament fees, personal team uniform, training costs, coaching costs, team equipment, PSA administration costs, etc.
- The player will be responsible for the procurement of, and maintenance of, good quality soccer cleats, shin-guards, appropriate size soccer ball, water bottle and an appropriate size soccer bag.
- The player will responsibly represent PSA by wearing a club supplied uniform in all competitive play which will be either a game jersey or the alternate jersey.
- The player will participate in the expected amount (see age group guidelines) of all team activities including practices, skills training, league games, tournament games, team meeting, etc.
- The player will work hard during practices and will refrain from creating individual or team discipline problems.
- The player understands that they must arrive at the game field at a time as designated by the coach (up to forty-five minutes before game time), with shoes, shin guards and uniform on plus ball fully inflated and ready for pre-game activities. The player must also arrive at practices and skills sessions at the designated time and be ready to begin the scheduled activities, or have previously notified the coach or manager explaining the reason to be excused.
- The player is entitled to have fun within the Laws of the Game. If the player is for some reason no longer enjoying the experience they should let the team coach, the team manager or a PSA Travel Committee member.
- The player agrees to demonstrate the principles of good sportsmanship before, during and after all soccer related activities.
- Above all, the players are encouraged to Play Hard and Have Fun.



PSA Parent's Creed:

I recognize that I am an important role model for my child. I understand that PSA programs are for the players and not adults. I will support my child through positive, constructive, and quiet comment about their play. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support and respect for all coaches, players and referees, and will expect the same from my child. I understand that referees are human (and often young) and will show respect for the considerable time and effort they devote to soccer. I pledge to help my child fulfill his or her commitment to PSA and the team by (1) keeping abreast of information pertinent to the team; (2) supporting the coach and assisting the team and the PSA organization as needed; (3) getting my child to games and practices on time, properly equipped and prepared to play; and (4) notifying the coaches of absences and any medical conditions associated with my child. I will refrain from sideline coaching (a player may be doing what the coach wants!) and will strive to make my child's playing experience a positive one. I will respect the coach's time and pick my child up promptly after practices and games. I will endeavor to attend as many games and practices as possible.

PSA Coaches Policy:

- PSA Coaches are expected to comply with the terms of their PSA Coaching Contract and the guidelines set forth in this document.
- Paid coaching may be used for top teams.
- Coaching tenure expectation for Top/C1/Premier teams is 2 years. Extension to 3 years requires Coaching Director recommendation and Travel Committee approval. Extension to 4 years requires Coaching Director recommendation, Travel Committee recommendation and PSA Board approval.

PSA Coaches Creed:

As a coach of the Plymouth Soccer Association, I will follow the rules and policies of the PSA soccer program and the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. I will strive to make soccer an enjoyable and positive learning experience for my players and their families. I will place the health, safety, and welfare of my players ahead of my personal goals or desire to win. I will respect the individual differences of my players and I will model inclusive behavior, decrying all types of discrimination. I will strive to maintain and improve my coaching skills and teach my players the Laws of the Game. I will do my best to plan practices that are fun and challenging. I will teach my players to strive for success and play fairly. I will respect my team's opponents and the game officials and actively encourage my players to do the same. I will strive to be a model of grace, dignity, and composure in victory as well as defeat and encourage the players to do the same. I will strive to control the actions of my players, their parents and our fans at all games and scrimmages. I will promote the interests of soccer with courtesy, honesty, and respect.

Volunteers

As a non-profit, community-focused organization, PSA relies heavily on volunteers throughout the organization to fulfill our mission. From coaches to team managers to administrative assistance, we need your help. To volunteer, visit our [website](#), stop by or call our office (763-450-3099) or send us an [e-mail](#). PSA Minnesota Classic Tournament Volunteers. Each registered PSA travel team is expected to provide a minimum of 5-6 volunteers for the PSA Minnesota Classic tournament held in June of each year.



PSA Travel Soccer Age Group Guidelines and Competitive Divisions

The Travel Soccer Season:

The soccer year for PSA & MYSA is from Early August - Mid-September of each year. The main competitive season for PSA Travel is Spring/Summer with a shorter, separate Fall season. The seasons start with team formation. Age groups and competitive levels may vary, but the calendar for a typical season is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Late August - Early September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season wrap-up, district and state tournaments • Registration, tryouts, and team formation for the following Spring/Summer season • Registration and team formation for Fall season (no tryouts) |
| September - October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall practices and league play...tournaments optional |
| November - March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor training sessions and practices |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of outdoor practices and team events to prepare for Spring/Summer season • Outdoor practices restricted to “green space” only, as the city of Plymouth does not allow field usage until early May |
| May - July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring/Summer league play, team practices, and tournaments |

Travel Soccer Ages & Playing Levels:

PSA follows MYSA [birthyear guidelines](#) and [competitive divisions](#) of play. PSA Travel offers the following programs for various ages and playing levels.

| Age/Playing Level | Level 0 (Highest) | Level 1 (Next) | Level 2 (Next) | Level 3 (Lowest) |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| U8 - U10 | Maroon | Gold | | |
| U11 | Classic 2 (C2) | Classic 3 (C3) | | |
| U12 - U13 | Classic 1 (C1) | Classic 2 (C2) | Classic 3 (C3) | |
| U14 - U19 | Premier | Classic 1 (C1) | Classic 2 (C2) | Classic 3 (C3) |



U8, U9 & U10 Developmental Soccer

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Themes | Fun, development of soccer fundamentals, more competitive soccer environment than Recreational leagues |
| Coaching | Mostly volunteer coaches, although some paid coaches |
| Playing Levels | Maroon or Gold |
| Game Details | 6 vs 6 on smaller fields and #4 ball |
| Pre-Season | 14-16 indoor sessions with coaches and/or trainers |
| Practices | 1-2 per week, beginning in April |
| Games | 8-12 league games |
| Tournaments | 2-3 weekend tournaments, plus PSA sponsored pre-season Jamboree. A few teams may try and out-of-town tournament. |
| Attendance | Minimum 85% attendance at practice and games, beginning April 1 |
| Positioning | All players play multiple positions, including goalie |
| Playing Time | Target 50% playing time for all players over the course of the season, subject to coach refinement |
| Costs | Historically, \$500-\$750 per player, not including Fall season |

U11 & U12 Competitive Soccer

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Themes | Fun, fundamentals, competition, development of technical excellence and tactical proficiency |
| Coaching | Fewer volunteer coaches, mostly paid coaches |
| Playing Levels | U11: C2, C3 U12: C1, C2, C3 |
| Game Details | 8 vs 8 on smaller fields and #4 ball |
| Pre-Season | 14 - 16 indoor sessions with coaches and/or trainers for C2 and C3 teams. Possibly 22 - 26 sessions for C1 teams. |
| Practices | 2-3 per week, beginning in April |
| Games | 8-12 league games in Spring/Summer; 6 league games for Fall |
| Tournaments | 2-5 weekend tournaments, plus Districts and State if qualify. One to two tournaments may be out-of-town. |
| Attendance | Minimum 85-95% attendance at practice and games, beginning April 1 |
| Positioning | Beginning of selective positioning, including goalkeeper |
| Playing Time | Target 50% playing time for all C2 and C3 players over the course of the season. Target 35% playing time for all C1 players. More coach discretion here based upon player level of commitment, attitude, etc. |
| Costs | Historically, \$600-1100 per player, not including Fall season |



U13-U19 Competitive Soccer

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Themes | Fun, fundamentals, competition, refinement of technical excellence and tactical proficiency |
| Coaching | Very few volunteer coaches, mostly paid coaches |
| Playing Levels | C1, C2, C3 |
| Game Details | 11 vs 11 on full fields and #5 ball |
| Pre-Season | 14 - 16 indoor sessions with coaches and/or trainers for C2 and C3 teams. Possibly 22 - 26 sessions for C1 and high level C2 teams. |
| Practices | 2-4 per week, beginning in April |
| Games | 8-12 league games for Spring/Summer; 6 league games for Fall |
| Tournaments | 2-5 weekend tournaments, plus Districts and State if qualify. One to two tournaments may be out-of-town. |
| Attendance | Target 85-95% attendance at practice and games, beginning April 1 |
| Positioning | Typically selective positioning, including goalkeeper |
| Playing Time | Target 35% playing time for all players over the course of the season. More coach discretion here based upon player level of commitment, attitude, etc. |
| Costs | Historically, \$600-\$1600 per player, not including Fall season |

U14-U19 Premier Soccer

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Themes | Highest level of competition, more serious commitment |
| Coaching | Nationally licensed paid coach |
| Playing Levels | Premier, Tournament Only, Mid-West League |
| Game Details | 11 vs. 11, full fields |
| Pre-Season | 25 - 30 Indoor sessions with coach and/or trainer, multiple scrimmages. |
| Practices | 3-4 per week, beginning in April |
| Games | 8 - 12 League Games |
| Tournaments | 5 - 9 tournaments, State Cup, Regionals, multiple out of state tournaments. Typically 1-3 pre-season tourneys. |
| Attendance | 90 - 95% attendance at practice and games beginning April 1. |
| Positioning | Selective positioning, reserve players. |
| Playing Time | Target at least 35% playing time for all players over the course of the season. Coach discretion here based upon player level of commitment, skill, positioning, attitude, etc. |
| Costs | \$900 - \$3000 per player or higher, depending on tournaments, etc. |



Player Evaluations and Team Formation

The player evaluation and team formation process used to place players on PSA teams is based upon the PSA Team Formation Guidelines developed by and for the use of the PSA Travel Committee. Player evaluations are designed to provide a fair and thorough assessment of a player's technical ability and tactical awareness. PSA employs a best team philosophy, where every effort is made to place players at the level at which they develop to their highest potential and benefit from the best possible soccer experience. Players are placed on teams with those of similar ability to allow them to train and compete with those who can "push" them to higher levels of performance without discouraging them due to disparate abilities. While every effort is made to place every player on a traveling team, keep in mind that MYSA roster size restrictions and the number of players trying out at an age group may prevent placement of every player.

Player Evaluation Process:

Player evaluations for each age and gender group shall consist of between 1.5 to 4 hours of evaluation time (depending upon the number of registrants involved) consisting of small and larger-sided scrimmages. Evaluators will look for individual and team play. They not only look at the individual skills of the players, but more importantly where, when, why, and how they use them.

Evaluators. All phases of the player evaluation process will be conducted by no less than three independent evaluators having a USSF "C" license or higher (or at the discretion of the Travel Committee). Currently assigned PSA coaches cannot be evaluators for the age group and gender they are coaching. The Director of Player Development will not serve as an evaluator.

Player Evaluation Exceptions:

All players must be evaluated for placement on a team. PSA Travel recognizes that there will be instances when a player is unable to attend the evaluations scheduled for their age group. Below are the resolutions for this situation:

- . The PSA Player Evaluation Exception Form is used when an excusable absence (medical condition, family emergency, etc.) makes participation in the evaluation process impossible. This form must be completed by the parent or guardian and submitted to the PSA office administrator at least TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the scheduled evaluation. In case of an injury that may keep the player out of evaluations, the form should be completed immediately following the diagnosis.
- . The player will be expected to participate in a mandatory evaluation prior to the scheduled tryout that he/she cannot attend.
- . If a player has a medical hardship that simply does not allow them to be evaluated, efforts will be made to place the player appropriately based upon coach feedback, but preference will be given to players that attend tryouts.



Team Formation & Notification:

- . A complete schedule for player tryouts and assessments will be created each year and made available to the public on the PSA website.
- . Players for each team will be selected at a Team Formation Meeting attended by invited coaches, evaluators and PSA Travel Committee members.
- . Players will be notified via team postings on the PSA website. Players will be identified with their first initial and the first three letters of the last name. Each competitive level will be announced individually by age group.
- . Teams with identified coaches will make every effort to contact their players within 48 hours following website notification.
- . Rosters are not final until all players have paid their appropriate commitment fee plus any past due amounts. Payment must be received in the PSA office within 7 days of website notification. After 7 days, PSA may offer roster spots to other eligible players.
- . Team notifications are expected to be completed within two weeks of the final evaluation period.



PSA Travel Soccer Player Fees & Payments

Fees & Payments Summary:

For the Spring/Summer season, estimated costs for each team will be budgeted and then divided by the number of players rostered on that team. Actual team expenses vary widely and are dependent on what the team elects to participate in or what services are provided from PSA. Total costs per player are a combination of individual fees (registration, PSA fees, MYSA fees, referees, etc.) combined with a proportionate amount of the team costs. These costs are based on actual team expenses and are not negotiable. Some of the variables that affect the cost include the following:

- Coaching - paid vs. parent/volunteer
- Paid Team Trainer
- Tournaments - quantity, in-town vs. out-of-town (player and family travel, lodging, meals not included and typically paid out-of-pocket). Schwan's USA Cup could add \$100 per player.
- MYSA League Playoffs/State Championships or State Cup Tournaments
- Dome Time above and beyond PSA seasonally scheduled events.
- Scrimmages (Field Rental and Referees)
- Uniform, warm-ups and other miscellaneous costs

Estimated Player Fees:

Based on historical data, the following chart reflects a range of estimated player fees listed by playing age and level:

2012 Projected Spring/Summer Budgets (per player)

| Age/Level | Premier Estimated Player Fees | C1 Estimated Player Fees | C2 (Maroon U9/U10) Estimated Player Fees | C3 (Gold U9/U10) Estimated Player Fees |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| U8 | N/A | N/A | 500 - 750 | 500 - 750 |
| U9 | N/A | N/A | 500 - 750 | 500 - 750 |
| U10 | N/A | N/A | 500 - 750 | 500 - 750 |
| U11 | N/A | N/A | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U12 | N/A | 600 - 1100 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U13 | N/A | 700 - 1200 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U14 | 1000 - 2000 | 800 - 1300 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U15 | 1200 - 3000 | 800 - 1500 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U16 | 1500 - 3000 | 800 - 1600 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U17 | 1500 - 3000 | 800 - 1600 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U18 | 900 - 2500 | 600 - 1500 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |
| U19 | 900 - 2500 | 600 - 1000 | 600 - 950 | 600 - 850 |

Payment Schedule for PSA Travel Soccer

To provide a simple approach to processing fees for the Travel Soccer Season, PSA is implementing installment payments due over the course of the soccer year starting with tryouts and finishing with the summer season. The amounts due are based on Age group and Level of Play. The amounts are based on the published ranges of PSA fees in previous years.



2012 Spring/Summer Installment Amounts (per player)

| Age/Level | Registration Fee (Non-refundable, Due prior to tryouts) | Commitment Fee (Non-refundable, Due within 7 days of team placement) | Invoiced last week of December | Invoiced last week of February | Total Payments by End of March |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| U8 Gold | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$450.00 |
| U8 Maroon | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$550.00 |
| U9 Gold | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$450.00 |
| U9 Maroon | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$550.00 |
| U10 Gold | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$450.00 |
| U10 Maroon | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$600.00 |
| U11 C3 | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$450.00 |
| U11 C2 | \$50.00 | \$300.00 | \$250.00 | \$150.00 | \$750.00 |
| U12 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U12 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U12 C1 | \$50.00 | \$300.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$850.00 |
| U13 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U13 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U13 C1 | \$50.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| U14 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U14 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U14 C1 | \$50.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| U15 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U15 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U15 C1 | \$50.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| U16 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U16 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U16 C1 | \$50.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| U17 C3 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$700.00 |
| U17 C2 | \$50.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$800.00 |
| U17 C1 | \$50.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| U14 Premier | \$50.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$1,250.00 |
| U15 Premier | \$50.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$1,250.00 |
| U16 Premier | \$50.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$1,250.00 |
| U17 Premier | \$50.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$1,250.00 |

A final statement/invoice will be sent in April based on the actual services provided to the team plus any approved expenses on the team “green sheet” and the payments received on account.



No Pay, No Pass, No Play Policy

PSA follows a “no pay, no pass, no play” policy, meaning player account balances and installments must be paid and up-to-date or player passes will not be issued and playing privileges will be revoked.

PSA protocols for non-payment include, but are not limited to:

- Revocation of playing privileges (PSA will not release the player pass)
- Refusal to allow player to tryout, be rostered, and/or play for future PSA teams
- Refusal to allow player transfer to another MYSA club
- Involvement of 3rd party collection and/or credit agencies

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships are available and granted based upon need. All scholarship requests must be in writing and submitted to PSA at registration time. Typically, scholarships are \$100-250 range and do not cover all player costs for the season. PSA expects the player and parent(s) to pay for any remaining costs beyond the available scholarship. To keep kids on the field and focused on the great game of soccer, PSA is open to considering alternate payment arrangements. Please contact the PSA office to discuss.

Fees & Payments Frequently Asked Questions

Why is PSA moving to this type of Payment approach?

Many soccer clubs are moving toward this type of payment approach because it sets a consistent approach to the parents to pay for the services that Soccer Clubs provide from year to year. It also provides families a method to budget for the upcoming soccer seasons.

What do the installments cover?

The services a Team receives varies based on the Age Group and Level of Play, but generally the amount covers Winter Trainers Cost, Dome time for training, Coaches Fee's, Stipends by Team Managers, Field Costs, Referee Costs, MYSA fees, Team Tournament Costs and Club General Administrative costs.

What happens if we pay too much?

PSA does it's best to estimate the cost of Services provided as accurately as possible, but we understand there is no possible way to be perfect. The goal is to collect a minimum of 75% to 85% by March, with the final invoice in April. If you paid too much to PSA, you can leave the credit on account and apply it to any other PSA event (i.e. Fall Soccer) or you can request a check for the balance on account.

Can I pay by check or credit card?

Yes, if you wish to pay via check, checks can be mailed to the PSA Office. PSA will provide the ability to pay on-line via Credit Card.

Why is PSA collecting so early?

PSA has typically invoiced for a commitment fee and initial payment, but when and how much has been very unpredictable. There are fixed costs that PSA must pay for very early in the soccer term like MYSA Fees, Dome Rental and Trainers for Winter. Early Tournament checks are also often requested and are typically distributed before April. PSA is a non-profit organization and needs to make sure the cash flow is addressed properly to ensure PSA can continue to provide the PSA families soccer services uninterrupted.