



Mission

The mission of the Cranford Soccer Club travel team tryout and selection process is to ensure that all players receive a fair opportunity to join a team of their peers possessing similar game skills.

General Information

Tryouts are open to all Cranford residents, U9–U19 girls and boys. Out of town residents are permitted to try out per rules listed in the following section. A resident player is defined as a current Cranford resident or any player currently attending a Cranford School. Typically, this is 2nd-8th grade for U9-U14 and high school for U16-U19 (spring season only). Players are encouraged to play “birth year” but may play one level up. Players are not permitted to “play down” per NJYSA Rules. In the event that a player wishes to play one birth year or level up, the player will need a top 6 ranking in the higher age group in order to receive a spot over an age or grade appropriate player.

Players who are grade appropriate but not age appropriate, do not need to finish in the Top 6. This example affects kids who are simply young for their grade. If a player trying out for a higher age group does NOT finish in the top 6 overall tryout rankings, they will not be offered a spot on any subsequent teams in the higher age group. Any player wishing to try out for a higher age group (“playing up”), must contact the CSC Travel Committee for approval before tryout dates. Out of town players cannot play up for a travel team.

Out of Town Players

All Cranford residents and students in Cranford schools are eligible to participate in the CSC Travel Program. Non-Cranford residents are eligible to try out for teams of any age group but will only be offered a spot on a team under the following conditions:

U9-U10: Non-Cranford players will only be offered a spot if needed to enable a Cranford team to complete their roster in order to field a team.

U11-U19: Non-Cranford players will only be offered a spot if:

- Their overall ranking falls within the top one-third of those trying out AND...
- The following Cranford player ratios are maintained:
 - Roster of 18 players need 16 Cranford, NJ residents (88%)
 - Roster of 17 players need 15 Cranford, NJ residents (88%)
 - Roster of 16 players need 14 Cranford, NJ residents (88%)



While the number of out-of-town players in Travel Soccer is small and the Club does not actively seek them, Cranford Soccer has always had an open tryout policy. These players are often needed to form a team. At other times, out-of-town players are selected to strengthen a team and allow it to play at a higher, more competitive level. Exceptions can be presented and approved by the CSC Travel Committee and will be judged on a case by case basis.

Teams for each age group will be formed to maximize the number of participants in travel soccer. The number of teams formed at each age group will be determined by the number of tryout participants and the number of coaches available. Teams will be formed based on skill level. The top rated players will form a team that will play in a higher flight (Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer Association "MNJYSA" or Elite Development Program "EDP" skill category), then the next team and so on. If there are not enough players or coaches to form a second or third team, any tryout participants not chosen for a roster position will unfortunately not be offered a spot to play travel soccer for CSC. However, it is highly recommended that players not originally selected to play travel soccer, continue to play in the Intercounty League run by CSC to improve skills and try out again the following year. All Travel Teams are dissolved at the end of the spring season with all players required to try out again for the following season.

In the event that any age group has enough players to field more than one team for that age group, the travel committee will determine whether the two teams will be equal-strength teams or have a deliberately higher-flighted team. This will be determined on a year by year basis.

Logistics

The tryout process is held once a year in May (U9-U14) and in November (U16-U19) for High School, consisting of two individual tryout sessions. The results of these tryouts will determine the teams for the following fall and spring seasons. Participants are required to make at least one of the tryout sessions and are strongly encouraged to make both. Special cases will be considered with the approval of the travel selection committee.

The Tryout Process

Advanced online registration is required and can be done at www.cranfordsoccer.net. Each tryout session will last 90 minutes. Cheering or individual coaching is discouraged during tryouts and parents are asked to stand a considerable distance from the tryout fields.

The evaluators consist of third party trainers from USA Soccer, our training partner. Scores from evaluators will be weighted and combined with each player's coach and trainer evaluation (if available), both weighted, to create a player's overall score for ranking and selection purposes. Specific information regarding a player rating/ranking will not be shared with parents or other members of the community, due to the sensitive nature of the information.



Tryout Day

Parents must sign in at least 15 minutes prior to tryouts. Participants will be issued a number that will be used by evaluators to identify participants. The numbered bibs must be returned each day. Players must wear appropriate workout clothes including cleats and shin guards. Current travel players must NOT wear their uniform jerseys. Existing travel or tournament players who show up in any part of their uniform will be asked to change clothing. Players must bring their own ball and water. There will be water breaks between drills.

Post Tryouts

The Travel Committee will tally participant tryout results. Player selection will be determined through a combination of tryout results, and coach and trainer evaluations. Previous Travel Team participation does not guarantee a spot for the next season. Head coaches are asked to rate player performance based on the previous season's performance. These ratings are based on skills, performance, attitude, attendance, sportsmanship and other factors.

The travel selection committee will meet with coaches to determine the roster for the upcoming seasons. While each head coach is the final decision maker on who to select for their particular team, the CSC travel selection committee's role during the selection sessions is to ensure that selections are done fairly, without favoritism. Email acceptances or rejections will be sent out as soon as team selections are made. This is typically within a few weeks of tryouts. The reason for delay between selection and notification is that many teams are still finishing their season during the month of June. The travel selection committee feels it would not be fair to inform some players on their existing team that they were not selected to return the next year while they are still competing. There will be no registrations after the season starts without Travel Committee and Board approval.

About the Cranford Soccer Club

The Cranford Soccer Club (CSC) was established in 1980 with the purpose to support the development of the sport of soccer for youths and adults in Cranford and the neighboring communities. CSC organizes, sponsors and administers teams, competitions and programs to ensure the highest possible levels of soccer competence, sportsmanship and enjoyment. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Monthly Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Cranford Community Center, and are open to all.