

Travel Soccer Overview

Following the logical progression of Player Development adopted by the AJAC Board of Directors, when a player graduates from the Under 8 Academy program, he/she will be placed on a team which will challenge that player to continue to develop. Teams will participate in the Roots Soccer League. Teams will be placed in a division that is age appropriate based on skill and experience level. AJAC will strive to field as many teams as possible to provide a playing opportunity for every child that wishes to play. In this league teams will play half of their games at their home field and the other half at surrounding towns that also participate in the league (ex. Wilbraham, Ludlow, Belchertown, West Springfield).

- Format: 7v7 (6 field players and a goalkeeper)
- AJAC home field: Bellamy Middle School
- Game day: Games will happen on Saturdays and periodically during the week
- Fee: the fee increases from academy to \$100
- Uniform: the first two seasons in travel (the fall and the spring) uniforms are provided then during the winter you will need to purchase an AJAC travel uniform for the spring season (the link will be provided). Jerseys stay the same every year so you will only need to buy another when your child grows out of it.
- Equipment: Same equipment as before every child will need shin guards every game, no jewelry on, cleats and a size 4 ball that must be brought to every practice and game
- Rules of Competition direct from Roots: [Rules of Competition \(rootssoccerleague.com\)](http://rootssoccerleague.com)
- Offsides and Build Out: [Build Out Line Info \(rootssoccerleague.com\)](http://rootssoccerleague.com)
- Practices: Practices will be held at your coach's discretion with one mandatory practice a week
- Season Start: Registration deadline will be over by August and the season will begin in early September. Travel begins earlier than academy and will end by the first week of November.