



# POLICY

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## **BRFC Team Selection Policy**

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear, consistent, and fair guidelines for the selection of players to Belle River F.C.'s travel soccer teams. It supports the Club's commitment to transparency, player development, and equity across all age groups and teams.

### Definitions

**Essex County Soccer League (ECSL)** - An L5 regional league operating within the Windsor / Essex area.

**Belle River F.C. (BRFC)** - The branded name given to Belle River Soccer's Travel Program

**Travel Program** - A Belle River Soccer program focused on participation in the ECSL which includes both Grassroot and Competitive divisions, but may also include training for younger age groups focused on development in anticipation of eventual participation in ECSL.

**Playing Up** - When a player is permanently rostered to a team with an older birth year.

**Affiliated Player (AP)** - A Belle River Soccer player (registered to the club in some capacity) participating in a league game for a team they are not rostered to, but who is in need of additional players to complete their roster due to injury or other planned absences.

## Scope

This policy applies to all Belle River F.C. travel teams with the exception of Senior teams, which are governed by separate placement guidelines due to its unique structure and composition.

This policy does not include players being asked to participate as an affiliated player (AP).

## Policy Statement

Belle River F.C. believes that all players should have equal opportunity to be evaluated for travel team selection based on ability, commitment, conduct, and alignment with team needs. Team selection will be based on a combination of objective and developmental criteria, and will follow a standardized process to ensure consistency and fairness.

Additionally, program and division capacities are managed by the Travel Director in consultation with the BRFC Travel Committee. In some cases, meeting these capacity limits may require the exclusion of players (i.e., cuts), based on the evaluation criteria outlined in our Core Principles. It's important to recognize that capacity numbers may remain flexible prior to the start of the season, as staff availability and player interest continue to be assessed.

## Core Principles

### **Fairness & Transparency**

- All travel teams must conduct publicly disclosed tryouts prior to initial team formation.
- Tryouts must be open to any eligible and registered participant within the age group.

### **Development-Oriented Evaluation**

- Player assessments will consider a range of factors beyond technical skill, including coachability, effort, team dynamics, and potential for growth.
- Selection is not solely based on performance during tryouts but also on prior attendance, behavior, and the player's fit within the team environment.

### **Coaching Responsibility**

- Coaches are responsible for conducting evaluations in a respectful, inclusive, and unbiased manner.
- Final roster selections must be submitted to the Belle River F.C. Travel Committee for review and approval.

### **Committee Oversight**

- The Travel Committee will review all roster submissions to ensure selections align with club policies and values.
- The Committee reserves the right to request changes to submitted rosters if selections are inconsistent with policy or procedure.

### **Communication & Follow-up**

- All tryout participants must be notified of their selection outcome—regardless of whether they are offered a position.
- Selected players and their families will be provided with registration instructions and deadlines.

### **Exceptions**

- Playing-up requests may be considered and approved in accordance with the Club's Player Placement and Playing Up Policy (BRFC-000110-POL).
- Any deviation from this policy requires written approval from the Belle River F.C. Travel Committee.

## **Authority and Responsibilities**

The Belle River Soccer Travel Director is responsible for the creation, maintaining, and enforcing of this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed a minimum of every two (2) years or when new developments in the Belle River Soccer Travel Program or any of its governing bodies occur. All revisions shall be maintained by the Belle River Soccer Travel Director and approved by the Belle River FC Travel Committee.

## **Enforcement**

The Registrar and/or club administrators will not approve players to a roster without sufficient documentation supporting eligibility and must be a member in good standing.

Staff, volunteers, or players in violation of this policy are subject to removal from the team, club suspension, and loss of registration fees.

## Related Documents

- BRFC Team Selection Process (BRFC-000120-PRC)

## Revisions

- A. This policy was originally approved on 2025-09-15
- B. This policy will be reviewed by 2027-09-15