

## **Pen Bay Soccer Club – Team FAQ**

**What are the age restrictions for youth teams?** The child must be the age of the team's age group on or after August 1<sup>st</sup>. For example a 12 year old whose birthday is in March would qualify for U-13 or older.

**Why are there tryouts?** There are a limited number of spots on the roster. U-10's have 12 on the roster, U-11's have 15 on the roster and U-12's on up have 18 on the roster. Teams may elect to keep some alternates but these are the maximum numbers allowed in the tournaments.

**Why do I have to pay a registration fee at tryouts?** The registration fee is to register the player with SoccerMaine and the United States Soccer Federation. Part of this fee goes to insure the player and it must be paid before the player participates in club activities. If by some chance the player is not selected during the tryout phase the fee cannot be refunded.

**What are the time commitments for the player and parents?** Teams must be declared by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Teams may tryout and practice from early August. Practice times and places are up to the coach but will generally be at least once a week. Games start early in September on Sundays and run through the middle of October. Frequently three teams will meet at a common field and each team will play 2 games. In the end of October tournaments are held in the northern and southern regions of the state. The Pen Bay Soccer Club will be competing in the Northern District, which could entail travel as far away as Waterville, Bangor or Ellsworth.

**What will this cost?** Not including any travel (food and gasoline) the fee will be at most \$130 (a \$20 reduction from last year.) This buys the player's uniform, which the player owns and will be the club uniform for the next 3 years. It also pays for referees, registration, coaching expenses, field maintenance and training equipment. If these fees present a financial hardship the parents are encouraged to speak to the president. The club's goal is to encourage every player interested to participate.

**What do I get for my money?** Players on these teams will benefit from a system of training in which all the coaches are licensed USSF or NSCAA coaches (E license or higher) who will work to develop each and every player's potential under the guidance of a director of coaching. A philosophy of "no laps, no lines and no lectures" will promote fun and allow the game itself to be the teacher. Each player can expect to be challenged and empowered to reach their potential if they meet the challenges.

**When do I have to pay this money?** The \$25 USSF registration and insurance fee is due at the beginning of the first tryout or walk on training session. \$75 is due upon receiving word of your player's acceptance on to a team. This will help to cover the purchase of uniforms. The balance is due by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**What is expected of the player?** Each and every player is expected to show up to all events (practices and games) on time with plenty of time make sure they are fully and properly equipped. It is the player's responsibility to have all their equipment and for every game they must bring their complete uniform as well as their alternate jerseys. Players will be expected to be attentive and respectful of their teammates and coaches. If a player becomes repeatedly disruptive they may be asked to leave the team and all fees will be withheld.

**What is expected of the parent?** Parents are the unsung heroes and provide support for the team experience in every way. Parents will need to car pool and help with logistical support. At least one parent per team will be asked to act as team administrator. All parents are encouraged to attend games and cheer the team on. Please cheer for the teams as groups and minimize cheering for individuals. Always keep the comments positive and please never question the referees. When possible sit on the side opposite from the team and let the coach do the coaching. Remember and please remind others it is supposed to be fun for the players and that will make it fun for all.

**What if a player has a question or an issue?** All players need to deal openly with the coach. This is a life skill that the players need to develop. Parents should encourage their child to address the coach with questions. Understandably this is more difficult for some and in those cases the parent and child should address the coach together.

**What if the parent has an issue?** The parent should always feel free to address a concern with the coach. If the outcome is unsatisfactory they should then approach the director of coaching but please remember playing time is not a subject for discussion. The coach has the final say in who plays and for how long.

**What about playing time?** At the U-10 and U-11 age levels the game is less results oriented and coaches are encouraged to try to play everybody as equally as possible. At the U-12 and higher age groups the games are more competitive and each team is trying to field the strongest group for the best result so playing time becomes more of an issue. There is nothing wrong with being a reserve player and through practice and maintaining a positive attitude these players serve vital roles to the team and more than likely get their turns to become first team players.

**Can a player play up an age group?** If there is no team in that player's age group of course that player may play up otherwise this is permitted only under exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the coaching committee. The most compelling exception is to keep a player with his/her peers. Superior technique is not a sufficient reason by itself. That player must physically capable and exhibit tactical prowess beyond their age level as well as the maturity needed to play at an older age group. Players moved up for these reasons should be a rarity that occurs once or twice in a club's history.

**Who do I call or contact if I have more questions?** Please feel free to call, email or write Rick Bresnahan, President for the Pen Bay Soccer Club at 207-236-2655, [rickb4@verizon.net](mailto:rickb4@verizon.net), or 721 Camden Road, Hope, Maine, 04847.