

Want to create your own team – Here is what you need to know.

Step 1 – A team cannot be formed without a coach. Coaches requirements have changed drastically to ensure coaches have a level of education to ensure the safety of the players.

All coaches must have a completed background check, SafeSport training, and HeadsUp Concussion training. NESL will create a GotSport profile for new coaches. Once the profile is created, NESL will provide the new coach with their login information and detailed instructions so that the new coach can complete the background check and mandated trainings required by our state association.

Step 2 – Decide the age of your team. Our Age Chart & Team Formation is located on the Home page of our website. Our seasons run fall to spring. As an example, if you are interested in Spring 2022, then you refer to the column labeled 2021-2022 to determine the age of your team. The team age remains the same between fall and spring seasons. The year of birth determines the age bracket a child is eligible to play in. No child can play down, so understand your oldest player decides the age of your team.

Step 3 – Get your players registered! A team must have the minimum number of players to field a team, refer to Team Formations on the Age Chart & Team Formation. To play a complete season, players should be registered no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of a season. Player registration is always advertised on our website. Our fall season starts in September, and registrations are advertised no later than August. Our spring season starts in March, and registrations are advertised in February. Player registration continues normally for two months into the season (until designated cut-off) to allow existing teams to add players. It is important to understand that although player registration continues, the registration fee does not change – only the number of games a player is able to participate in.

Make sure to inform your parents of the registration requirements listed

Step 4 – Work with parents to decide the best way to communicate, either a group text or use one of the apps available for team communicating i.e. GroupMe, TeamChat, etc.

Step 5 – Make it a habit to check your email daily for any updates concerning schedules or other NESL business.

Step 6 – Familiarize yourself with the NESL website. This is where you will access rules and schedules.

Step 7 – Schedule team practices. The one thing parents appreciate most from coaches is consistency. Make sure you are able to be there when you say you will and always try not to cancel, especially last minute.

Step 8 – Visit the NESL website for the coaching education options. All coaches should complete the Grassroots Online Module within the first year of coaching for their appropriate age group.

Step 9 – Enjoy yourself and try to make this experience fun for the kids. It is not the World Cup. Everyone has to learn the basics first.