

Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League Policy

Appointment

The EYSA shall supply a person to serve as the Executive Council Member (PVJSL Liaison) to the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League. This person shall serve as the coordinator for all teams entering to play in the PVJSL. This position shall be filled as determined by a majority vote of the EYSA Board of Director's (BOD) at the EYSA annual meeting held in January. The term of this position shall be for one (1) year.

Appointment of Coaches

All coaching positions shall be advertised. Coaching positions shall be tenured for one (1) year, unless deselected by a majority vote of the EYSA BOD.

Should more coaches apply than are positions available, coaching pairs shall be formed. If a coaching pair cannot be formed, all candidates will consent to the interview process.

All applicants shall be interviewed with each candidate responding to similar questions. A three (3) member interview team consisting of the Parks and Recreation Director, plus two (2) EYSA BOD members shall conduct the interviews. Selection of the two (2) EYSA BOD members shall be the responsibility of the EYSA President.

Upon completion of the interview process, the interviewers shall grade each applicant and submit one recommendation for each coaching position.

Upon receiving the recommendations from the interview committee, the EYSA BOD shall appoint each coach separately by a majority vote. The BOD is not bound by the recommendations of the interview committee and may choose to select another applicant or to reopen the position.

Each appointed coach shall submit to a Criminal Offenses Records Investigation (CORI) background check.

Coaches shall be volunteers and will not receive stipends or compensation for their services.

Coaches

Coaches must familiarize themselves with the rules and guidelines of the PVJSL and the EYSA and its policies; and must agree to adhere to those rules.

Coaches must always act with dignity and self-control. Any irresponsible actions or loss of self control towards players, referees, other coaches or parents can result in deselection by the EYSA BOD.

Coaches shall run organized practice sessions that teach the players soccer skills, position play, game strategies, as well as build endurance and strength.

Coaches shall be responsible for the safety of their players. Coaches shall further be responsible for the actions of their players during practice and games, and shall not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior that endangers other players.

Coaches shall work together with the PVJSL Liaison in all matters pertaining to their team (i.e. rosters, resignation forms, field availability, uniforms, equipment, etc.). Coaches will also be provided with a ball bag, soccer balls and a first aid kit.

Coaches shall, in a timely manner, submit a copy of their final team roster to the PVJSL Liaison and the EYSA Secretary and Treasurer. Failure to do so will result in termination of coaching ability for the next season.

As per PVJSL guidelines, each team must pay their portion of the referee fee at the time of the game. The EYSA Treasurer shall appropriate the necessary funds to the team coach, such that the coach will be able to pay the referee at the time of each game. Referee payment will be made by check and given to the coach after all player registration monies have been submitted.

Coaches shall attend any EYSA funded training sessions and those required by the PVJSL and MYSA (i.e. CPR, First Aid, etc.)

Coaches are encouraged to attend clinics and enroll in courses sponsored by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) or other organizations, in order to continually learn about the sport they coach.

Teams

The EYSA will attempt to field teams for the fall and Spring Seasons in the PVJSL. Teams will be formed depending on total registration numbers and their appropriate age groupings. All attempts will be made for maximum team grouping participation. Team age group requirements will adhere to those stipulated by the PVJSL in conjunction with the MYSA.

Rosters

Except where noted below, MYSA and PVJSL rules shall govern player additions and removals from team rosters.

The start of the soccer year will be determined by the age cut-off date specified by the MYSA (currently August 1st). Initial team rosters will be set with the start of the fall playing season. Team rosters shall remain valid for both fall and spring seasons for the upcoming one-year period.

Coaches are strongly encouraged to fill all available roster openings; thus involving as many youths as possible. However, coaches may at their discretion, roster less than the maximum team size as long as the minimum team size requirement is met.

For teams U10 and lower, there will be between twelve (12) and fourteen (14) players.

For teams U11 and higher, there will be between fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) players.

If the number of available roster openings meet or exceed the number of candidates, the tryout session may be waved, at the coach's discretion. Roster vacancies, which result from a player leaving the team, or from an unfilled roster, may be filled by using previous tryout results or by holding a new tryout session.

Team players will be allowed to play up an age bracket but are not encouraged to do so.

Coaches are not allowed to roster a player which has been previously roistered on a different EYSA sponsored PVJSL team during the same playing year (Fall to Spring).

Selection of Players

The dates for team tryouts shall be advertised in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. As well as the local cable TV access channel, EYSA website and the Park & Rec Office, prior to player registration.

Team tryouts must consist of at least three (3) tryout sessions for the fall season. Team tryouts for the spring season must consist of at least one (1) session.

Team players may be subject to multiple cuts.

Set-up and implementation of the tryout session shall be the responsibility of the team coach. The coach may use the standard EYSA player evaluation form to document each player's performance during the tryout session(s). A player evaluation form should be completed for each player.

At a coach's request, the EYSA shall provide up to two (2) independent people to assist with player evaluations.

The player evaluation is a guide for coaches and is not the sole resource for determining player selection.

Players selected to the team roster shall have tenure for one (1) year (fall to spring).

Uniforms

Each coach will be provided with a complete set of uniforms; which consists of a jersey, shorts and a pair of socks at the beginning of each season.

When necessary, team uniform selections are the joint responsibility of the coach and the PVJSL Liaison and are subject to EYSA BOD approval. Uniforms must be of white, maroon or black in color. All printing and logos should be consistent when possible, and approved by the EYSA BOD. The coach must try to minimize the uniform cost by seeking at least two (2) price quotations from different vendors. Coaches should also take into account uniform life expectancy, which is usually three (3) to six (6) years.

Coaches should order a universal size when purchasing. Uniforms should not be ordered sized child specific – the EYSA BOD however may approve some exceptions.

The EYSA and its coaches must be sensitive to the financial burdens placed on parents and must try to minimize all out-of-pocket expenses. Coaches are not allowed to require that their players purchase special "team" items, such as a second set of uniforms, warm-up suits, socks, team equipment bags, jackets, etc.

Team uniforms and equipment purchased with EYSA funds are ultimately owned by the EYSA. The EYSA BOD shall govern disposal of any equipment or uniforms owned by the EYSA.

Coaches are responsible for the collection and return of all uniforms at the end of the fall season as well as the spring season. Uniforms will not be given out to the coaches for the following season until all registration money has been received by EYSA.

Funding

The EYSA will cover those general costs required for entering a team in the PVJSL. These costs shall include, but may not be limited to; the team registration fee, individual MYSA insurance fees, referee fees, fines or penalty fees, team uniforms, and miscellaneous team equipment.

Fees and expenses associated with tournaments beyond PVJSL play are not funded by the EYSA. Funding for any team entering such a tournament is considered the responsibility of the participants, however, coaches may request a check from the EYSA to enter a tournament. The coach is then responsible for collecting all fees and submitting them promptly to the EYSA.

Teams may run their own fundraiser (i.e. can drive, car wash. Etc.) to cover tournament expenses, if they so desire. The team coach is directly and solely responsible for all aspects of the fundraiser. All income from a team fundraiser must be documented and the funds deposited in the EYSA bank account. Funds, not to exceed the documented amount, may then be withdrawn for legitimate tournament fees, special insurance fees, tournament patches, overnight accommodations, meals, etc. Coaches shall not receive payment for expenses other than what the players receive, nor are the coaches allowed to incur any special or unique expenses. All expenditures must be documented and meet EYSA Executive Board approval. At the end of the season, any unused funds (collected from a fundraiser) will remain in the EYSA general account.

The amount of seventy-five dollars (\$75) will be appropriated for each new team entering the PVJSL. This amount is available for miscellaneous team equipment needs, such as; game balls, goalie jersey, practice aids, scrimmage jerseys, etc. This appropriation is valid for one full year, the year starting with the MYSA^{st.} birth date requirement of August 1^{st.} Each request for a fund withdrawal shall be accompanied by a form, which documents the cost and description of the expenditure. The coach requesting funds shall submit this expense document. The head coach is the only team representative empowered to request and receive such funds. Whenever possible, discounts should be sought and the tax identification number used for tax exemption purposes.

Awards

The awarding of team trophies or medals are determined, handled and funded under the auspices of the PVJSL, and the EYSA makes no commitment to funding PVJSL team awards.

Each team coach at the end of the fall season will be provided with appropriate funds for a tam party, which must be solely used for that purpose.

Adopted on August 4, 2002 by a majority vote of members present and subject to periodic review and modification. Modified: May 2003