BAC Travel Player & Parent Information & Code of Conduct

Season logistics, expectations, and the Player & Parent Code of Conduct

Welcome to BAC Travel Soccer! Whether you are new to our program or returning for another season, we are thrilled to have you. This packet is designed to provide essential logistical and procedural information to ensure a successful and enjoyable season for players and families. It also includes the BAC Player & Parent Code of Conduct, which outlines behavior and commitment expectations. Please review carefully.

Questions? Contact BAC Leadership at TravelProgram@bedfordac.com.

General Season Information

Player & Parent Commitment

- BAC welcomes multi-sport athletes and understands that players have outside commitments. However, when a player joins a BAC Travel team, they are making a commitment to their coaches, teammates, and the club. Players are expected to attend scheduled practices and games to ensure team cohesion and development. For multi-sport players, that means at least one practice a week, ideally the coach-led one, and most games. The same goes for players who also play for another soccer club. Games are normally played on Saturdays during the Fall and Spring seasons, with times anywhere from morning to late afternoon, so please keep Saturdays open. A few games each season land on a Sunday or a weeknight. Tell us about other clubs or sports when you sign up for tryouts. BAC doesn't change practice or game schedules around outside commitments. If a player is unable to meet this expectation due to other commitments, families should discuss this with the coaching staff and BAC Leadership before the season starts. We recognize that occasional conflicts arise, but consistent or last-minute absences without communication may impact playing time, future team placement, and the team's ability to field a full team on game days.

Communication

- Notify your coach in advance if your child will miss a practice or game.
- Coaches should be the primary contact for parents and players. If a situation arises where further information is needed, or if issues remain unresolved, contact BAC Leadership at TravelProgram@bedfordac.com.

Uniforms & Equipment

- Players must wear matching uniforms (jersey, shorts, socks) for all games.
- Home jerseys are RED; away jerseys are WHITE. Players should always bring both jerseys to every game.
- Shin guards and soccer cleats are mandatory. No jewelry/watches are permitted.
- Bring a soccer ball to all practices and games. All players U8 to U12 will use a size 4 soccer ball. All players U13+ will use a size 5 soccer ball.

Weather Cancellations

- For the most part, we play soccer rain or shine. Practices and games are typically only cancelled when the fields are closed by the town or if there is a safety issue (torrential downpours, standing water on the field, thunderstorms, etc.). In the event of a weather-related cancellation, BAC will communicate with coaches and parents as soon as a decision is made, through the club's Spond group and your coach. If weather is questionable, consider staying in the vicinity should games/practices be suspended.

Parking & Field Rules

- Pick up trash and respect our fields.
- No dogs allowed per town rules.
- Parking:
    - Greenfield Farms: Use designated lot or park on side streets nearby if additional parking is necessary. **NO parking allowed** on Greenfield Parkway or grass.
    - Sportsman Field: Use designated lot. The lower High School lot across the street is available for additional parking.
- For every other field, see the Field Locations page on bedfordac.com for addresses, maps, and parking.

Fun & Sportsmanship

- Soccer is meant to be fun. Competition is important, but our focus is on player development, teamwork, and building a love for the sport.
- Applaud effort and skill from all players. Good sportsmanship is essential to creating a positive environment.

BAC Travel Player & Parent Code of Conduct

To ensure a positive experience for everyone, we require all players and parents to adhere to the following standards of behavior and commitment. This code applies at every BAC activity, including games, practices, tryouts, tournaments, club trips, meetings and events, and to communications about the club or the people in it, whether in person, by email or text, in group chats, or online. It applies to any adult who attends or takes part in a BAC activity.

Player & Parent Behavior

- Represent BAC and the Town of Bedford with pride and good sportsmanship.
- Players:
    - Respect referees, teammates, opponents, coaches, and equipment.
    - During practices, players are expected to listen attentively to instructions, put in their best effort, and follow drills as directed. While we encourage a fun and positive atmosphere, horseplay that disrupts the session is discouraged. If a player repeatedly disregards instructions or disrupts practice, parents may be asked to step in and support the coach to ensure a productive environment for all. If a player continues this behavior, despite parental involvement, they may be asked to leave.
    - Do not use foul or discriminatory language or obscene gestures.
    - Do not bully, harass, threaten, or physically intimidate anyone, in person or online.
- Parents, guardians and spectators:
    - Respect coaches, players, referees, other parents, opponents, volunteers, club officials, and equipment.
    - Do not enter the field of play or the coaches' sideline unless you are asked to.
    - Do not coach from the sidelines. Let the coaches coach.
    - Do not referee from the sidelines by appealing for free kicks, offside, etc. Let the officials officiate.
    - Do not lobby the coach regarding your child's playing time or seek favoritism over other players.
    - Do not use foul or discriminatory language or obscene gestures.
    - Never verbally or physically abuse any coach, official, spectator, volunteer, or player, including your own child.
    - Do not engage in abusive, threatening, intimidating, harassing, or disruptive behavior toward anyone in the BAC community, in person, electronically, or online.
    - Raise concerns about players, coaches, referees, volunteers, or club leadership privately and through the club's channels (your coach first, then BAC Leadership) rather than through public criticism.
- Players & Parents:
    - Respect referees. BAC fully supports U.S. Soccer's Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) policy. Any threats, intimidation, or abuse (in-person or online) directed at referees may result in immediate removal from BAC and possible legal action. For more information, visit ussoccer.com/rap.
- **Respect for volunteers and Board members:** BAC is an all-volunteer club. Harassment, intimidation, abusive communications, targeted personal attacks, or threats toward coaches, referees, Board

members, coordinators, or volunteers will not be tolerated, whether at a field, in a meeting, or in an email.

- **Communication and social media:** Use respectful communication in emails, texts, group chats, social media, and any other message related to BAC or its people. Negative or disparaging public posts about referees, coaches, players, volunteers, or the club are prohibited. Communications, public or private, that include harassment, threats, bullying, intimidation, defamatory statements, or targeted personal attacks may result in disciplinary action. Concerns should be addressed privately and respectfully.
- Maintain a substance-free environment during all BAC player-involved activities.

Fines & Disciplinary Action

- BAC has a Zero Tolerance Policy for disrespectful and inappropriate behavior toward players, parents, coaches, referees, volunteers, Board members, and opponents. The Board reviews all reported incidents and may act on any conduct that violates this code or is detrimental to the safety, wellbeing, reputation, or functioning of the club community, wherever that conduct occurs.
- Depending on the severity and circumstances, action may include a verbal or written warning, fines, removal from the sideline or an event, temporary suspension from games, practices, or club activities, restriction of participation privileges (including club events, club trips and travel, volunteer roles, and sideline access), or suspension or expulsion from BAC programs.
- Adults and children are treated separately. Where the Board restricts an adult's participation, attendance, or access, that restriction does not by itself affect the registration or participation of the adult's child.
- Where the Board restricts a person's participation beyond a single event, it will tell the person in writing what was decided and the conduct it is based on, and the person may send a written response to the President. Club leadership may act immediately when needed to protect the safety of players, families, officials, or volunteers, with Board review to follow.

By participating in BAC Travel Soccer, players and parents agree to uphold this Code of Conduct. The full club-wide Code of Conduct, which also covers coaches, volunteers, and sponsors, is posted at bedfordac.com/code-of-conduct*. Thank you for your cooperation and support.*