

## EYSA Recreational Team Formation Policy

The purpose of the EYSA recreational team formation policy is to define the process by which recreational teams are formed at all of the clubs participating in the Eastside Youth Soccer Association. Recreational soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested children within the area served by the Member Organization to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for athletic ability or soccer skills, up to the limits of the Member Organization to accommodate them. **Teams will be formed in a random manner as described below.** The Association recognizes that each club will have slightly different needs and obstacles however the policy shall be adhered to in the spirit and letter in order to maintain fair competition and create a fun environment for all soccer players to participate in.

### Registration Time Line

- Registration for all clubs will open no sooner than April 1<sup>st</sup> and close May 31<sup>st</sup>. This provides ample opportunity for registration as well as time for the administration and team formation process to be completed in a timely manner. Clubs then may reopen registration at any time for general player pool registration.
- All Clubs will use a standardized registration form.
- Payment must be received before a time stamp is applied to a registration.
- Returning players will have priority to return to their previous year's team if they register by a date determined by their particular club. Returning players who register after that date will go into general player pool and be assigned to teams based on the date and time they registered and the availability of space on those teams.

### Registration Parameters and Requirements

- Micro Soccer teams rosters (U6 & U7) have no bearing on the formation of teams at U8 and above.
- There are no buddy requests for U-8 and above.
- Coaches and parents are NOT part of the team formation policy.
- Coaches cannot request or approve new players on their roster. This is recreational soccer where players are all treated equally and with the same consideration. No rosters from coaches are accepted.
- Recreational coaches may not ask a new player to play for them, request their team or let them attend practices. All players will be assigned by the Club via the team formation policy.
- No coach (select or recreational) may ask a player that is 'actively' playing for another team to play for them. A player is considered 'actively' playing for their team as of September 1<sup>st</sup> until the team they are registered on ends all USSF sanctioned play (i.e. President's Cup-Commissioner's Cup). Players may not practice or play for a team unless the player is on the team's official roster.

- Recreational players cannot select the teams on which they play.
- In order to treat everyone fairly no requests will be considered during team formation process (see “Exceptions to EYSA Team Formation Policy”). There are so many requests form specific teams, be with friends, carpools, times and coaches and we cannot treat everyone fairly so these types of requests are deemed impractical.
- Any legitimate/ extreme requests will only be considered if requesting parties use the procedures in the “Exceptions to EYSA Recreational Team Formation Policy”, which is posted on the website.
- No requests for an exception to the team formation policy will be accepted after the registration period has closed on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Late registrations will be placed on a space-available basis, on teams needing players before any other consideration will be given to team placement. Late registrations are anyone who has not registered and paid by the registration deadline. Registrations lost in the mail, out of town or forgetfulness does not excuse a late registration. This includes players moving into town after the registration period.
- A copy of Proof of birth is required for every player (i.e. birth certificate, passport) and must be submitted within 7 days of registration if this is your first time registering for the Club, or the Club does not have one on file. Registration will be revoked if proof of age is not received.

### Team Formation

- The first criteria in determining priority for general registration will be based on the date and time stamp that the registration system generates and then by the school the player attends. Clubs can combine players from different schools, randomly, to create opportunities for complete rosters, and to eliminate single players from one school on a different school’s roster.
- Each team will have only one Head Coach and one Assistant coach. Both the Assistant and Head coach may have their son or daughter on the team. Any additional assistants will be drawn from existing roster.
- If no replacements from the current team are available, teams returning with no coach are merged with teams that have a coach but need players. All efforts to keep the returning players of a team with no coach together are made but not guaranteed. Teams with returning coaches are not guaranteed formation if there are not enough players to build each team in that age group. The exact number required to form a team will be up to each Club.
- Players on the waiting list have priority over any other non-registered or new players.
- A coach may contact the Registrar about a player new to the area/club Only After the Club has agreed that the team’s roster is small and in jeopardy of being disbanded. The Registrar will make every attempt to avoid having teams disbanded.
- A U14 and older, every attempt will be made to keep players on a team within their own club. However, players may be placed on another club within EYSA, if there are not enough players to form a team within their own club.

- Players who either leave their Recreational team and play Select and then return the following year, or do not play consecutive years on the same Recreational team will be returned to the general player pool and may not request to play on their previous Recreational team. The only exception will be as a result of a documented season-ending injury or extraordinary hardship.
- Players leaving the “EYSA Academy Program” (or U11- U13 recreational advanced development program) will be placed on recreational teams randomly using the team formation policy. Academy teams after they leave their program age group will not return as existing teams into recreational leagues.

### Playing Up

- All players (U6 through U12) are required to play on a team at their age appropriate level. The only exceptions will be considered will be players that are grade appropriate (see playing down) and players who were already on a roster before this rule took effect (grandfathered) on March 18, 2009.
- Returning players who meet the other criteria but who are playing above their age group (but are grade appropriate) are given priority to be placed on the same team provided their coach concurs that they are physically, mentally and emotionally mature enough for that level of competition. They may not take the place of an age appropriate player.

### Playing Down

- Play-downs will be in accordance with the WSYSA policy and EYSA play-down policy. There will be no exceptions.

### Changes to Teams

- If a player should leave select or Academy before September 1<sup>st</sup> and there is room on a recreational team, they will be placed on the team that has the least number of players.

### Administrative

- Individuals found to be in violation of the registration policy by knowingly manipulating registration policy will be subject to ethics violation. This includes coaches, parents and club personnel. Coaches can refer to the EYSA Coaches Code of Conduct for more details.
- Parents will be actively informed as to the “EYSA Parent/Player Bill of Rights”. Parent concerns over team formation rule violations will be directed to EYSA not the Club.
- In the document “Exceptions to EYSA’s Recreational Team Formation Policy” the policy of how to petition for an exception to the team formation policy is described.
- The only people authorized to have access to the detailed player information will be the Club Registrars, one designated Club Administrator per club, and the Club Presidents.