

# You Can Recruit and Form Your Team

## Summary

Sometimes a parent will see an announcement that registration is open. He will visit the EWSC website and register his player. He might assume that enough players in the same age/gender group will do the same, and that there will be an EWSC soccer team to play on. Sometimes that does not happen. Sometimes there are insufficient players and/or volunteers to run a viable team. Sometimes networking is needed to recruit enough players and volunteers to form a viable roster.

Below describes what you can do to help to ensure your child has enough teammates and volunteers to make his/her team a success.

Reach out to our [Club President or other Board Member](#) for assistance.

## Things the East Windsor Soccer Club (EWSC) offers.

### Summary

EWSC provides everything needed to operate a youth soccer club so that coaches and other volunteers can focus on coaching their respective teams and having fun.

### Affiliation - We are a legally sanctioned youth soccer club.

EWSC is a Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity affiliated with the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA). CJSA is affiliated with U.S. Youth Soccer, which is affiliated with U.S. Soccer, which is affiliated with FIFA, which is the worldwide governing body of organized soccer.

#### Benefits of Affiliation

##### *Accident Insurance*

Players injured while participating in CJSA-sanctioned activities, such as games and practices, have insurance that supplements their parents' health insurance.

##### *A league to play in. Teams of comparable skill to play against.*

Each soccer club registers its teams with CJSA each spring and fall. Teams are categorized by age, gender, and competitiveness. CJSA then forms brackets and decides which teams will play each other.

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## *Registration*

The EWSC registrar administers the behind-the-scenes tasks for registering players and adult volunteers in compliance with the governing bodies mentioned above under Affiliation, such as validating eligibility and collecting the registration fee.

## *Referees*

EWSC assigns referees to its home games.

## Access to Town soccer fields

EWSC manages the logistics of utilizing soccer fields controlled by the East Windsor Parks and Recreation Department. We have access to practice fields at East Windsor Town Park and to high-quality game fields at the Abbe Road sports complex. One of the fields has lights.

That means that coaches or team managers must only coordinate their practices and games with EWSC, and we make sure there are no scheduling conflicts.

## Tournaments

EWSC coordinates the participation of its teams in tournaments, such as on Columbus Day weekend. Tournaments are fun for everyone. Teams play in multiple games. There are usually food trucks on site. And so on.

## Things the East Windsor Soccer Club cannot do entirely on its own.

### Recruit players.

- Our club can't force children to choose soccer over other sports and we have a limited ability to recruit players. For example, we put signs around town and bulletins in schools to announce when registration is open. Coaches ask their players to return for the next season, but that's about all we can do.
- You, as the parent, guardian, friend, or relative of a child can persuade a child that soccer is a great sport that is fun to play.
- You, as the parent, guardian, friend, or relative of a child can volunteer to be a head coach, assistant coach, team manager, team parent, and/or be a board member. You do not need prior coaching experience to volunteer. There are free resources available to help you plan your practices. EWSC provides training equipment.
- Soccer teams need quite a few players on their roster to be viable. Through age 9, teams play 7 versus 7 and should have several more players on the roster for substitutions and to cover for absent players.

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About 12 players is a good roster size at this age level. Through age 12, teams play 9 versus 9. About 16 players is a good roster size at this age level. Older age groups play 11 v 11. 18 to 22 players is a good roster size.

- One thing our clubs, and other small town clubs struggle with, is finding enough players to fill out a roster. For example, we might have 7 players register, but ideally, we should have 10 or 12 players to form a strong team. So, we end up combining age groups or we are unable to form a team in a particular age/gender group. Kids who want to play soccer then must find somewhere else to play, or not play at all, which is a shame.

## Parent and player networking

A big way that parents and players can help recruit players is by networking. For example, EWSC typically distributes flyers to the public schools and local businesses, but we do not cover the magnate schools and private schools.

Let us say you are a parent who wants to assemble a soccer team so that your child will have a team to play on. Let us say your player is in fourth grade. What we need is for your player to talk to other fourth graders, and maybe third graders and fifth graders, and persuade them to join the team. You might have to collaborate with the school to find a way to contact other parents. As you go along, you might learn about neighboring kids who attend magnate schools or private schools. Kids might go to different schools, but one thing they have in common is that they all live in East Windsor and can play soccer for EWSC. A limited number of friends from other towns can also be on an EWSC roster.<sup>i</sup> A combination of announcements and networking is needed to gather up all the fourth graders in East Windsor who want to play soccer.

The same goes for each grade through eighth grade.

In the above example, your fourth- grader might end up on a team that consists of grade 3 and grade 4 players, or a team that consists of grade 5 and grade 4 players, or, in a perfect world, a full roster consisting only of fourth graders.

## Recruit Volunteers

- Our club cannot force adults to volunteer to coach players and/or join our board of directors.
- The reason our registration fees are low, and typically much lower than in other towns, is because we are a club of volunteers.
- You can either volunteer your time or you can spend a lot of money. There are premier clubs that pay for their coaches and run as businesses, but they cost thousands of dollars per year. EWSC is run by volunteers and costs about \$200 for the fall and spring seasons combined.

# You Can Recruit and Form Your Team

## Bring your team to EWSC!

You do not have to wait until the fall or spring soccer season is near. You can build your team well in advance. You recruit the players and coaches, and EWSC will manage the administrative details. Together we can make it happen.

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### **Rules controlling how many out-of-town and/or out-of-district players can be on a team.**

1. If a non-resident of East Windsor lives in a town that does not offer a team for that player to play on in his/her age bracket, that player can play in another town. For example, let's suppose you are forming a U10 girls' team, and you know someone who lives in Windsor Locks, and the Windsor Locks Soccer Club does not have a U10 girls' team, that person can be on your roster. You can have as many players who fall into this category as you want.
  - a. Caution with too many out-of-town players. The above rules apply for the seasonal year. Players make friends and feel like a part of the team. Then next season comes, and Windsor Locks forms a girl' team that your Windsor Locks players are eligible to play on. You might have to send some players back to Windsor Locks.
2. A maximum of two players can be on your roster from the categories below.
  - a. That player's town has a team that she could play on. For example, you have a friend from South Windsor who wants to play on your East Windsor Team, but South Windsor has a U10 Girls' team.
  - b. That player plays in a different CJSA District. For example, you have a friend in Ellington who wants to play on your team. Ellington is in a different district.