

A Word about Transitioning from Recreational Soccer to Travel Soccer for *Players*

After second grade, players transition from recreational soccer to travel soccer. During June of every year the Sharon Soccer Association (SSA) hosts tryouts for second graders. Tryouts are held on two nights during the week after the recreational soccer program ends. The exact dates and times are listed on the SSA web site. All players must attend at least one tryout in order to be placed on a travel team. A special tryout form (see web site) along with check/cash for \$10 to cover administrative costs are required to tryout for the travel program. All players are run through a set of drills and they are evaluated by the professional coaches. A committee of the SSA board of directors (not including any parent coaches) determines team placement. Players are notified during the summer if they made one of the travel teams. Later in August there is an in-person Travel Registration meeting where players are asked to commit to playing travel soccer for the ensuing 2010-2011 year. A check of \$165 and a birth certificate secures their placement on a team.

Travel soccer teams are categorized by age levels (not grade level); U- 10 (for players under age 10), U-12 (for players under age 12), U-14, etc. In Sharon we have a U-10 team(s) for third grade boys and a U-10 team(s) for fourth grade boys. However the Girls U-10 team combines both third and fourth grade girls based on a lower number of female participants.

During the Fall season all U10 travel players and coaches are required to participate in the Saturday Recreational Program for third and fourth graders. In addition to your travel team, your child will be playing on a separate recreational team. Your child's travel team will have one practice during the week. However, on Saturday, your child will participate in the Recreation Soccer Program. Also, in the Fall season, the travel teams participate in two tournaments versus other towns. During the Winter, your travel team may choose to participate in an Indoor Soccer Session. SSA does not consider play in an indoor soccer session a requirement. During the Spring season the travel teams play other town travel teams on a regular season schedule and are not required to participate in recreational soccer.