

# FC Berna Travel Team Formation Process: Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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### **PRIOR TO TRYOUTS**

#### **Does FC Berna follow the US Soccer player development initiatives including mandate on age groupings?**

Yes. The leagues in which we play and the member clubs for those leagues, including FC BERNA/LEGACY, do follow the US Soccer Federation player development initiatives including mandated age group mandate. Which means players are grouped by birth year instead of school year.

New age groupings, based on birth year, are available on our website via this [Link to Age Group / FC Berna Program](#). Additionally, we do support the initiatives regarding small-sided games for players 12 years old and younger. You may read more about the US soccer player development initiative online at (<https://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/resources/us-soccer-player-development-initiatives>).

#### **Will players have an opportunity to “play up” with an older age group?**

While the club strongly encourages players to play within their age group, a small number of players may be offered an opportunity to “play up” with an older age group.

The FC BERNA training staff will make all decisions regarding whether a particular player will develop better while playing above their age grouping. Part of the training staff’s decision will be assessing the player’s psychologic, physical, technical and tactical abilities relative to the older age group as well as their fit with their current age group.

Please note that all players need to register under their birth year and tryout with their age group as defined by the age group table online.

Players interested in potentially playing up with an older age group, must indicate their desire by checking off the box ***[I am interested in “playing up” with an older age group, if offered]*** as they register.

#### **What are the major changes in the FC Berna Travel team tryout process?**

No major difference from previous season but there are multiple changes to the FC Berna Travel team tryout process that will be noticeable to new players and families new to the FC Berna Travel program.

As we did last year, existing FC Berna Travel team players will NOT stop current practices to attend “tryouts”. Player evaluations will be performed based on multiple factors based on overall season instead of single tryout event performance. In addition, existing FC Berna Travel team players will be offered early roster spots. New potential FC Berna Travel team players will notice that tryouts are incorporated within existing team practice sessions. Resulting in a less stressful and more natural soccer environment. This style of player evaluations instead of single tryout events is the recommended method by NJ Youth Soccer and other professional and youth soccer leagues. Components of this process is also being introduced with our Legacy tryouts.

#### **What happens if I try out for Legacy & Travel?**

Players ready and willing to make the commitment to FC Berna Legacy program are encouraged to try out for FC Berna Legacy. Tryouts for Legacy are completed in late April thru 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Please register for Legacy Premier tryouts via this link: <https://www.legacypremiersoccer.com/tryouts> Any existing FC Berna Travel players that registers and accepts an early Travel team roster position and is offered a Legacy roster position - will be moved to the Legacy registration program and Travel team roster position be made available to another player. The remaining / open Travel team roster spots will only be offered AFTER Legacy tryouts are completed and Legacy roster invites are sent out.

**Will there be “fall only” or “spring only” player option available?**

While we will offer “fall only” or “spring only” player option, we will not be fielding a “fall only” or “spring only” team for U9-U14 (2011-2006) age groups. Those players looking to play only either in the fall or spring only will be asked to join existing full soccer year teams. Availability to those full year rosters will be based on full year roster size and skillset. We will attempt to assign as many of those “fall only” or “spring only” players as possible roster positions onto full year travel team, but only after full year players are assigned. All Fall only players please register for the “fall only” registration program. *(Note Fall Only Player Registration Opens during Open Tryouts in May)*

**EXISTING FC BERNA TRAVEL PLAYER TRYOUT EXPECTATIONS****What will occur with existing FC Berna players during tryout period?**

Existing FC Berna Travel players will not notice much difference as compared to normal practice session. In order to confirm player evaluations. Therefore, the tryout period will appear much less stressful it will be a continuation of existing team practice schedule and plans. No specific action required by our existing FC Berna Travel players to be included in the player evaluation process.

**Who conducts existing player evaluations?**

Tryouts are completed by the FC Berna professional trainers under the direction of the FC BERNA Director of Coaching (DOC), Jeff Zaun. During evaluation / tryout period, all of the evaluators are professional trainers contracted by FC BERNA and will include at least one current trainer for the age/gender group being evaluated and at least one additional professional trainer.

**Are players evaluated for specific positions?**

Players are not assessed for specific positions besides goalkeeper. They are assessed on overall soccer skills because the club believes it's important to develop players as complete soccer players and not limit them to only certain positions at a young age. As part of normal team development process, trainers will move existing team players into different positions to determine how a player will perform in a new role. As players get older, position specialization becomes more important and typically players prefer to play only certain positions.

**What criteria are used to evaluate existing players?**

Existing FC Berna Travel players are evaluated on multipole criteria that is gathered during a season long evaluation process. While we definitely value the talent of the players in our program. However, it is very important to understand that talent is not the only item considered, as we also consider a player's attitude, effort, commitment, attendance, perseverance, coach ability and discipline. We all know that talent is important, but as in life, not the only factor that determines where we end up. We gather information from a variety of sources to ensure we have the data needed.

**How will evaluation results be communicated?**

Existing FC Berna Travel team players that have registered for the upcoming Fall / Spring season will be offered roster spots first before new players. The roster invites will be communicated via emails generated from the club registration system. Roster invites for existing team members that register will be sent prior to May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## ***NEW PLAYER TRYOUT EXPECTATIONS***

### **What should players bring to tryouts?**

Your player should arrive ~ 10 minutes prior to tryouts to allow for adequate time to check-in with trainer. All players should bring a print-out of your proof of registration.

If you did not register online at all, we will not be able to send out a roster acceptance or feedback. Players should dress appropriately for the weather and be sure to wear their shin guards and cleats. All players should have their own water for hydration during breaks.

### **Why do tryouts consist of two days?**

Tryouts are two days to ensure that evaluators have an opportunity to assess all interested players. While we encourage players to attend both days of tryouts unless otherwise directed to by the trainer. Tryouts are available across multiple weeks so please ensure you attend at least 2 sessions.

### **Who conducts tryouts?**

Tryouts are completed by the FC Berna professional trainers under the direction of the FC BERNA Director of Coaching (DOC), Jeff Zaun. During tryouts, all of the evaluators are professional trainers contracted by FC BERNA and will include at least one current trainer for the age/gender group being evaluated.

### **Are players evaluated for specific positions?**

Players are not assessed for specific positions besides goalkeeper. They are assessed on overall soccer skills because the club believes it's important to develop players as complete soccer players and not limit them to only certain positions at a young age. As players get older, position specialization becomes more important.

### **What criteria are used to evaluate new players?**

Open tryouts provide our trainers the chance to evaluate players new to the club, in a setting with existing players, in a more natural team practice environment instead of a more stressful tryout event. During the tryouts, evaluators will assess players on multiple parameters including:

- 1) Psychological/mental – focus, response to pressure, and work ethic.
- 2) Physical – size, speed, strength, coordination, and conditioning.
- 3) Technical – passing, dribbling, shooting and 1st touch technique and effectiveness.
- 4) Tactical – choices made with and without the ball (e.g. field position, selection of passing/dribbling/shooting).

Post tryout discussions led by the DOC and his professional training staff will review the evaluations with open tryout observations to place players and form teams that maximize individual player development and overall team development.

### **How are players grouped during tryouts?**

New players will join an existing team practice session. Professional trainers will conduct the tryout as part of the normal team practice session which includes drills and/or scrimmages.

**How will tryout results be communicated?**

Travel team roster spots will be communicated via emails generated from the club registration system. There may be phone calls made as needed by trainers within each age group. As players accept roster spots teams will be formed. Our goal is to form teams as quickly as possible with the final roster invitations sent out by end of May and rosters finalized by mid- June.

Unforeseeable events, such as rainouts may cause a delay in roster announcements. In those cases, we will communicate the delay as quickly and effectively as possible.

**TEAM FORMATION**

**How does one accept a position on a team?**

Once a roster offer is made, the player has 7 days to accept that roster position. Accepting a roster spot requires that the player complete registration online for that team.

The player must also make the initial payment online when completing acceptance and registration. There are various payment plans available, ranging from 1 payment (with discount), 3 payments (1 during initial roster acceptance, another at before and end of fall season), or monthly payment option (with a small finance service fee added). For families requesting financial assistance, a financial aid application must be submitted in lieu of payment. The financial aid application form is available on the website ([www.fcberna.com](http://www.fcberna.com))

**Why must registration be completed and payment made to accept a position?**

This is to ensure that commitments are firm. Players who initially commit to a team but later drop out can negatively impact the viability of a team and negatively impact other player families that have committed to that team. Note roster acceptance and 1<sup>st</sup> payment is non-refundable.

**Why do player families have only 1 week to accept a position on a team?**

This is to ensure we can finalize rosters especially when we have multiple teams in the same age group within the deadlines and prior to end of June. Therefore, we must have a firm deadline for responses.

**What happens if we don't accept a position within 7 days?**

After 7 days, any open positions on team rosters will be offered to next player on the waiting list and other players as appropriate. This is to ensure that all teams within an age/gender group can be finalized within a reasonable timeline.

**Can I still accept a position after 7 days?**

Typically, no since after 7 days any open positions on team rosters will be offered to other players as appropriate. If open position is still available, then player may still accept roster spot. Once a team's roster is full, any open roster invites will be rescinded.

**What are the roster size guidelines?**

FC Berna Travel teams are created with the following roster guidelines.

This is done to ensure we have enough players on an active roster to field a competitive team.

Birth Year	Game Format	Minimal Roster Size	Maximum Active Roster
2011 & 2010	7 v 7	10	14
2009 & 2008	9 v 9	12	18
2007 & Older	11 v 11	14	22

**How will I know if my player does not make it onto a team?**

We will make every attempt to match players interested travel soccer with an appropriate team. However, it is difficult to ensure that all players can be placed on a travel roster due to factors like roster sizes and the number of unassigned players in an age group.

If we can meet a minimum roster size, we will create a team, informing the players of the situation, and working to find a more players prior to the beginning of the fall season. In situations where we cannot create a full team, players will receive a communication from the club.

FC Berna offers a recreational soccer program under the Total Soccer program as well as clinics, winter training, futsal and positional training so that all players in the club have an opportunity to develop their skills and reach their potential. Please visit [www.fcberna.com](http://www.fcberna.com) for a full list of programs available.

**What happens if I didn't register or missed tryout period, can I still join a FC Berna Travel team?**

If you didn't register or missed the tryout period for your age group, you may still be able to join the FC Berna Travel team depending on roster availability. Please review list of open roster spots for each FC Berna Travel team on the [FC Berna Travel Tryout](#) page and contact [FC Berna Travel Directors](#) to arrange a separate tryout session. Note – separate tryout sessions are only available during normal team season timeframes, not during summer or winter months.