

# EYSA Tryout Guidelines & Information

## Overview

The following information and guidelines were created to provide an overview of the EYSA Premier and Club Select tryout process and to set expectations for both parents and players regarding the implications of participating on an EYSA Premier or Club Select team. The guidelines outlined below have been developed in accordance with EYSA and individual Club Operating Procedures, which gives EYSA the authority to issue program guidelines for team formation, team management, and other matters required for effective program operation. This EYSA Tryout Protocol & Guidelines document supersedes all prior EYSA and/or EYSA Club guidelines and communications.

## Getting Started

Each year, a tryout schedule is published by age group and posted on the EYSA website. Prospective players should either register online (preferred) or complete the tryout registration form, bring all required documents and fees and attend the appropriate tryouts based on age and/or skill level. This includes players who cannot tryout due to injury, illness or family absences which are pre-approved in advance by their individual Clubs. Players who do not make their intentions known to try out for an EYSA Club at the initial tryout date may not be further considered for EYSA eligibility for that season. Proof of age is required before any player can be offered a spot on a team roster. There are no exceptions for providing proof of age. Proof of age can be provided via a copy of a certified birth certificate or passport. Additional information about proof of age requirements can be obtained from the club registrar.

## What to Expect at Tryouts

Each player will be assigned a Bib number when they first arrive for tryouts, including those players who cannot tryout on that specific day due to injury, illness or approved family absences. Stated another way, even those players who cannot physically participate in tryouts are expected to show up and obtain their number unless prior arrangements have been made with the Registrar. Players will keep this number throughout the entire tryout process.

Players are divided into small, rotating groups and asked to participate in small-sided games, large-sided games and other exercises designed to demonstrate skill and knowledge of the game. Players trying out for a goalkeeping position should make this intention known at registration. These players are given both an outfield score and a goalkeeper score.

## Things to bring for Tryouts

- Appropriate gear including shin guards and well-fitting cleats and/or turf shoes
- Water, in sufficient quantity for an approximate two hour tryout session
- Proof of Age (if not previously provided)
- Completed Tryout Registration form and fees (if online registration has not been previously completed)

### **Things NOT TO BRING to Tryouts**

- DO NOT WEAR OR BRING any item reflective of former team colors or association including socks, shorts, warm-ups or bags. The goal is to provide a level playing field for all prospective players and to remove any hint or perception of skewed evaluations.

### **How Players are Evaluated and Chosen**

Each year at tryouts, players are evaluated by well qualified coaches and evaluators for skill and knowledge of the game. Evaluators are instructed not to evaluate their own children (unless they are the head coach) if their kids are also trying out. All players, including returning players, are required to tryout each year in order to be eligible for the team. Roster spots are not guaranteed from year to year.

Player tryout evaluation scores are averaged. Players are given a ranking from 1 to the total number of players at the tryouts. Evaluators will be working hard to uphold the standards of the EYSA program for which they are evaluating players. This means that players not possessing the skills and maturity to play at the EFC/Premier level will be encouraged to instead tryout for Select. Similarly, those players not yet ready to play Select will be encourage to play another year in Rec soccer to improve their skill sets before trying out again the following year.

Coaches and Evaluators will communicate at the conclusion of the tryouts to determine the final results. EYSA Player Assignment Guidelines are followed when forming teams at all levels. No parent or player is provided information about a player's specific evaluation score or ranking including their relative rank when compared to other players. There is strict confidentiality around player rating and performance.

### **Number of Teams to be Formed**

The number of teams formed at each age group/gender will vary per age group and per club. For EFC the number of teams averages between 2-4 teams per age/gender. For Club Select the average team number is between 1-2 teams. It is important to note that coaches do not "own" teams or team names and no coach has the authority to communicate any information relative to team status. In other words, no coach has the authority to disband a team, communicate that a team will be disbanded or prevent a team name from being used within the Club regardless of their coaching status. If you have questions about whether or not a team entity will continue, please contact the Club President.

### **Tryout Results Notifications**

Tryout results will be posted (by tryout pinnie number, in number order, not ranked order) on the individual club websites and referenced by the EYSA website ([www.eysa.org](http://www.eysa.org)) Offers (and alternates) will not be posted prior to the end of the FINAL second tryout session for that given age/gender within EYSA. In other words, if one team had their second tryout on a Wednesday but other EYSA teams of the same age/gender did not finish until Saturday, the team finishing Wednesday could not post offers until Saturday. Offers are allowed to be posted when the final EYSA team is finished with the second tryout.

It may occur that some players are contacted verbally by coaches after the conclusion of a particular teams' tryout and that this contact occurs prior to the online posting. "Early" (pre-online posting) contact or lack thereof carries no significance regarding a player's status on a roster.

Offers will be posted starting at 8PM on the night of the final (second) tryout session for all clubs for their age/gender. Should this final session occur prior to Saturday, then that date will be agreed and posted as part of the Offer Protocol.

Tryout results are posted online in an effort to let all prospective players know the final results simultaneously. Every player receiving an offer to play may also receive a personal call from the coaching staff.

## Alternates

In addition to posting the initial roster offers, coaches will also submit a list of alternates in no particular order (not ranked) for their team. This list of alternates will also be visible on the Club Notification website. Players who are designated as alternates for a given team may also receive offers from other teams in need of players and **may** be offered a roster spot on a so-called "extra" team (See "Extra" team section below) formed to accommodate players who have the required skill level.

## Offer Acceptances

Players who have received an offer for a roster spot will have a limited time to consider the offer and either accept or decline. Upon seeing the online roster posting, players (even if they've already verbally communicated with a coach) must send an email to the coach formally accepting or declining the offer.

- In the case of EFC, players are required to accept or reject offers by 2 pm of the day after which the formal offer has been received.
- In the case of Club Select, players are required to accept or reject offers within 24 hours after the offers have been posted, otherwise alternates will be selected.
- In the case of Club Select alternates, players are required to respond (within 24 hours after the online posting) via email to the following question: *"If a roster spot on this team became available would you accept?"*

### NOTES:

- Although coaches are allowed to call players directly after the final tryout session for their age/gender, only offers which have been officially accepted or declined will be considered as final.
- Players are encouraged to try out for multiple EYSA clubs and teams if they wish to examine different options for play. However, at offer time, they will need to decide on a specific Club and team.
- One exception to the above rule is with respect to EFC vs Club Select. Players who do not receive an offer for an EFC team are highly encouraged to participate in tryouts for Club Select teams the following week.

## Offer Protocol Violations

EYSA coaches are prohibited from:

- a) recruiting any specific player currently rostered on another team;
- b) pressuring or coercing players to provide a final acceptance of an offer prior to the online posting date. Coaches may communicate an offer verbally prior to that date, but they may NOT request that the offer be accepted prior to the online posting date.
- c) colluding with players and/or parents in an attempt to circumvent the tryout and team selection processes.

Any parent/player who feels a coach or other team representative may be attempting to improperly recruit or coerce them to a specific team should communicate directly with the EYSA Executive Board.

Any coach violating the offer protocol will be penalized by EYSA. Penalties will vary depending on the circumstances but may be as severe as termination as a Club coach.

## “Extra” Teams

In some unique instances, a Club may form an “extra” team (beyond the number of teams to be formed guidelines listed above in this document) at a specific age group and gender. Extra teams exist as a one-year exception and there is no guarantee that they will be reformed the following season. An extra team will only be selected after the normal team choices are complete.

Extra teams will fall into the following two categories:

1. High Premier or Select skill level within a single club. For example: EFC has so many highly skilled athletes try out at the GU10 level that they can confidently form an extra full competitive teams with enough substitutes.
2. High Select skill level across multiple clubs. For example: BYSC, LHSC and NYSC find that after rostering their standard teams at the BU12 level, there are still enough players remaining of the Select skill level caliber that they can form an additional cross-boundary team. In this case, the various EYSA clubs will work together to combine players and roster them either under a single Clubs’ banner OR under the EYSA United (Club Select) banner.

## Player Rights & Responsibilities

### Rights

Once an offer for a roster spot is made and a player accepts, the EYSA guarantees certain player rights.

Players have a right to:

- Instruction from licensed coaches
- Have all supervision provided by adults cleared through the Washington State Risk Management program
- Be treated with respect in an environment conducive to learning and growing soccer skills

## Responsibilities

Parents/players must also agree to have certain responsibilities to the club, coaches and team. Those responsibilities include:

- To remain true to your acceptance of the roster spot and not engage in a bait and switch game between different clubs and teams.
- To refrain from derisive and/or derogatory comments about teams, teammates or coaching staff for any EYSA team.
- To not be disruptive during team instruction/play
- To treat teammates and coaching staff with respect
- To be supportive and encouraging of teammates
- To learn the rules of the game and treat all volunteers and league officials with courtesy
- To refrain from any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures
- To uphold the spirit and laws of the game
- To not bring loss of honor, reputation or respect to the Club through their actions or words
- To not blame, criticize or cause intentional harm to teammates
- To keep academics as a priority and ensure grades will not suffer for the sake of personal soccer goals
- To be available and to participate in at least 80% of all team events
- To inform their coach and their parents of any injury, and to follow treatment guidelines as prescribed by medical professionals while maintaining a presence at team events during recovery

Acceptance of a roster spot constitutes acceptance of these Rights and Responsibilities. Failure to uphold these responsibilities may result in suspension from the club or team or affect club eligibility in a subsequent year.

