



PSA Travel Soccer Guidelines

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, decriing 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 evaluations and team notification 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 team coaches 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. All levels will be announced together 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.



PSA Travel Soccer Player Fees & Payments

Fees & Payments Summary:

Estimated costs for each team will be budgeted, divided by the number of players rostered on that team. Actual team expenses can vary widely and are most typically dependent on coaching (paid vs parent/volunteer) and tournaments (quantity, in town vs out of town).

Items not included in team or player fees and expected to be paid out-of-pocket include travel, lodging, meals, uniforms, warmups, parties and coaches gifts.

Player Fees:

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

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

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.



Fees & Payments Structure:

Although subject to change during the season, Player fees are typically billed out in 3 assessments according to the following structure:

- **Commitment Fee (September).** The first fee assessment (or commitment fee - see chart below), represents 25% of player fees. Payment of this fee along with any balance due on the players account within 7 days of player notification is required to secure a roster spot. After 7 days, PSA may offer roster spots to other eligible players.

Age/Level	Premier Commitment Fee	C1 Commitment Fee	C2 Commitment Fee	C3 Commitment Fee
U8	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00
U9	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00
U10	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00
U11	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00
U12	N/A	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U13	N/A	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U14	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U15	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U16	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U17	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U18	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
U19	\$400.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

- **Player Fees & Team Submitted Costs (February & April).** The second and third fee assessments represent the remaining 75% of anticipated and team submitted costs (green sheet) and will be broken into two invoices. The first payment is due on February 15 and the second due on April 1. If necessary, a final fee assessment will be issued to address any account balances from the season.

Please Note: 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 (coaching, tournaments, dometime, training, etc.). These costs are based on actual team expenses and are not negotiable. The accuracy of all invoices is dependent on how closely a team’s final submitted costs align with the basis used for the assessments. PSA reserves the right to revisit final team assessments and individual player costs due to extenuating circumstances.

Payments:

PSA follows a “**no pay, no pass, no play**” policy, meaning player account balances must be paid 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**

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.