



Travel Soccer Program Overview

2012-2013

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The Wilton Soccer Association (the WSA) offers a travel soccer program that provides a high level of competitive play for qualified participants. Travel soccer opportunities are generally available to players who meet specific criteria established by the WSA. Those criteria, along with travel program policies and recommendations, are discussed in the following pages.

Travel Program Objectives

One of the missions of the WSA is to provide an opportunity for all eligible Wilton children to play soccer. The purpose of the WSA travel soccer program is to provide qualified players with an opportunity to develop their skills at a higher level. There are five components of the travel program:

- 1.) To provide all qualified players with an opportunity to play soccer at a more competitive level than at the intramural level;
- 2.) To provide professional training for all travel players, thereby allowing an enhanced opportunity to develop skills and an understanding of the game;
- 3.) To participate in games against other towns in a fair and competitive environment;
- 4.) To instill in players a sense of sportsmanship and teamwork that will extend beyond the playing field; and
- 5.) To instill in players a lifelong love of soccer.

Player Eligibility

The WSA offers a travel program for players who meet the following eligibility requirements:

Residency Policy

Players must be residents of Wilton. Non-Wilton residents may try out for travel teams, however, subject to receiving express permission from the WSA Board of Directors. Non-Wilton residents will only be considered for placement on a team in situations where they would not displace, during that season, residents who are reasonably suited in ability and committed to play for the travel team. All non-Wilton residents must receive explicit permission for each fall season and spring season from the WSA Board of Directors. In addition, no commitments or implied promises to any non-Wilton player will be made for an upcoming season without the prior approval of the WSA Board of Directors.

Registration Policy

WSA travel teams are reconfigured each year. Thus, placement of a player on a travel team for one year (which includes a fall season and a spring season), does not guarantee that player a spot on that team, or any other travel team, for any subsequent year. Every player wishing to be considered for placement on a travel team must register in advance, every year, with the WSA. Travel registration is a two-step process: First, a registration form must be completed on-line. This form can be found on the WSA's website, www.wiltonsoccer.info, and is only available during a specified timeframe, announced via email and via the WSA web site home page. The second part of the registration process requires a parent to attend a travel registration session. Parents must bring a copy of the confirmation of their on line registration, along with a 1x1 photo of their child and a copy of their child's birth certificate (regardless of whether or not your child played the previous year). The registration process for the following fall season generally takes place in late April, and is publicized in the Wilton Bulletin and/or Wilton Villager and on the WSA's website, www.wiltonsoccer.info. No registrations are accepted on the field on the day of tryouts for liability reasons.

Travel Team Selection

Tryout and Evaluation Process

Tryouts and evaluations are usually conducted in May to determine teams for **BOTH** fall and spring play. Prior participation on a travel team does not guarantee participation in subsequent years.

- All rising U9 players interested in a roster spot must attend a (3) three day evaluation process to determine placement which is best suited for each child's development.
- All rising U10 – U14 players interested in a roster spot must attend tryouts, which are conducted over a two day period for U10-U11 and a one or two day period for U12-U14.

The tryouts and evaluations are conducted by Soccer Extreme. Two or more coaches will evaluate the players at each session; one coach will be the current travel coach for that age group. During the tryouts and evaluations, each player is assigned a player number is given a vest with their assigned number to wear. Players are evaluated and scored based on athletic ability, soccer skills and small-sided game situations.

For rising U9 players, results from the (3) three day evaluation will be exclusively used to determine the placement which is best suited for each child's development.

For rising U10-U14, each player's seasonal coaching evaluation (Travel or Academy) will be used to provide insight into elements such as attention to discipline, commitment and training. This seasonal coaching evaluation will also take into account how well the

child has played over multiple games and in varying situations. The tryout data and seasonal coaching evaluation data will be combined to create a ranking for the players.

Players that attend goalie tryouts may be given special consideration taking into account the goalie specialization policy. The WSA Director of Coaching and the Soccer Extreme coaching staff will compile the teams to present to the WSA Board for approval.

The WSA Board works to ensure all are placed appropriately to their skill levels to ensure that they can learn, compete and achieve.

Team Selection Results

Team selection results are posted on www.wiltonsoccer.info. In general, results are not made available until after the last day of school for the Wilton public schools. Results for certain age groups may not be available until later in the summer. This is because a number of WSA players also tryout for placement on premier teams and, if placed on a premier team, the player may not also be rostered on a WSA travel team. For certain age groups, premier team selection may not take place until mid-to-late-July.

Waiting List

In most instances, more players register and tryout for travel soccer than can be accommodated on the teams available. Should a player on a team decide to withdraw from the travel program or not accept their spot, the next ranked player as suggested by Soccer Extreme and approved by the WSA Board of Directors may be offered the available spot.

Vacancies that arise prior to the start of the spring season may be filled based on results of supplemental tryouts that are held prior to the start of the spring season.

If a spot becomes available on a team and there are no players on the approved waitlist for the team in question, The WSA Board may vote to hold a special limited tryout to fill that vacancy. The vacancy will be published on the www.wiltonsoccer.info site and all regular tryout policies on ranking will apply.

Spring Supplemental Tryouts

Tryouts for all ages are held prior to the spring season (usually in November) to assess players 1) currently on a Travel White team interested in filling a potential/available spot on a Travel Blue team or 2) players not currently on a travel team interested in filling a potential/available spot on a Travel Blue or White team. Any player who wishes to be considered for possible placement on any travel team MUST attend the Spring Supplemental Tryouts. In the event that there are a significant number of vacancies on any team and not enough qualified players to fill those vacancies, the WSA reserves the right to disband that team for the spring season.

Fees/Refunds

Fees

WSA imposes a registration fee of \$240 per player per year participating in the travel program. This fee covers administrative costs for both the fall and spring seasons. This fee is due immediately upon acceptance of a roster spot. Players who do not pay the registration payment fee by the date set risk losing their roster spot.

In addition, each family is responsible for coaching fees. The per-season fees are usually in the \$350 range. All fees must be paid prior to the start of each season. No player is permitted to practice with the team, or participate in any games or tournaments, if any portion of the player's fees is outstanding.

WSA offers scholarship assistance for families who are unable to meet these financial obligations. Please contact the WSA treasurer for financial assistance.

Refunds

Any player who chooses to decline placement on a travel team after the registration payment deadline must notify the team manager and the VP of Travel immediately. A refund of registration fees, after the registration deadline, will be issued only for special circumstances. No family should assume registration fees will be refunded after the registration deadline.

Team Composition

All WSA travel teams and rosters (U9-U14) are properly arranged into ability-based Blue, White, Gold, etc. teams based on the rankings from the tryouts and evaluations. The WSA Board of Directors has moved in this direction for all age groups based on research into player development, recommendation from the WSA Director of Coaching and the policies of surrounding towns.

*The teams are differentiated by playing ability because the WSA believes that:

- Differentiation provides most players with realistic challenges and appropriate intra-team competition
- Differentiation provides a platform for success for all players at their current stage of development – a key to enthusiasm; and
- It realistically reflects the significant difference in abilities between the top 5 - 10 players and players 15 – 35 (based on scores from the “travel team selection process” described above).

Rotation of Positions

At the U-9 and U-10 levels, players should be rotated through a variety of positions, including goal. At the U-11 through U-14 levels, players may begin to “specialize” in a specific position, although, with the exception of goalkeeper, a child will not be selected for a team specifically to play a certain position. All playing assignments are at the discretion of the coach.

Goalkeeper Specialization

The WSA has adopted a policy that recognizes the need to provide developmental opportunities for players interested in the goalkeeper position. A copy of that policy is available on the WSA website, www.wiltonsoccer.info. The policy states that, at the U11 and U12 levels, special consideration may be given to players who demonstrate skill in the goalkeeper position. At the U13 and U14 levels, a roster spot may be reserved for a qualified goalkeeper.

The WSA conducts a special goalkeeper tryout for those players at the U11-level-and-above, who are interested in developing their goalkeeper skills.

Any player interested in attending the goalkeeper tryout must indicate his/her intention on the WSA travel registration form and attend the regular tryout sessions for his/her age group, as well as the goalkeeper-only session.

Playing Time

At the U-9 and U-10 levels, the objective is that all players have equal playing time over the course of the season, regardless of ability. At the U-11 through U-14 levels, every player should expect to play at least one half of the duration of a game on average throughout the season. Coaches will determine playing time on a game -by- game basis and will be held accountable to ensure compliance with this policy over the course of a season. Every player is expected to play in every game. Exceptions to the playing time policy would be for players not showing up for practice or games for reasons other than illness, school conflicts, religious observance or family emergencies. Being perennially late for practices/games (“late” being any time after the assigned time for beginning pre-game warm-ups); skipping tournaments; and attitude, deportment or discipline problems may result in reduction in playing time. In the event league or tournament games are missed without one of the justifications described above, a coach is permitted not to play a player for up to ½ game for each game missed. In these circumstances, the coach should communicate the reasons for reduced playing time to the player and his or her parents.

Uniforms

The official uniform consists of a personalized blue jersey, a personalized white jersey, solid blue shorts and solid blue socks. The uniform is available for ordering at Soccer/Rugby Imports, Ethan Allen Highway, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Each jersey must include the player's number, assigned by the VP travel, as well as the player's last name. Uniform cost is roughly \$100.

For games, players must wear only the WSA-approved uniforms, without exception.

Commitment

Travel soccer demands a high level of commitment from the player as well as parents. Travel teams generally practice twice a week, and play a weekly league game – usually on Sundays. Each team is expected to participate in at least two tournaments per season. Tournaments are usually held over holiday weekends, and teams may decide to participate in tournaments that may be several hours from Wilton. All “A” level teams are required to participate in at least two tournaments per season, while all “B” level teams are strongly encouraged to do so.

At the U-11 level and above, teams may compete in Connecticut Cup play. “A” level teams are required to play, and “B” level teams are encouraged to do so. Games in that single-elimination tournament are usually held on Saturdays, and are scheduled throughout the state.

Players are expected to attend every practice, league game, tournament game and CT cup game. Excused absences may be granted for illness, school conflicts, family emergencies and religious observances. Special consideration may also be given for certain family commitments including weddings and other milestone events.

In addition, each family is required to volunteer for certain duties throughout the course of the season. While each family will be required to take a turn as “parent on duty” during regular practices, parents also help the team by serving as managers and assistant managers, and by helping out with field setup and takedown, among other roles.

Any parent, who cannot commit to these obligations, should reevaluate having their child participate in the travel program.

Premier Teams/Double Rostering

WSA's policy is to permit the player to roster and/or participate in both the WSA travel program and a premier club program provided, in the event of any conflict, the WSA travel team practices, games and tournaments will take precedent over any practice, game or tournament of the premier club. Any player wishing to double roster must complete

and submit to the appropriate VP travel a fully executed copy of the Premier Club Acknowledgement Form available on the website or from their respective VP of Travel.

Spring Sport Conflicts

The WSA does realize that a large number of soccer players also participate in other sports during the spring season. In an effort to allow children to experience as many different sports as possible, the WSA will be flexible to the extent possible during the spring season, with regard to the commitment level.

Any family participating in multiple spring sports should let their team manager know, and also advise the manager early in the season of the time constraints their child will face. At the same time, families must recognize that they still have an obligation to soccer, and must be as flexible as possible in working out any conflicts between the two sports.

Player Expectations

- Travel players are expected to make a strong commitment to soccer.
- This commitment includes both the fall and spring seasons.
- Flexible arrangements may be made in the spring to accommodate players who play other sports. The player and his/her parents, and the team manager and coach can make these arrangements through mutual agreement.
- This level of commitment is necessary to enable travel players to enjoy competing against travel players throughout the CJSA Southwest District (the “SWD”).
- Players who do not wish to make the necessary commitment should consider playing in the WSA intramural league rather than on a travel team.
- *The WSA strongly believes that failure to play in the spring season hurts the whole team by reducing roster sizes, reducing team quality and potentially forcing the team to disband if there are insufficient players.*

Player Behavior

During practices, games and any other WSA sanctioned event, travel players are expected to behave in accordance with the Player Code of Conduct. They are expected to take travel soccer seriously and not be a disruptive presence on the field or on the sidelines. Should there be player behavior/discipline issues that need to be addressed, they will be handled in the following sequence until a satisfactory resolution is achieved:

- 1) The coach will meet with the player one on one;
- 2) The coach and the Coaching Director will meet with the player and his/her parent(s). The VP of Travel will be notified and advised of the situation;
- 3) A WSA Board member will meet with the player and his/her parent(s).
- 4) Once the issue has been elevated to the WSA Board level, the Conflict Resolution policy will apply.

Practices

- Travel players are required to attend two practices during the week.
- Players are responsible for being on time to practice, and ready to play.
- Players are only permitted to attend the practice session to which their team has been assigned. A player may not attend another practice session that may be more convenient, even if the coach is the same for both sessions.
- Participating in practices is as important as participating in games – this is where skills are learned and developed.
- Practice for travel teams will be up to 90 minutes in duration, based upon field availability and daylight.
- There will be an optional skills training session (in addition to the 2 mandatory practice sessions) offered for all travel team age groups on a weekly basis. Additional coaching fees will apply to players who attend these sessions.

Games and Tournaments

- Travel players are expected to play in all league games usually held on Sundays.
- Players are expected to attend at least two tournaments per season.
- At U11+ Players are expected to participate in all CT cup games. CT cup is a single elimination tournament, and games are usually held on Saturdays throughout the state.

Out-of-Season Soccer

- Travel players are strongly encouraged to participate in indoor soccer activities during the winter – skill training, leagues and/or tournaments.
- Each individual team generally sets up winter clinics. Often, this requires travel to indoor sports facilities outside of Wilton.
- Several coaching organizations offer camps – in Wilton – during the summer months. Teams may wish to attend a camp together as a way to prepare for the upcoming season. Participation in summer camps is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. The WSA will work to have the current coaching organization host a preseason camp in town just prior to the first week of school if possible. Players are encouraged to attend although attendance is not mandatory.

Parent Expectations

The WSA believes firmly that participation in the WSA travel soccer program truly is a family commitment. Parents set an important example for players by ensuring that their children arrive early for practice, and are dressed and ready to play. Parents also set an important example by reminding players of the need to honor their commitment to their teammates, even if that means having to miss a fun party or a weekend at the beach!

Parents are also expected to exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship and responsibility on the sidelines. **ALL WILTON SPECTATORS ARE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN A POLITE AND COURTEOUS MANNER THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR A YOUTH EVENT. THERE IS NO COACHING FROM THE SPECTATOR SIDELINE, NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS DIRECTED AT PLAYERS, REFEREES, COACHES OR OPPOSING PARENTS, AND NO ARGUING WITH REFEREES OR LINES PEOPLE. THESE EXPECTATIONS ARE DELINEATED IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT THAT MUST BE SIGNED BY PARENTS (AND PLAYERS) AT THE OUTSET OF THE SEASON, AND APPLY TO MANAGERS AS WELL.**

The SWD of the CJSA imposes sanctions on spectators for violations of this code. For the first offense, a spectator will not be allowed to attend the next two games of similar competition. If a spectator attends either of those two games, it will constitute a second ejection. If there is a second ejection of a spectator from a team, then that team loses all of its home games and must pay all referee fees. A second ejection may also result in forfeiture of all league games. It is up to each team to monitor its spectators and to ensure ejected spectators do not attend any games that they have been banned from – managers will be responsible for verifying this. A team will be referred to SWD’s Disciplinary Committee for failure to monitor the spectators’ behavior and suspension. All players, coaches and team representatives who are ejected will have their last name, club affiliation and date and location of the ejection placed on the district website.

Volunteer commitment

Every family is expected to contribute to the needs of the team, and to the overall viability of the WSA, in some capacity. Parent volunteers provide invaluable assistance in a number of ways including serving as: team manager, assistant manager, team photographer/editor, winter clinics coordinator, field takedown/setup, WSA board member, etc.... There are a lot of jobs that need to get done, and WSA travel parents are expected to contribute in some way.

All travel parents are required to serve as “parent on duty” (as described below) throughout the season, and to provide snacks and oranges to the team on a scheduled game day. In addition, every travel family is required to accept at least one volunteer assignment, as requested by the team manager.

“Parent on Duty”

Every travel family is expected to serve as “parent on duty” on a rotating basis throughout the season. The “parent on duty” serves as an extra adult at practices, and is available to help the coach should assistance be needed. The “parent on duty,” however, does not help with coaching in any way. In the unlikely event that a coach is delayed in

arriving at practice, the “parent on duty” should not begin the practice. Instead, the parent should just keep the players under control until the coach arrives.

Parent on duty responsibilities include:

- *Arrive at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of practice
- *Remain at the field until the last child has been picked up.
- *Bring a working cell phone
- *Have in their possession all team medical forms
- *Have in their possession telephone information for coach, team manager and all team parents.

Nutmeg Tournament

The WSA hosts one tournament per year, The Nutmeg Tournament is in the fall during Columbus Day weekend. This is a major undertaking which requires the volunteer help of **ALL** travel parents.

Paperwork

Parents are responsible for completing all paperwork and submitting it to the team manager in a timely manner. The WSA requires that a travel team medical release form be submitted in duplicate prior to the start of the season, along with signed copies of the player and parent codes of conduct. The WSA also requires a signed copy of the “Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form,” located on the back page of this document.

In addition, each tournament requires that paperwork be submitted on behalf of every participant. Requirements vary by tournament. Team managers will communicate paperwork requirements to all parents in a timely manner to allow adequate time for preparation and collection.

Parents do not Coach

Parents are encouraged to offer positive, supportive feedback from the sidelines. **PARENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES AND/OR THE END ZONES, AND SIDELINE COACHING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

The WSA believes firmly that parents who offer coaching instructions from the sidelines only confuse the players who may be trying to listen to guidance from the paid coach. Parents who attempt to coach their children (or any other players) from the sidelines only serve to ruin the soccer experience for their child and the other players. In particular, negative feedback from a parent is never welcome, especially in front of teammates and in the heat of a game.

Parents who are coaching from the sidelines during game situations will be reported by the referee, and subject to disciplinary action by the WSA, and possibly by the SWD’s Disciplinary Committee.

Soccer as family priority

Parents can help players live up to their soccer commitment by ensuring that soccer is a priority on the family calendar. Block out the Labor Day, Columbus Day and Memorial Day weekends now, because chances are your team will be participating in tournaments on those weekends.

Players are expected to attend every practice, every league game and every tournament game. A player will only be excused from these commitments due to illness or injury, school obligation, religious observance or family emergency.

Parent Feedback

Parents are invited, via the coach evaluation (which is available on line at the end of each season) to relate their observations and feedback about their child's coach. In addition, parents are encouraged to raise any questions, concerns or issues at the time they arise during the season with the coach, the manager, the VP of travel and with the WSA Board, as necessary. Based on that input and any additional input received during the season itself, the WSA will work with the coaching director to choose a coach for the team for the following season. **No team, parent group, or manager has the authority to hire, fire, or discipline a coach. Similarly, no manager or parent is authorized to act as a coach during practices or games; that is the responsibility of the coach and assistant.**

Conflict Resolution

At no time is anyone – managers, parents or players – to interfere with the coach's decisions or style. If an issue arises with a coach, referee, manager and/or fellow parent, it is the WSA's policy that it first be addressed directly with that individual in a constructive and professional manner. This should be done privately and not publicly. If this approach has not sufficiently resolved the matter, then it can be elevated to the appropriate Travel VP. The WSA Board is also available to deal with issues with coaches or managers that cannot be resolved in this fashion. Any letter to the WSA should be factual and signed. Confidentiality will be respected.

If it is determined by the WSA Board of Directors or a subcommittee thereof, that a player, parent, coach or manager has acted contrary to the rules, regulations, policies and guidelines of the WSA and/or the CJSA, any of the following actions may be taken:

- (1) Issuance of a verbal warning or reprimand (with a written verbatim record of the warning kept in the appropriate file);
- (2) Issuance of a written warning or reprimand;
- (3) For a coach or player, placement of such coach or player on probation with such terms as may be deemed appropriate;

- (4) Suspension of such coach, without pay, manager, or player for a definite period of time;
- (5) Permanent expulsion from coaching or managing within Wilton.

Player and Parent Codes of Conduct

The WSA requires that every travel player, and every parent of a travel player, sign a “Code of Conduct.” This Code states that the player and/or parent will hold himself or herself to the highest degree of sportsmanship. By signing this Code, an individual agrees that disciplinary action may be taken against such person in the event they violate the Code, at the discretion of the WSA Board of Directors, the SWD Disciplinary Committee or other similar governing body.

Coaches

Coach Selection

The WSA Board secures coaches for all WSA travel teams. For 2011-2013 seasons Soccer Extreme will provide coaches for all Travel and Academy teams U9 and above. To the extent possible Coaches from the Wilton High School program will coach the U14 teams under the direction of Soccer Extreme. This arrangement is intended to provide a consistent coaching experience over time and the opportunity for our players to benefit from the strong developmental curricula these organizations have developed.

The WSA reviewed multiple organizations prior to contracting with Soccer Extreme and are impressed with its commitment to player development both on and off the field, experience and success of players, teams, and program in the regional and state, and its desire to place commitment to the WSA as a top priority. They share our philosophy of ensuring that fun and fair play remain the WSA’s principal goals, even in the more competitive arena of travel soccer. They will continue to implement the WSA’s policies regarding player development, such as position rotation and playing time.

Travel Coach Expectations - Philosophy

- Coaches are expected to conduct a parents meeting at the beginning of the season to communicate plans and expectations and to regularly communicate with players and parents throughout the season. Players should be apprised of their developmental status as necessary during the season (i.e. if they need to work on specific areas, if their playing time is being reduced, if they are in jeopardy of not making a travel team in a future season, etc.).
- Coaches are expected to follow the WSA’s playing time and player development guidelines.
- Coaches are expected to keep winning in perspective. The CJSA has a policy of discouraging the running up of scores, which the WSA supports. Learning while having fun with positive encouragement is the goal. Winning at all costs is not.

Rules

In general, FIFA “Laws of the Game” apply.

Field size:	U-9, U-10 and U11	50 x 70 yds
	U-12 and up	60-80 x 100-120 yds
Ball size:	U-9 through U-12	size 4
	U-13 and up	size 5
Game duration:	U-9 and U-10	Two 35-minute halves
	U-11 and up	Two 40 minute halves

Tournament fields and game durations may be different depending on the particular format.

Referees

The referee/lines people are the sole voice of authority on the field, and no comments or actions will be tolerated from coaches, parents, players or spectators that call into question the referee’s/lines people’s authority.

All Wilton spectators are expected to behave in a polite and courteous manner that is appropriate for a youth event. There must be no coaching from the spectator sideline, no negative comments directed at players, referees/lines people, coaches, or opposing parents, and no arguing with referees or lines people. These expectations are delineated in the Code of Conduct that must be signed by all parents (and players) at the outset of the season, and apply to managers as well.

The SWD imposes sanctions on spectators for violations of this code. For the first offense, a spectator will not be allowed to attend the next two games of similar competition. If a spectator attends either of those two games, it will constitute a second ejection. If there is a second ejection of a spectator from a team, then that team loses all of its home games and must pay all referee fees. A second ejection may also result in forfeiture of all league games. It is up to each team to monitor its spectators and to ensure ejected spectators do not attend any games that they have been banned from – managers will be responsible for verifying this. A team will be referred to SWD’s Disciplinary Committee for failure to monitor the spectators’ behavior and suspension. All players, coaches and team representatives who are ejected will have their last name, club affiliation and date and location of the ejection placed on the district website.

Miscellaneous

Jewelry

No player is permitted to wear jewelry at any time during a game or practice. This includes earrings (including studs for newly pierced ears), watches, hair adornments and rubber bracelets. Players are not allowed to “tape over” earrings.

Cast Policy

The WSA allows players wearing casts to participate in games under the following circumstances:

1. Parents provide team manager with a doctor's note allowing soccer play while wearing the cast wrapped completely with bubble wrap or similar padding material.
2. Team manager provides a copy of the doctor's letter to the VP Travel, Legal Counsel and the child's coach.
3. VP Travel e-mails player's name, parents' names and mailing address to Referee Programs Director.
4. The child will produce the doctor's note and the arm properly secured in bubble wrap or similar padding to the referee at each game. Referee will inspect the cast wrapped in bubble wrap and give consent that it is safe for play.
5. Because the international laws of soccer leave player clothing and equipment safety to the discretion of the referee, other towns' soccer clubs may or may not follow the policy outlined above. The WSA hopes that other clubs and their referees will also allow this child to play when protected in this manner, but understands that play is not guaranteed. Managers should check with the opposing team managers to clarify their home field policy prior to their scheduled game.

Medical Alert Bracelet Policy

Players may wear medical Alert Bracelets during soccer matches, so long as they are completely wrapped by a secure wrapping such as Nexcare Holdfast Gauze. This wrapping must, in the judgment of the referee, cover the bracelet and provide sufficient padding so as to make the bracelet itself harmless to another player should he or she be accidentally struck by it.

Return to Play Policy

In the event that a player has been seriously ill or injured, under a physician's care, and unable to participate in practices or games, a doctor's note will be required before that child may return to practice and game play. Such a note will be required in ALL instances of serious head injury (i.e. concussions or suspected concussions), regardless of

the duration of absence. The note must specifically state that the child is cleared to return to soccer and/or contact sports. It should be provided to the manager or coach of the team before participation can resume, and the note should be kept in the team files.

Goal Safety

Improperly secured goals can fall on and cause life-threatening injury to children. WSA provides sandbags and metal stakes to safely weigh down the goal frame and prevent the goal from tipping forward. These weights are often moved, however, when the goals are moved for grass cutting, etc. **It is the home team's responsibility each time you arrive at a field for practice or a game, to see that the sandbags and stakes are in the proper position.** Please place them on the metal goal frame as far to the rear as possible. Referees may delay the start of a match until both goals are made safe.

Field Condition Hotline

WSA maintains a Fields Condition Hotline, 221-2216, and a portion of the front page of its webpage, which should be consulted to determine if fields are open on any given day. Sometimes fields may be determined unsuitable for play – even if current weather is not a factor, such as when the aftermath of a rainstorm may cause flooding to a field that lasts for several days.

If the WSA or the Parks and Recreation Department determine that a field is not playable, and posts that decision on the Field Condition Hotline and the WSA webpage, then **NO ONE** is allowed to practice or play on that field until the field is reopened by the WSA. Notification of a field reopening will occur via an updated message on the Field Hotline and the WSA webpage.

WSA Website

Additional information about the Wilton Soccer Association can be found at www.wiltonsoccer.info.

**WSA Travel Program
Parent Handbook**

Receipt of Handbook Acknowledgement Form

With my (our) signature(s) below, I (we) certify that I (we) have received a copy of the Wilton Soccer Association's Parent Handbook.

I (We) also acknowledge by signing below that I (we) will review this document, and will abide by the rules and policies as set forth therein. I (We) understand that failure to comply with the rules and policies of the WSA and the CJSA may result in disciplinary action by the WSA and/or the CJSA.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Date

Date

Child's Team: U-_____

Boys_____ Girls_____