

Volunteering for Travel Soccer

Pittsburgh Dynamo Club

Dynamo is an all-volunteer league and parents are expected to contribute. During registration, you will be asked to identify the role where you feel you can contribute the most to the team and the club. Dynamo believes that many hands make light work and we have a diverse array of volunteer opportunities including:

Travel Commissioner	Team Parent
Head Coach	Field Set Up
Assistant Coach	Events
Team Manager	Referee

Travel Commissioner

The Commissioner coordinates the Dynamo coaches and teams for travel soccer within the PA West Soccer Association districts. The Commissioner serves as a point of contact with the PA West Soccer Association administration to convey issues and activities of Dynamo travel soccer and also conveys information from PA West to the Dynamo Board, teams and travel league coaches. The Commissioner coordinates the registration process for players, coaches and teams both within the Dynamo club and with PA West; sits on Dynamo Board; declares teams with PA West for each playing season based on registration of players and coaches; gathers relevant materials from the travel teams (rosters, player cards, birth certificates) and meets with the PA West registrar to obtain validated rosters and player cards prior to every playing season; coordinates tryouts for travel soccer in late spring for teams that will play the following Fall – Spring season and maintains the Travel portion of the Dynamo database

Head Coach

A Head Coach (with the help of assistant coaches or team managers) is responsible for coaching duties associated with running a youth travel soccer team. These include coaching of players during practice sessions (travel teams typically have two sessions per week during season) and at games consistent with the Dynamo Philosophy and in accordance with PA West Soccer Association rules and regulations. Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches should obtain an E coaching license or higher. All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers that appear on the team roster are required to have criminal background clearances.

Assistant Coach

The Assistant Coach is responsible to assist the Head Coach on all aspects of coaching a team. Typical duties include assistance at practice sessions and on the sideline during the games. Other duties may include maintenance of team equipment (balls, pumps, cones, pinneys, first aid kits, other). Assistant Coaches step in and take on the head coaching duties if the Head Coach is unavailable. Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches should obtain an E coaching license or higher. All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers that appear on the team roster are required to have criminal background clearances.

Team Managers

Team Managers are responsible to assist the coaches on administrative tasks associated with running a youth soccer team. Typical duties include establishing open lines of communication with all families, maintenance of rosters and player cards as well as birth certificates and insurance waivers. All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers that appear on the team roster are required to have criminal background clearances.

Team Parent

Team Parents organize lines of communication for the coaches, players and families. Team Parents help with carpooling, snack duties for games, and often take the lead for social events outside of soccer practice and games. Team Parents assist teams for tournament participation, helping coaches with registration, lodging and travel arrangements.

Field Set Up

Field Set Up responsibilities are broadly defined as field layout (line painting and maintenance) and field equipment management. These tasks are required at several locations and as such are coordinated amongst all of the travel teams. One or more persons from the various teams agree to take a lead role to coordinate the activities. Specific responsibilities include layout of fields and painting of lines at the onset of each playing season – and maintenance of the lines over the course of a season; Purchase and storage of paint; Inventory, inspect and manage equipment at start of all seasons and throughout playing seasons: goals, nets, net clips, sand bags, flags; Replace or maintain equipment at start of season and throughout season as needed.

Events

Event volunteers assist the Dynamo President, Travel League Commissioner and Coaches on a variety of activities associated with a club or team event. Some events happen at the beginning or end of every season, others happen once annually and others are ad hoc. The signature event is Tryouts held in late spring every year and requires volunteer efforts on registration

process and check-in. Because each event is different, responsibilities can vary from communication to families about the event, scheduling, purchasing of food – basically doing whatever is necessary to carry out the event. Typically a meeting (or email coordination) is organized prior to the event to talk through the event specifics and assign responsibilities.

Referee

Referees are critical to Dynamo soccer. As well as ensuring that games are played according to the laws of the game, Dynamo referees also have a central role in implementing the Dynamo philosophy in all three of Dynamo's leagues. Referees are compensated for their volunteer time.

Dynamo is always eager to recruit new referees, both adult and youth and offers the entry-level course required to become a referee. We offer ongoing training for current referees to help them keep up to date on the laws of the game and the additional rules for each league. Dynamo also offers Entry Level Classes and Recertification each season. See the Dynamo web site for more information on how to join the ranks of soccer referees.