

Coach's Requirements: All coaches must complete the Coaches registration form in order to participate. Coaches also must have or obtain AED certification prior to the first practice. Travel coaches or coaches of a team participating in a BWNYSL season are also required to have a background check and complete the Safesport Training.

Late-Addition Assistant Coach Policy: Assistant Coaches may be added to a team within 2 weeks of the first practice. All assistant coaches must fill out the coaches registration form in order to be eligible to participate. Assistant coaches brought on after 2 weeks from the first practice may still participate following completion of the Coaches Registration Form, but will not be eligible for the Coaches Registration Discount or the Coaches Apparel.

Practice/Field Request Policy: When registering for a season, coaches may request a specific practice day, time, and/or location, but are not guaranteed to be scheduled during their requested time. Practice times will generally be allotted based on the order coaches register for a season and the availability of field space. Priority scheduling may be given to travel teams, older teams, coaches with multiple teams, or teams that have been together for longer.

Coach Practice Day/Time/Location Change Policy: After the practice schedule is distributed for the season, coaches will have 1 week to appeal their practice slot for the season by contacting the League Coordinator. Changes to the practice schedule are not guaranteed, and scheduling preference will be given to teams who practice once a week over teams that may have multiple practices per week. In the event a Coach needs to change the day, time, or location of one of their singular practices (due to weather, holiday, personal reasons, etc), the Coach may check the practice schedule to view open times, and contact the League Coordinator to request a switch into an open time. If an open time slot is not available, coaches may reach out to other coaches to see if they may be willing to share the field during their scheduled practice times, but should still check and confirm with the League Coordinator.

Field Sharing Policy: A practice schedule will be sent out at the end of the player registration period for a season. Depending on the availability of Coaches and the availability of field space, coaches may be scheduled to share a field with another team for part or all of their practice, or to practice on a different size field from where their games will be played for part or all of their practice, for part or all of the season. If this does occur, coaches are expected to communicate and work with each other to fairly and effectively share the field space. Teams may communicate with other teams that practice at that time to see if they might be able to switch or share fields on a certain day to give all teams the opportunity to have some practices on a full field in the correct size, but coaches cannot switch fields or force other teams to take their practice slot without communicating with the other coaches. The distributed practice schedule shall always take precedence in the event of a dispute.

Playing Time Policy: All players participating in House Programs should receive approximately equal playing time regardless of skill level or attendance, unless injured, sick, they ask to sit out, or for disciplinary reasons. For House Tournaments, all players should still receive approximately equal playing time, with no player receiving less than 33% playing time. For Competitive winter and travel programs, all players at levels U12 and below should receive equal playing time regardless of skill level or attendance, unless injured, sick, they ask to sit out, or for disciplinary reasons. Players at levels U13 and above should all play for at least 20% of each game, or 20% of a tournament.

Coach Positioning During Game: During Upper House and Premier games, Coaches are to remain at their own bench, and are not to go past the halfway point of the field. Coaches are not permitted to enter into the opposing team's space during the game. Communication with the opposing coach should be conducted prior to the game, or at the game's end. If a situation arises where communication between benches is needed, the coach should alert the referee and communicate during a stoppage of play with the referee present. Coaches are also not permitted to be on the field during the game unless a player is injured, and coaches must stay on the sidelines and cannot stand behind the endlines. Violations of this rule may result in Coach probation or suspension.

Coaches with Multiple Teams: Volunteers coaching multiple teams in a single season will be given special consideration when practice/game schedules are being made to avoid conflicts. If a conflict does arise, it is up to the Coach to find coverage for their game/practice.

Substitute Coaches: If an assigned team coach is unable to make a practice or game, they must let the League Director know at least 1 week prior to the event they are unable to attend. Coverage may be found first using existing coaches, and second using a parent volunteer. It is up to the Head Coach to find coverage for any game or practice they will leave unstaffed. Travel/Winter Substitute Coaches may need to be rostered to the team and/or complete a background check and Safesport training in order to fill in for games.

Coach Termination Policy: In the event that a coach is removed from a season, they are to deliver their equipment bag to a board member, and are to cease all contact with their team related to TSC topics or activities. The League Coordinator will inform the team of any changes, and will find a replacement coach for the season.

Non-Team Subs Policy: Teams are not permitted to use substitute players not rostered to their team, unless agreed upon by the opposing team coach and referee prior to the game. Players not rostered on a team that were not approved by the opposing coach and referee may be removed from the game at any time. For House Tournaments, teams are not permitted to use substitute players not rostered to their team unless given prior authorization from a Board Member. Travel/Winter teams are not allowed outside subs unless they are rostered to the team.

Coach Appreciation Policy: Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are eligible to receive coach benefits, provided that they complete the coach's requirements outlined at the beginning of this document. Only 1 Head Coach and 1 Assistant Coach per team will be eligible to receive coach benefits, with additional Assistant Coaches qualifying provided that the ratio of coaches to players exceeds 1:8. If there are more than 1 Head Coach and 1 Assistant Coach helping with the team, it is up to them to collectively determine which coaches will receive these benefits and let the League Coordinator know. Coach Benefits include the receipt of 1 item of TSC branded apparel, and a financial incentive/discount to be applied to the registration of a Coach's player(s) or the player(s) of their choosing. For Coaches who do not have a player participating in the ongoing program, they may attribute their discount to the player(s) of their choosing or their financial incentive may be used to purchase additional TSC branded gear from our website, added to their reimbursable amount of qualifying expenses for their team budget, or attributed to our general player sponsorship fund upon their request. The amount of the financial incentive/discount will be equal to \$100 or the total cost of a single full Summer House registration for that year for new coaches, and will increase by \$25 for every 5 seasons completed as a coach, with travel and competitive winter seasons counting as 1.5 seasons, and tracking of a coach's seasons beginning Summer 2022. Coaches who coach multiple teams in a single season will receive 1 season's credit/team coached (ex: a coach who coaches a Summer House and Summer Travel team concurrently will be credited 2.5 seasons for that season). This incentive will max out after 20+ seasons at \$200/season. A Coach can view their incentive level using the linked spreadsheet [here](#).

Equipment Policy (Coaches): All equipment provided by the league shall be returned to the league by 2 weeks from the end of the season. Any missing or damaged equipment must be reported, and coaches may be charged for any missing/broken equipment, with the exception of any consumables (ice packs, med kits, etc). Goalie Jerseys and gloves are not to be given to individual players to keep or take home. If equipment is needed beyond what is provided by the league, coaches may place a request with the league to supply additional equipment, or may purchase approved equipment themselves for reimbursement. The league may reimburse coaches for equipment purchases outside of their \$100 team budget, however any equipment that is reimbursed will not be permitted for personal use, and will stay with the equipment bag/ the league.

End of Season Policy: Coaches are to return their equipment bags within 2 weeks of the date of the last game of the season, unless coaching for the next immediate season. Coaches planning on returning the following year must still return their equipment bags. Coaches may submit receipts for any purchases spent on/for the team within 1 month of the date of the last game, and may receive up to \$100 in reimbursements/team/season on qualifying purchases. Additional funds may be added to the team's budget from the Coaches Incentive Policy or as a result of fundraising incentive achievements. Travel/competitive teams may choose to combine or carry over any unused funds from previous seasons with the same team.

Coach Approval Policy: Prior to the start of the season, all interested coaches who have completed the coach's registration must be approved by the board prior to being assigned to a team. Coaches will be assigned to teams at the discretion of the Board. Coaches are not guaranteed to be assigned to a team simply by completing the coach's registration form, and all final decisions will be made by the elected board officers. Coaches not directly assigned by the league may still offer their time/services to the assigned coach, but will not be eligible for coach incentives unless the provisions outlined earlier in this document are met. Prior experience as a coach or with a particular team may be considered, but does not guarantee a coach will be awarded the position.

At Will Coaching Policy: Volunteers with a team may be removed from their position as a coach at any time during the season and for any reason at the discretion of a majority decision from the elected board members. Coaches who are relieved or removed from duty must return any equipment to the league, and may forfeit their coach incentives for that season.

Tryouts Policy: Tryouts may be conducted for competitive winter or travel teams if there are more registrations than 1.5x the amount of players on the field at a time per team for that age group, rounded down. If the number of registrations for a team is above the 1.5x threshold, players may not be cut without tryouts being held. Tryouts may be conducted at the discretion of the coaches and coaches should give reasonable accommodation and consideration to players who are unable to attend tryouts, provided they inform the coaches of their conflicts within 48 hours of the tryout schedule being announced. Makeup tryout sessions are not guaranteed, and players who miss tryouts may still be offered a position on the team at a coach's discretion. Tryouts may also be conducted if multiple teams may be formed for the same gender and age group, to determine which team a player may be placed with. Players not selected to participate in the season may be included as reserve players or practice players at the coaches discretion.

Independent Tryout Reviewer: In the event that tryouts are required for a team, at least one outside coach/parent must be included in the tryout evaluation as an independent reviewer. That reviewer should be informed of the tryout plan prior to the tryouts, and should be included in post tryout discussions and roster determinations.

Team Cuts Policy: Players may not be cut from a team without being given the opportunity to try out for the team. If a player is cut from a team, the coach of that team must call and speak with the player's parent or legal guardian to inform them of the cut. If the parent/legal guardian cannot be reached, the coach should leave a message or attempt to call back later, but should not give the news of the cut in a voicemail until an additional attempt to contact the parent/legal guardian has been made. If parents/legal guardians are unable to be reached after multiple attempts, a message can be left or an email can be sent with the necessary information. When speaking with parents/legal guardians or leaving a message/email, coaches should inform the parents/legal guardians of the decision to cut the player, discuss with them the reasons the player was cut and offer constructive feedback and skills to work on, inform the parents/legal guardians of any alternative programs or options available to the players (practice squad, academy sessions, house program, etc), and invite them to try out for the team again in the future.