

**Travel Team Evaluations**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Fall 2019 Evaluation Schedule**

**Sunday, June 2 (arrive 30 minutes early to check in and warm up)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Boys/Girls** | **Fall**  **Age**  **Group** | **Description** | **Birthdates** |
| 2:00 p.m. | All | U9 | 3rd Grade in Fall | 8/1/2010-7/31/2011 |
| 3:00 p.m. | All | U10 | 4th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2009-7/31/2010 |
| 4:00 p.m. | All | U11 | 5th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2008-7/31/2009 |
| 5:00 p.m. | All | U12 | 6th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2007-7/31/2008 |
| 6:00 p.m. | All | U13 | 7th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2006-7/31/2007 |
| 7:00 p.m. | All | U14 | 8th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2004-7/31/2006 |

**Monday, June 3 (arrive 30 minutes early to check in and warm up)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Boys/Girls** | **Fall Age Group** | **Description** | **Birthdates** |
| 5:00 p.m. | All | U11 | 5th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2008-7/31/2009 |
| 6:00 p.m. | All | U12 | 6th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2007-7/31/2008 |
| 7:00 p.m. | All | U13 | 7th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2006-7/31/2007 |

**Tuesday, June 4 (arrive 30 minutes early to check in and warm up)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Boys/Girls** | **Fall Age Group** | **Description** | **Birthdates** |
| 5:00 p.m. | All | U9 | 3rd Grade in Fall | 8/1/2010-7/31/2011 |
| 6:00 p.m. | All | U10 | 4th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2009-7/31/2010 |
| 7:00 p.m. | All | U14 | 8th Grade in Fall | 8/1/2004-7/31/2006 |

***Please register for the Evaluation for the grade your child will be entering in September 2019.***

**How to Register**

Players must pre-register to attend. If your family has already used the system, SportsEngine will recognize you when you enter your name. Otherwise, it will invite you to start a new registration.

**Evaluations Location**

All evaluations take place at Florence Recreational Fields, 145 Meadow Street, Florence, MA. All players will participate in evaluations at their grade level. If you need assistance with the online registration process, please email Registrar Kyle Maurer at [registrar@northamptonsoccer.org](mailto:registrar@northamptonsoccer.org).

**Evaluations Check-in**

Players should arrive 30 minutes prior to their evaluation in order to sign in and warm up prior to their session. Players should arrive ready to play with a ball, shinguards, cleats and water.

**Evaluation Process**

The Director of Coaching will run evaluations with his staff. Evaluations will take approximately one hour per grade group. Each player will be given a number to wear, and the evaluators will make notes on each player. Evaluations will vary by age; there may be individual drills, small group play, and/or full scrimmages. Coaches will run the evaluation sessions, but our Director of Coaching and his assistants will be making the assessments.

**Team Placement Process**

The evaluation is one part of the process for determining team placement. For current NSC travel players, players will be placed by combining the evaluation assessment with coach input and observations by the Director of Coaching during season training sessions. For players new to NSC, team placement will rely on performance during the evaluations. Teams will be announced prior to the end of June after the Director of Coaching has had the opportunity to review and consider all registrants.

**Team Placement Time Frame**

An email regarding team assignments will be sent to registrants prior to the end of June after the Director of Coaching has had an opportunity to review and consider all registrants and discuss with coaches. Players will have 48 hours to accept the team assignment by registering. If they do not accept or do not respond within the designated time frame, their position may be offered to another player.

A listing of frequently asked questions is below. If you have any additional questions please email us at [coachingdirector@northamptonsoccer.org](mailto:coachingdirector@northamptonsoccer.org)

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**What if My Child Can’t Attend Evaluations?**

Evaluations are mandatory. If your child absolutely cannot attend the evaluation dates for your age group, please contact our Director of Coaching, Matt Card ([coachingdirector@northamptonsoccer.org](mailto:coachingdirector@northamptonsoccer.org)) and explain the circumstances. The player may be able to evaluate at a later date with the DOC. However, players who miss their primary evaluation date may be at a disadvantage.

**Does NSC accept non-Northampton players?**

Anyone who lives in Northampton, Florence, Leeds or anyone who goes to school in one of the Northampton Public Schools (including school choice kids from other towns) is considered a Northampton area player and has priority for team placement. Extra spaces will be made available to children from other towns, based on competitive evaluations.

There are two exceptions to the above policy. First, once a child from another town begins playing on an NSC travel team, then he/she will have equal priority with Northampton area players in any future evaluations, as long as he/she does not leave the program. So if a player from Easthampton makes an NSC travel team, she will not be cut the next season simply because she is from Easthampton (of course, she will still need to earn a position at evaluations). Second, if there is more than one team at a given level, Northampton area kids will not be favored between the teams. So for example, if there is a U13 girls Division 1 team and Division 2 team, a child from Hadley who is “waivered in” and who is good enough to play on the Division 1 team would be placed there. Players whose home town has a town travel soccer program need a waiver from their town in order to play for a Northampton team. The player can attend evaluations, and then if he/she makes a team we will help them obtain the waiver.

According to Roots Soccer League rules waivers may be granted for the following reasons:

**1)** Existing club does not have an appropriate team for that player to play on

**2)** A player involved in divorce or custody circumstances

**3)** A school choice student playing for a team in the town where he or she attends school

**4)** A player on a team affiliated with a church, temple or fraternal organization where the player is a member.

**Can my child play at a different grade level?**

Not likely. NSC’s developmental philosophy is to keep players at their appropriate levels subject to extraordinary circumstances. A player that is advanced a grade in school beyond their age and has been playing at their age rather than with their classmates may be eligible for a waiver to continue playing at their age group. In certain cases, a player may play “up” with an older team. The policy is that a child must evaluate with his/her proper grade, and then the decision on allowing a player to play up will be based on the player’s ability level and the needs of the various teams.

**Does every player make a team?**

The goal of NSC is to create opportunities for competitive play and advanced skill development for the greatest number of players. However, sometimes there are circumstances where we cannot accommodate every child that attends evaluations. An example would be when we have too many players for one team, but not enough for a second team. If players in 3rd - 6th grade don’t make a travel team, they have the option to play on a Northampton Recreation team in the fall.

**What is the cost?**

There is no cost for evaluations. The Travel Team fees are $140for the fall season, plus a uniform fee (fees subject to change). A similar fee exists for the spring season. Financial support is available for children receiving free or reduced school lunches. Please contact our registrar for more information at registrar@northamptonsoccer.org.