



# Informational Parents Meeting

*May 13, 2019*



# About the Wilton Soccer Association (“WSA”)

WSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization guided by an annually-elected volunteer Board of Directors and supported by member families and sponsors/donors.

- Soccer programs for children ages 3 - 18
- ~2,000 “player seasons” each year
- Two professional coaching organizations
- Hundreds of volunteers



# WSA Mission

Mission

**Positively influence the growth of children and our community by reinforcing values and respect for others through fun and high quality soccer experiences.**

Deliverables

**Programming    Development    Community**

Values

**Sportsmanship    Leadership    Integrity    Respect**

Culture

**Volunteer-Driven**  
**Transparent    Fair    Accessible    Positive    Non-profit    Local**



# Summary of WSA Core Programs

## Intramural (Age 3+)

- Fun
- Participation
  
- Tots / Pre-K
- K, 1st, 2nd/3rd grade
- 3rd/4th grade to HS
  
- Seasonal sign up
- Winter clinics options

## U9 Travel Development Born 2011

- Transition year
- Foundational skills
- Balanced teams
  
- 7 v 7 game play
- Travel league (Sun)
- Rec+ league (Sat)
  
- Seasonal sign up
- Winter clinics options

## Travel Born 2005-2010

- Competitive focus
- Development focus
- Ability-based teams
  
- 9 v 9 to 11 v 11  
game play
- SWD league playoffs
- CT Cup (U11+)
  
- Two season commit
- Winter clinics options

## Wilton High School

- Highest level of  
Wilton-centric soccer
- Varsity, JV, Frosh
  
- 11 v 11 game play
- FCIAC
- CIAC State Tourney
  
- Fall season only
- Freshman, and JV and  
Varsity teams



# Observations Informed by Member Families

**Observations informed by 1,000's of survey data points and hundreds of conversations, plus some “back to basics” thinking**

- Kids grow and change fast
- Tryouts stressful and imperfect
- Labels counter-productive
- Early specialization has challenges
- Kids want to compete AND have fun, but mostly just play
- Playing among friends and close to home important
- Quality coaching, consistent comms and accountability are highly valued
- Weather is frustrating!



# Soccer Development Guidelines



**Foster love of game, develop the player, focus on character and process, fun is essential**

Phase	Age	Focus	Practice: Games (#/wk)	Game Format (~roster size)*
<b>I. Introduce</b>	3 - 5 yrs	Have fun, foster love of game	1:0	Free play (NA)
	5 - 8 yrs	Intro basic movements, build love of game, fun	1:1	3v3 - 5v5 (~5-8)
<b>II. Teach</b>	8 - 10 yrs	Develop technique, intro game concepts, fun	2:1	6v6 - 7v7 (~11-13)
	10 - 12 yrs	Reinforce techniques, learn to train, fun	2:1	9v9 (~14-16)
<b>III. Train</b>	12 - 14 yrs	Train, learn to compete, fun	2 or 3:1	9v9, 11v11 (~18-20)
	15 yrs	Train to compete, fun	3:1	11v11 (~18-20)
<b>IV. Compete</b>	15 - 18 yrs	Compete, fun	3 or 4:1	11v11 (~18-20)
	18 yrs+	Compete & perform, fun	4 or 5:1	11v11 (~18-20)

Source: adapted / summarized from US Soccer and US Youth Soccer Development models and guidelines.

\* There are teams for each age (e.g. U9, U10, U11, etc) and multiple rosters/teams per age group.



# 2011's Have Two Options

- Flex to enter/exit/return without stress (single season sign up)
  - Play fall only, spring only, or both seasons
  - Switch from one to other in fall to spring
  - Play both in same season (U9 Dev as primary + intramural games)

## 2nd / 3rd Grade Intramural

- Fun & friends
- Participation focused
- 1 practice per week
- Sat, In-town games
- \$250 per season
- *Note: 3rd graders born 2011 only*

## U9 Travel Development Program

- Fun & friends
- Development focused
- [More competitive]
- 2 practices per week
- Sun, home/away games
- \$525 per season



# WSA 2nd/3rd Grade Intramural Option

## **We highly encourage intramural soccer!**

- In Fall 2019, open to all 2nd graders, and also 3rd graders born 2011
- 100% in-town
- First “real” soccer field, goalies and refs (junior)
- 1x per week, pro coached clinics
- Saturday, parent volunteer-coached games
- Single season offering (Fall and Spring)
- 8 - 9 weeks/season
- \$250 for Fall 2019, registration opens soon (June)
- Note: Sat intramural games in addition to U9 Dev for \$525 + \$40





# WSA U9 Travel Development Option

## **Fun, soccer development for all aspiring Travel players**

- Encompasses, improves on former “U9 Travel”
- Aligns with US Soccer and US Youth Soccer guidelines
- Focuses on developing self confidence and competence in individual skills
- Creates developmentally appropriate environments
- Builds bonds among the age group
- Flexibility to try season to season
- Establishes roster movement as natural/normal
- Better informs future ability-based teams
- Speaks to WSA mission



# How is U9 “Travel Development” Different from “Intramural”?

<b>2nd / 3rd Grade Intramural</b>	<b>U9 Travel Development</b>
<p>Participation and fun</p> <p>One 60 min clinic / week by pro coaches</p> <p>Focus on intro to basic skills</p> <p>One volunteer coached game on Sat</p> <p>All in town games and teams</p> <p>Single season, more casual</p>	<p>Development, participation and fun</p> <p>Bridge players from Intramural to Travel</p> <p>Pro coaches for practices and games</p> <p>Two 90 min practices / week</p> <p>Focus on developing skills</p> <p>Weekend games v neighboring towns</p> <p>Jamboree and/or tourney</p> <p>Single season, higher level commit</p>



# How is U9 “Travel Development” Different from “Travel”?

“Former” U9 Travel	“Future” U9 Travel Development
<p>Ability-based / A, B, C team labels</p> <p>3 teams of 12 players / team</p> <p>Full year commit (fall and spring)</p>	<p><u>“Development”</u>!!</p> <p>Balanced teams / random team names</p> <p># teams / players based on sign ups*</p> <p>Single season flex (fall or spring, or both)</p>

\* will do best to accommodate as many players as is possible, WSA may need to limit the number of players in the program due to field and coaching constraints. May do this on first to sign up basis up to a max. Initial target of 36-48 per gender. More information to come dependent on interest.



# Balanced Teams for Games (U9 Travel Development)

- Teams will be balanced based on observations from required pre program assessments
- Pre program assessments over two days (basic, fun drills and small sided play)
- Why balanced?
  - De-emphasize error prone tryout process in first year
  - Reinforce focus on individual technique and player improvement
  - Encourage qualities like character, leadership, sportsmanship
  - Introduce games as environment for application of learnings and fun
  - Roster & player movement by design (no “ceiling”, no “trapped” players)
  - Allows for a longer player assessment period before forming ability-based teams
  - Very positive for culture and kids



# Coaching & Training Sessions & Season (U9 Travel Development)

- **Coaching**

- Head coach for weekly team-based training day and all games
- Team of coaches for group-based, weekly technical training day

- **Training**

- 2 - 3 “pre season” sessions before first weekend of game play
- 2 practices per week
  - 1 technical group session per week for all
  - 1 team-based session per week with assigned Head coach

- **Season / Games:** ~9 - 10 wk schedule of games plus Jamboree and/or fun tournament



# Teach and Focus on Individual Player Improvement (U9 Travel Development)

**Over course of season will teach foundational technique, pair with game concepts and emphasize process and character in fun, positive environment**

<b>Foundational Technique</b>	<b>Game Concepts</b>	<b>Character</b>
Ball Control / Receiving	Winning the ball -> Attacking	Effort
Dribbling	Losing the ball -> Defending	Creativity
Passing		Confidence
Shooting		Leadership
		Coachability



WSA investing in software to enable more consistent assessments and tracking of player improvements across our program.



# Registration, Pricing and Add-ons

- Flexible single season registration for each of Fall and Spring
  - Register for pre program assessments now at [www.wiltonsoccer.info](http://www.wiltonsoccer.info)
  - Deadline: May 24, 2019
  - Assessments week of June 3rd (required to register, two 75 min sessions)
  - \$525 per season, full registration and payment due mid June
    - Plus, uniform (jerseys, practice shirt, shorts, socks); backpacks, jacket etc also available
- More programs at your option / but not required
  - Spring U9 Development Season, re-register/register late Fall
  - Winter clinics, register late fall



Thank you!

**WSA's mission is to positively influence the growth of children and our community by reinforcing values such as sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity and respect for others through fun and high quality soccer experiences.**

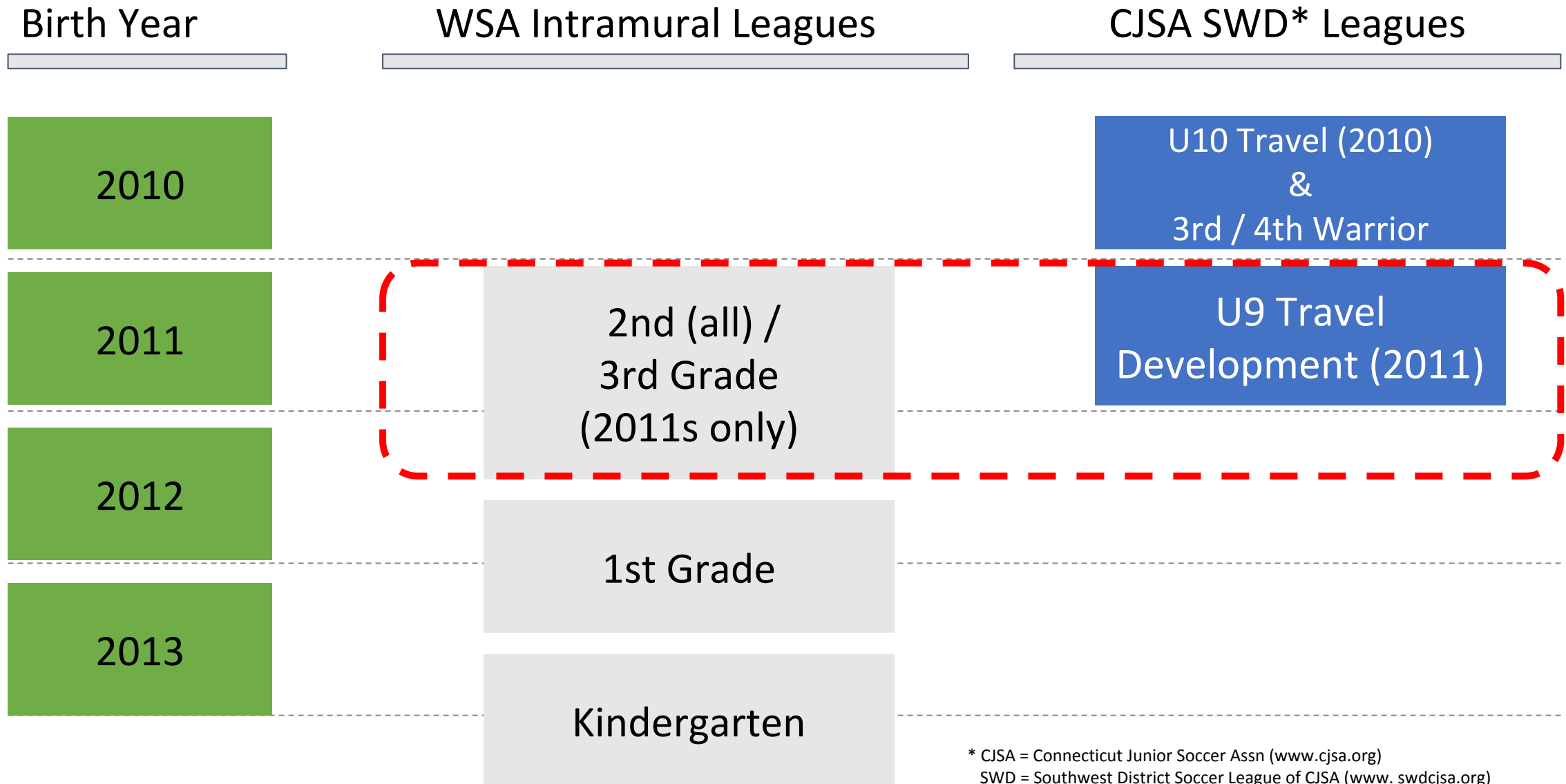
- ***PS... we always need more volunteers to make our programs a success, so please reach out! [info@wiltonsoccer.info](mailto:info@wiltonsoccer.info)***



# Appendix



# Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Programs by Age Group



\* CJSA = Connecticut Junior Soccer Assn ([www.cjsa.org](http://www.cjsa.org))  
SWD = Southwest District Soccer League of CJSA ([www.swdcjsa.org](http://www.swdcjsa.org))