

To: All NGS Families

From/Reply to: registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org

Date: May 5, 2018

Subject: Important Message about Fall TRAVEL Registration and Assessments

Registration for the Fall 2018 – Spring 2019 NGS TRAVEL PROGRAM is now open. Registration for the City Program will begin in June.

Please read the entire message for important information about registration, fees, assessments, volunteering and more. For detailed descriptions of our programs, visit our [website](#) and read this handy [summary](#). For registration assistance, email registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org.

Registration Deadline

Friday, June 1 is the on-time registration deadline for the Fall 2018 - Spring 2019 Travel Soccer Program. After June 1, we will accept registrations until the program is full, but a **\$50 late fee** will be added to the cost of the program.

Setting up travel teams is a complicated process. Please support our efforts by meeting this registration deadline.

Wait List

Only girls registered by the June 1 deadline are guaranteed a spot on a team. If you register late and your daughter is put on a wait list, we will make every effort to place her on a team. Names will be taken off the waitlist on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your credit card will not be charged unless your daughter is placed on a team.

Registration Criteria

The NGS Travel Program is open to girls that live in or attend school in Newton. Players register for the division that aligns with both their grade (in fall 2018) and birthdate. The age and grade criteria replace the former U9-U14 divisions and meet US Soccer's birth year registration mandate. The 2018-2019 playing groups will consist of the following:

- Grade 3 - Players must be in the third grade AND born on or after 1/1/2009
- Grade 4 - Players must be in the fourth grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2008
- Grade 5 - Players must be in the fifth grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2007
- Grade 6 - Players must be in the sixth grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2006
- Grade 7/8 - Players must be in the eighth grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2004

NGS Travel Player Commitment Agreement

When you register your daughter for the travel program, you are asked to electronically sign a commitment agreement. Please read the agreement carefully and discuss the requirements with your daughter. **If there is any doubt that she will be able to fully participate, please consider registering for the City Program instead.** The agreement is as follows:

By registering, I [player and parent] understand that I am joining the Newton Girls Soccer Travel Program for the 2018/2019 seasons.

My commitment includes both the fall and spring seasons. I understand that by committing to my assigned team and to NGS I will be expected to participate in regularly scheduled practices, league games, tournaments and all other team obligations.

In case of an emergency, illness, or conflict with an important family, school or religious event, I will notify the team manager and/or coaching staff in advance. I understand that my teammates rely on my commitment and I am promising to myself as well as my teammates to live up to this commitment by joining the team.

I understand that any unexcused or frequent absences will be taken into account for both my playing time during games and team placement for future seasons.

Player Commitment:

- Practices: Travel teams practice a minimum of two (2) times per week for the duration of the fall and spring seasons.
- Fall games: 10 games on Saturdays
- Winter indoor training: Optional
- Spring games: 10 games on Saturdays

Acceptance:

I understand the requirements as outlined in this agreement. By checking below I indicate that I accept my assigned travel team and agree to all commitments.

Travel Program Fees

Grades 3 – 8, fall and spring seasons: \$370

Sibling Discount

If you are registering more than one child for an NGS program, you can receive a \$20 discount for each additional player from the same family. Blue Sombrero will only automatically apply the sibling discount if you register 2 or more siblings in the same NGS program (e.g., both in travel or both in the city program) at the same time. **If your children play in different NGS programs, please email registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org BEFORE you register to get a discount code.**

Scholarships

It is the policy of Newton Girls Soccer that no girl should be denied the opportunity to play soccer due to her family's financial situation. To request financial assistance for any NGS programs, email the NGS President at president@newtongirlssoccer.org. All scholarship requests are confidential. NGS may request documentation of need.

Requests should be submitted by email at least 7 days before the program registration deadline. Scholarships cannot be applied retroactively. Once you have registered and paid, we cannot refund your money in lieu of a scholarship.

Your request should include:

- Player's Name and Grade
- Guardians' Name, Phone Number, and Email
- Program Name
- Amount that you are able to contribute towards the registration fee

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Registrants must cancel prior to **July 1** to receive a refund, less a **\$50 cancellation fee**. After this date, there are no refunds, except in the following situations:

- If a player moves out of Newton and notifies the registrar before the season starts, she may receive a refund of the registration fee, less a cancellation fee. Proof of relocation must be submitted when requesting the refund. Once the season starts, there are no refunds for moves.
- If a player has a season-ending injury, she may receive a pro-rated refund. A note from a doctor must be submitted within two weeks of the injury.
- If a player transfers from the Travel program to the City program after the cutoff date (July 1), they forfeit the price difference.

Online Registration

All registrations and club communications are managed online through Blue Sombrero. To register, please go to <http://newtongirlssoccer.org/home/register/>. Login to your existing Blue Sombrero account or follow prompts to create a new account.

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK THAT YOU ARE REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR THE CORRECT PROGRAM FOR HER GRADE IN FALL 2018. If the program you are looking for doesn't appear as an option, please email the NGS Registrar for help.

When you are finished registering online you should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation, please email the NGS Registrar to confirm your registration was successful.

Blue Sombrero has its quirks. If you have questions or something doesn't make sense, please email registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org.

Travel Team Assessments

NGS holds assessment sessions only for players registering for travel teams. The information gathered from the assessment is used along with evaluations from a player's current coach to formalize teams for the next season. **Assessments are required.** However, in the event that a girl is unable to attend an assessment session, placement will be based solely on the player's last coach evaluation, and/or whatever other data is available to the travel committee. There are no "make up" assessment sessions. All girls who register for travel teams before the June 1 deadline will be placed on a team according to her skill level. The NGS Travel Committee makes placement decisions.

Under the guidance of Shaun McBrien, NGS Director of Coaching, assessments are staffed by professional trainers and experienced coaches. During the assessment, players take part in a technical warm-up, skills stations, and small-sided games appropriate to each age group. Each age group is broken down into smaller groups to allow our evaluators more time to observe players and help ensure players are placed on travel teams according to skill level.

The NGS Academy Teams are also formed based on these assessments and evaluations by their coaches and the NGS professional coaching staff. Once the travel team assignments have been made, the highest skilled players in each grade will be invited to join an Academy team. We will allow a relatively short time for families to accept / reject the offer and then we will extend invitations to other girls in that age group until the roster is complete. For more information about the Academy program, go to <http://newtongirlssoccer.org/home/programs/teams-academy/>.

Fall 2018 assessments will be held on May 15 - May 24, 2018. (See schedule below.) **Please register your daughter now even if she is unable to attend an assessment session.** When you register, you will indicate whether or not you'll attend the assessment.

Answers to frequently asked questions:

- Players who do not attend an assessment will be placed based on their coach's evaluation.
- There are no make-up sessions.
- Players may only attend the session reserved for their age group.
- If you have an unavoidable conflict during your assigned time, you may attend the other time. Please let us know about the change when you register. (For example: Anna Smith is in 3rd grade and should attend on 5/18 at 6:30pm but she has a piano recital at that time. She can come on 5/18 at 5:00pm instead.)

Assessment Schedule

We require all players who are interested in being on a travel team to attend the assessment session. Your daughter should attend the assessment for the grade/age group she will be in in the fall. To participate in assessments, a player must be registered for the upcoming season. There is no additional fee to participate in assessments.

Grade 3 (Players entering 3rd grade AND born on or after 1/1/2009):

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 @ Nahanton Park, 507 Winchester Street

5:00 – 6:30pm Players with Last Names A – L

6:30 – 8:00pm Players with Last Names M – Z

Grade 4 (Players entering 4th grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2008):

Monday, May 21, 2018 @ Fessenden, Field B Kumin / Loring, Albemarle Rd

5:00 – 6:30pm Players with Last Names A – L

6:30 – 8:00pm Players with Last Names M – Z

Grade 5 (Players entering 5th grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2007):

Thursday, May 17, 2018 @ Nahanton Park, 507 Winchester Street

5:00 – 6:30pm Players with Last Names A – L

6:30 – 8:00pm Players with Last Names M – Z

Grade 6 (Players entering 6th grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2006):

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 @ Nahanton Park, 507 Winchester Street

5:00 – 6:30pm Players with Last Names A – L

6:30 – 8:00pm Players with Last Names M – Z

Grade 7/8 (Players entering 8th grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2004):

Thursday, May 24, 2018 @ Nahanton Park, 507 Winchester Street

5:00 – 6:00pm Players with Last Names A – F

6:00 – 7:00pm Players with Last Names G – M

7:00 – 8:00pm Players with Last Names N – Z

Team Placement

Players are assigned to teams by the NGS Travel Committee after careful consideration of assessment results and coach evaluations. We do not consider friend requests or schools. Families will be notified of their team placements by email in late summer. Coaches are asked to keep team placements confidential until all teams have been chosen. Please help your daughter have a positive soccer experience by supporting her assigned team.

With few exceptions, travel players stay with the same team for both the fall and spring soccer seasons. You DO NOT need to register again in the spring.

Player Safety Policy

Please DO NOT pierce ears within 6 weeks of the season start date. Players may not wear jewelry during practices or games. This includes, but is not limited to bracelets, necklaces, earrings, rings, beads, barrettes and other hard or sharp items. Newly pierced ears may not be taped. Earrings must be removed. Players may not participate with casts or splints of any kind. If a player refuses or is unable to remove the prohibited item, she will be asked to sit on the sidelines and may not participate in the soccer activity. There are no exceptions to this rule for the safety of all our players.

Travel Uniforms

All NGS Travel players are required to wear an official uniform for games. The jersey is orange with the player's last name and number (assigned by the registrar) on the back and the NGS logo on the front. The shorts are navy and the socks are orange. Soccer.com handles all travel uniform orders and distribution. Prices range from \$9 - \$35 depending on the item.

NGS has a partnership with soccer.com to provide you with a 1-stop-shop for all of your travel uniform and gear needs. In June, look for an email from soccer.com reminding you to order your uniform. Click the link within the email to bring you to your player specific page. You can order all the components of the uniform or single items. Once through production, your order will be delivered directly to you! If you have any questions about your order, please call Soccer.com customer service at 877-308-7989.

Please place your order at least 3 weeks before the season begins. If you order after that time there is no guarantee that you will receive your order before the start of the season. You only need to order a uniform if your daughter does not have one or her current uniform does not fit.

Parents are responsible for ordering the correct sized jersey, shorts and socks. We strongly suggest that you confirm the size of the jersey and shorts prior to ordering. Samples will be available to try on at assessments and at Lapels Dry Cleaners, 319 Walnut Street, Newtonville. Because the jerseys are custom orders, there are no returns or refunds.

Additional instructions are on our website: <http://newtongirlssoccer.org/store/travel-uniforms/>.

Volunteering/Coaching

NGS relies on parent coaches to help us accommodate the 1200+ girls who participate in our programs each year. **All volunteers receive support and guidance. Our main prerequisite for volunteers is a willingness to learn and a commitment to show up.** By all accounts, it is very rewarding to work with our soccer players and with the other volunteers in our community! Coaching a team includes teaching game skills, sportsmanship, team play, and other aspects of the game, as well as providing a high level of organization to the team both on and off the field. You will receive coach education and materials.

Please sign up to coach on Blue Sombrero when you register your daughter for the season. (We have simplified the form this year.) We cannot form teams until we identify a head coach for each team.

Interested in volunteering in other ways? Please email registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org and we'll try to match you up with one of the best volunteer jobs you'll ever love.

We are looking for volunteers and Board members who:

- Dedicate themselves to equitably serving all NGS players, from kindergarten to high school, from most casual player to girls who may someday play in college.
- Understand that the lasting benefits most girls will get out of their soccer experience will be friendships, life lessons and good health, not trophies or medals.
- Appreciate that NGS occupies a special place not only in our city but in the world of youth soccer, as one of the only programs focusing exclusively on the needs of girls.

There's a volunteer job for virtually every skill set and schedule, including: Equipment & Goals, Fields, Merchandise, Clerk, President, Treasurer, Uniforms, Volunteer Coordinator, Webmaster and age group coordinators for our Travel, Intramural and Juniors programs. Or if you'd rather volunteer for with specific tasks or events and not make a longer-term commitment, you can help that way too.