



## Try-Outs for the Soccer Year Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

### Parents' Guide

In May, 2016, PCSC will be conducting its annual try-out sessions to recruit and organize players for fall 2016 - spring 2017 soccer year. Timing this year differs from prior years in order to comply with July 10, 2016 dead-line for registration for the next season beginning in September 2016.

Below, and on the pages that follow, we outline the main features of this process and its special features for this year:

**Objectives:** Improve the quality of the existing PCSC traveling teams for the next soccer year.... But do so by means of a process that is open, transparent and fair to the participating children, particularly for those children living in Port Chester.

As a lesser priority, we will open the possibility of adding new teams for the coming year, subject to interest & feasibility, while retaining the existing teams.

**Background:** The try-out process is required by the institution that the Port Chester Soccer club belongs to, the Westchester Youth Soccer League (WYSL). It is a key element in our club complying the July 10, 2016 deadline for registration for play in fall 2016 - spring 2017 "soccer year".

With the coming end of the fall 2015 - spring 2016 soccer year, the current membership of each team is about to end. On June 26 is the last WYSL league game for the spring. After that, our existing teams will exist in name only moved forward one year in terms of category for next year. They will need to be re-constituted with players. The prior years' slate of player members will be open to change for the following year.

Reformation of the teams is a 3-step process: (a) try-outs, (b) registration with PCSC of selected players and (c) filing of such registrations by PCSC with WYSL. Once re-formed and registered, team members will resume WYSL weekly competition in early September 2016 kicking off the new “soccer year.”

The try-out process is that forum in which PCSC opens itself up most to participation by new children of Port Chester and, as practical, to surrounding communities.

**Commitment:** Parents of children trying out in the process should realize that playing in a travel team is a considerable commitment in terms of time. To a lesser extent, it is as well a financial commitment.

The commitment of playing on a team is for two full seasons – fall and spring. WYSL seasons run from September to November and then from April to June. Players would be expected to participate in all games as well as practices, which are typically twice per week, and to participate in the Recreation Department public soccer program on Saturdays.

There is an up-front, one-time registration cost for the full year (covering two seasons). Additional expenses that may arise may be a stipend to the team coach (if he is not a volunteer), cost of participation in tournaments and indoor play – all the foregoing items are discussed and decided on a team basis. Another additional, but modest, expense will be rental of Columbus Park’s artificial turf field for the spring 2017 season. The cost for registration for the next year is in the process of being finalized. It is expected to be in the range of \$330, and the amount will be set by the start of the try-out process. The final amount will be dependent on the need and cost of uniform as well as sponsorship and donors obtained by individual teams.

Registration in June for the next season, subsequent to the try-outs for selected players, is an act of commitment to be part of the team. The success of a team is dependent on the sincere and energetic commitment of the players and their parents.

**Registration:** Registration will be on line [www.sportssignup.com/portchesterfc](http://www.sportssignup.com/portchesterfc) during the first week of June until last week of July 2016. For help “on online sign up” dates and time will be announced during the try-out process. Payment in full will be due at that time.

**Try-Out Committee Members:** The Try-Out Committee consists of all registered team coaches and assistant coaches of PCSC; this is a sporting matter. The try-out process is about selecting players that are proficient, motivated and physically suited for soccer play as well as committed for the full fall 2016 - spring 2017 season. The process serves to strengthen the competitive profile of PCSC and to improve the playing experience for the teams. The committee is currently co-chaired by the club president and the club honorary president & registrar.

Participation by all members of the Try-Out Committee in all phases of the try-out process is critical to our mission.

**Coaches for the fall 2016 - spring 2017 Soccer Year:** The Board of Directors of PCSC has invited all existing coaches and assistant coaches (collectively, the “coaches”) to continue for the fall 2016 - spring 2017 soccer year once their teams are re-formed.

**Constraints:** There are numerous constraints that need to be taken into account in the try-out process:

*Deadline:* Full registration of new teams (players & coaches) will be required by the WYSL in mid-July (e.g. July 10, 2016) The tryout process as well as player selection and registration must be 100% finished several days beforehand: July [8]. This effectively means the tryouts will overlap with the final portion of the spring 2016 WYSL season.

*Team size:* The number of players is limited (1) by WYSL rules and (2) the reasonable choice of the team’s coach. WYSL limits as to team size are a function of age category:

	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Game Players on field</u>
U-9/U-10	14	8
U-11	15	9
U-12 on	18	11

*Community:* In line with the name of the club, Port Chester Soccer Club, the majority of team players should be Port Chester residents. A minority can be from out-of-town. Each out-of-town child should be fully committed to the practice and game schedule of the team that he or she would join.

*Field space:* Use of Abendroth Park, Crawford Park and Columbus Park is assumed for planning purposes for fall 2015. At that point, continued access to these parks will be reviewed by the Department of Recreation

(the "Rec"). (There will be a per team cost for use of Columbus Park of about \$X per season.)

*Department of Recreation Support:* Superintendent Heather Krakowski appears able to pay our WYSL registration fees again for this next year -- but is not yet 100% sure. (This may be the last year of coverage for us for Port Chester fiscal reasons.) For the next year, support from the "Rec" will cost us \$80 (up \$10) in terms of up-front registration of the traveling team players for next year's "Rec" soccer programs. This \$80 will be a component in the overall cost.

*Other Aspects:* Our coaches and PCSC board are making their limited time available while they are in season play to support this critical process. A positive supportive attitude from all participating is expected.

**Age Groups:** The groups are basically shaped by the existing teams of the club (and passage of time) on the assumption that most existing players will both be interested and qualify for another year.

Category is dependent on each child's age as of birth year calendar. B stands for boys; G refers to girls.

**Number of Try-outs:** There will be one full try-out per age group. Attendance by prospective players is suggested; attendance to this session is mandatory.

Any potential exception(s) will be considered on a very selective case-by-case by the Try-Out Committee. Request for such exempt status shall be only on the basis of letter from the child's parents that is directed to the club president and received on or before the date of the first applicable try-out session. Such letter shall explain the circumstances and justification for exceptional treatment for the child in question. Only traveling out of the country or proven illness will be accepted.

**Criteria for Evaluation & Scoring:** For sake of simple execution, each candidate will be evaluated using uniform criteria and be graded with a score between 0-100. Each examiner will give a full score per session. The different scores shall be aggregated as described in the next session in order to arrive to determine that candidates ranking among all in his and her category.

Each candidate at each session will be asked to indicate what category of position that she or he has played previously (or would like to assume): (a) offense / mid-fielder, (b) defender or (c) goalkeeper. An obvious practical consideration is having at least one goalkeeper per team.

The criteria for scoring will be available at each Try-Out Session.

**Decision Makers:** The try-out process is a special opportunity for collaboration by coaches and assistant coaches of the various PCSC teams. The decision making process must be a collective effort. Why? The perspective of the various coaches may differ and add value. Each team's coach will not have decisive influence on the choice of candidates for his or her team.

Just the same, the existing coach and assistant coach have insights team that others do not have: (a) play performance existing players as well as (b) areas for improvement of their team. As such, a combination of coaches' input shall be the basis of decision of each applicant's score. The team coach will be simply one voter among the various evaluators present. A minimum of 3 coaches / assistant coaches at each try-out session will represent a quorum. Each participant present from the committee will submit one score card per candidate. Coaches will be scheduled for specific sessions to share the extensive commitment involved.

**Ranking:** For each team, applicants shall be ranked in terms of aggregate score received, with the exception noted in the section that follows. For a child that attends both sessions, the higher of the two all-in scores shall be the basis of the final ranking of the child.

The ranking results shall be made public on or before June 30, 2016 by posting on our website: [www.pcsoccerclub.org](http://www.pcsoccerclub.org)

**Priority of Existing PCSC Players:** Simply put, the existing players have limited priority. The choice of team formation is based on evaluation of skill, energy and physical ability for soccer – not longevity with the team. However, were 2 candidates to receive identical score for the same team, priority will be given to the existing player as opposed to the newcomer, subject to she or he being in good standing with the club.

Clearly, existing players could lose out to new players in this process. While this could sound harsh, this may result in a good "life lesson" for the child affected.

With the passage of time, some children discover that their interests change or that their physique is such that they are better off in another sport or activity other than soccer. Others may find reinforcement that soccer is where they do best and want to excel. The try-out process is key in this regard. Commitments end at the end of the soccer year in June.

Until then, coaches are accountable to their players over the soccer year. The try-outs are the principal opportunity for the club to design teams geared most likely to win.

**Priority of Port Chester Residents:** Were 2 candidates to receive identical score for the same team, priority in ranking will be given to the Port Chester resident if the other candidate is not a resident.

**Sign-Up:** The leading candidates for the designated # of slots have up to 3 days to register themselves for play by filling out the application in question, submitting photo and proof of birth as well payment in full of registration fee. Such fee shall be delivered to the PCSC treasurer and will be creditable against the PCSC registration fee for the fall 2015 / spring 2016 soccer year and will be non-fundable.

Non-submittal of the foregoing by that date will be grounds for disqualification. The opportunity to join the team will pass to the next child based on his/her ranking in terms of score—and so on & so forth until the # of positions is filled.

**Dates:** See Bulletin attached.

**Age Category Applied for:** Each child is strongly encouraged to try out for his or her corresponding team category based on age as of birth year calendar for a series of practical considerations. Exceptions are possible, however, on the upside (and not on the downside!). Playing in a higher category that dictated by one's age would be "playing up." Exceptions for playing up shall be permitted on a case-by-case basis for up to 1 year up from the inherent category of the child based on his or her birth-date. A player that attempts to "play up" does so at his or her own risk, in every sense. A play-up candidate must appear at the desired as well as his or her age-based category try-out. Failure to qualify for the aspired age category does not mean automatic qualification for the inherent, lower category. The child must appear at least one try-out for its corresponding category regardless of desire to play up. A child may attempt to qualify for up to two categories by appearing at up to three times in the overall try-out process.

**Sex:** The designation of team listed above considers the PCSC teams as they exist as of June 2016. That said, the addition of a very limited # of qualifying girls of comparable ability to boys teams is acceptable, subject to WYSL approval. The sex of the potential one new team will be based on demand considerations. PCSC believes in non-discrimination according to sex and welcomes the opportunity to increase the participation of girls in our

club. We are pleased with the continuing participation of the Bobcats team, the first girl team for PCSC.

**New team:** The decision as to any new team will be made by the Board of Directors considering the recommendation of the majority of members of the Try-Out Committee and practical considerations (e.g. # of players as well as coach and manager volunteers.)

**Advertisement:** Flyers will be distributed for the try-out process on or before Saturday April 30, 2016 at the Saturday Recreation program followed by posting at Port Chester public schools. An advertisement shall also appear in the May release of the Daily Item.

**Recruiting:** The solicitation of other players to join a PCSC team is limited by express WYSL rules. Recruitment of players on another team is limited to the period of June 26, 2016 (last season game) until registration of that player with another team. Violation of this WYSL is “poaching” and subject to heavy fines.

Herbert Diaz - President  
Port Chester Soccer Club  
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