

**EYSA Club Select Policies and Guidelines
Revised 4/4/2018**

The following coordinated process has been agreed to by all EYSA clubs. We will continue to refine the coordination system piloted in the 2015 calendar year.

This EYSA Policy & Guidelines document supersedes all prior EYSA and/or EYSA Club guidelines and communications.

I Administration of Program	II Tryout Planning	III Publicity of Team Tryouts
IV Age Group and Gender Eligibility	V Head Coach Qualifications	VI Team Formation and Player Selection

I. Administration of Program

A. EYSA Clubs shall:

1. Appoint a Club Select Coordinator to represent their club. This person may be a Club officer, registrar or other volunteer or employee, but they must act as the Club’s point of contact and be responsible for setting and negotiating the Club’s schedule and communicating status and issues to the rest of their Club
2. Review and screen coaches to ensure that the head coach quality bar (as described in section IV below) is met.
3. Have Club Select Coordinators communicate and coordinate among one another to select tryout dates and times so that they’re staggered in each particular age group and gender.
4. Hold their Select tryouts no sooner than the day after the last day of EFC tryouts for that specific gender/age group.
5. Ensure that the Club Select tryout process & coaches/evaluators impose a purposeful player quality bar process to separate Club Select from Rec players; EYSA clubs will NOT just field as many Select teams per gender/age group as there are parents willing to pay for.
6. Agree to and abide by the written EYSA Club Select Policies and Guidelines.
7. Send team tryout information using the EYSA Club Select Tryout Information form to the EYSA in a timely manner so that each sponsor club can post the tryout dates on their respective web sites well in advance for their members.
8. Ensure that they do not support a tryout selection process for team formation below U10, (including specific limits for underage players) for any club other than EFC.
9. Abide by the soft-cap restriction of 2 Select teams per club per gender/age group.

II. Tryout Planning

1. WYS publishes earliest tryout and Cup dates (typically by early January) and immediately thereafter Eastside FC determines tryout dates (the first available week)
 - a. EFC communicates BU16-BU19 tryout dates to EYSA by January 15th or as soon thereafter as possible
 - b. EFC communicates all other tryout dates to EYSA by February 1st or as soon thereafter as possible
2. The EYSA tryout Coordinator will work with the EYSA Board and Club Select Coordinators to set the tryout schedule, with the primary focus being on the “other” tryout dates. The intent is to set the BU-16-BU19 Tryout, posting and acceptance/registration

- dates by the February Board meeting, and all other posting and acceptance/registration dates by the April Board Meeting.
3. EYSA Tryout Coordinator sets tryout date window for EYSA Select programs, nominally the week following EFC tryouts. This is done as soon as EFC publishes their dates and communicated to Club Select Coordinators and Presidents at each EYSA club.
 4. Club Select Coordinators work with their Field Schedulers to procure fields for their tryout sessions. Field procurement could be done in advance of tryout date announcements as anticipated based on the typical end to WYS State Cup tournaments.
 5. Club Select Coordinators draft a tryout schedule for their club. Club Select Coordinators should attempt a schedule where each team has a first tryout session on a weekday and a second tryout session on Saturday. The focus should also be on avoiding Friday-Saturday tryouts, but this could be necessary in some instances because of field or coach availability.
 6. Club Select Coordinators submit a proposed tryout schedule for their club to the EYSA Tryout Coordinator by March 15th.
 7. EYSA Tryout Coordinator compiles and evaluates tryout drafts to identify clubs which have concurrent tryout sessions for the same age and gender.
 8. If concurrent tryout sessions are encountered in the drafts, the EYSA Tryout Coordinator works with the Club Select Coordinator from the involved clubs to attempt to find a scheduling solution. **It Is The Club Select Coordinators' Responsibility** to resolve the conflict(s) or agree that both Clubs find the schedule acceptable.
 9. Based on our current understanding of player overlap, the desired outcome would have the three (3) Bellevue EYSA Clubs with concurrent tryouts for a given age and gender ONLY if there are no other field options available. MIFC and IFC may be allowed to have concurrent tryouts given limited player overlap.
 10. At a minimum, it must be possible for a player to attend a tryout for at least 1 session for all 5 clubs in their age / gender.
 11. Coordination of tryout dates and any conflict resolution is accomplished between March 15th and March 30th so that a final EYSA Coordinated (RCL + Select) Tryout Schedule can be reviews by the EYSA Board and published by approximately April 1st.

III. Publicity of Team Tryouts

- A. Club Select tryout information will be published by EYSA Clubs on their websites by April 1st or as soon thereafter as possible.
- B. The individual Clubs' Club Select Coordinator will be the liaison between the Club and EYSA.
- C. Approved coaches are highly encouraged to provide a handout of their respective tryout information in their particular age group and gender at Eastside FC tryouts of the same age group and gender.
- D. Concurrent with the publication of the EYSA Tryout Schedule a communication from EYSA (and EYSA Clubs) to all coaches and parents/players regarding "Tryout Offer Protocol & Guidelines" will be initiated. This communication would be posted on EYSA and all Club websites. Individual Club Presidents would be charged with ensuring that all Premier/Select coaches as well as all EYSA players of RCL and Club Select age receive an email notifying them and/or reminding them of the existence of this document.

IV. Age Group and Gender Eligibility

Teams can be formed for boys and girls age U-10 through U-19. Note: not all member clubs offer select at U10. Please refer to each member clubs web site for more details.

V. Head Coach Qualifications

A. **Minimum Qualifications:** The minimum head coach qualifications shall include one or more from each category listed directly below:

1. License/Certificate:

- * U10 through U12 - USSF 9 v 9 Certificate or above
- * U-13 through U-14 - USSF "11v11 " Certificate or above
- * U-15 through U-19 - USSF "D" License or above

2. Practical Experience:

- at least 4 years coaching experience in youth or adult soccer, or
- at least 1 year playing experience at the NCAA, Professional, or National Team Level, or
- at least 2 years of varsity play in high school, or
- at least 3 years adult playing experience since high school or college

B. **Exemption:** An exemption from one or more of the above requirements may be applied for at the time of application and must accompany the application.

C. **Documentation:** All coaches must sign and have on file with the sponsoring Club:

1. The WYS RMA background check
2. EYSA Coaches' Code of Conduct
3. Any other documentation required by the sponsoring Club, association or league

VI. Team Formation and Player Selection

A. **Coach Connections:** Prior to the start of each age group/gender tryout window, the EYSA Tryout Coordinator will send an email to all of the Club Select coaches and trainers at that particular age group. This email will serve two purposes: 1) it will introduce the coaches to each other and exchange their contact info to help assist with player "sharing" and hand-offs (if necessary) at the conclusion of the tryout period; and 2) it will reiterate the tryout rules, offer protocol and potential penalties for not following the rules.

B. **Evaluator Protocol:** All evaluators shall:

1. Include the head coach and at least two (2) additional independent evaluators.
2. Not be permitted to have a member of their immediate family participating in tryouts, with the exception of the head coach.
3. Be approved by the sponsoring Club in advance of tryouts using the Head Coach Qualifications (V.A.1. and 2.) as a guideline.

Every attempt should be made to have new selectors each year for each age group and gender.

C. **Player Selection Policies:**

1. A minimum of two (2) tryouts will be held for each age group and gender.

2. Tryouts are open to all age-appropriate players registered with WYS. (Note: see Playing Up Restrictions)
3. EYSA Player Assignment Guidelines must be followed when forming teams at all levels. Returning players whose evaluation ranking qualifies them with an offer to play will be given the opportunity to play again for their prior team. At the conclusion of each tryout day, evaluators will determine a numerical ranking for the players. The evaluators will pick the top eleven (11) players to the team from overall rankings after the final day of tryouts. The head coach may complete the roster with discretionary picks that need not agree with the evaluators' rankings. If necessary, the family member of the head coach may be one of the discretionary selections, unless they are one of the top 11 picks.
4. A minimum of 14 players must be selected for each team during the tryout process. If 14 players do not show up for formal tryouts, or if in the opinion of the evaluators there are not enough qualified players available to make a competitive team, the selection process for the team can be held open past the formal end of tryouts with the approval of the sponsoring Club Board of Directors.
5. If there are one or more players at the tryouts who the head coach does NOT want on the team because of non-soccer skill issues, including perceived attitude problems, that player or players can be passed over for the selection with the approval of the sponsoring Club BOD.
6. If due to an injury or illness a player does not attend tryouts, the player may have the opportunity to tryout at informal sessions at the discretion of the coach, assuming the roster is not completed. All players to be eligible for selection, excluding injured or sick players, must be present at least one formal tryout session to be selected to the team at the conclusion of formal tryouts.
7. Coaches, trainers and team managers are prohibited from coercing and/or pressuring players/families to accept an offer prior to the official acceptance/registration time for that gender/age groups' offers.

D. Tryout Result Notifications

1. Coaches would be required to submit their list of player offers and alternates (by tryout pinnie number, in number order, not ranked order) to the individual Club Webmasters for posting on their websites.
2. Formal offers to players may be posted online starting at 8PM of the day after the last of the first tryout session for all clubs for their age/gender (but not before the team has completed its final tryout. Should this final session occur prior to Saturday, then that date will be agreed and posted as part of the Offer Protocol.
3. Coaches would also be responsible for submitting a list of alternates in no particular order (not ranked) for their team. These players would be asked to respond via email to the following question: *"If a roster spot on this team became available would you accept?"*
4. Coaches would be allowed to call and/or communicate with players directly after their final tryout session and let them know their status and how and when to officially accept or decline online. Players would still be required to officially accept or decline the offer by sending an email to the coaches.
5. Player offers would be made through online posting on the individual Clubs' Tryout webpages. There is no specific template required for this offer webpage, however each individual club page must contain the following at minimum:
 - Text stating that "Tryout results will be posted on this page by (insert time/day) following the final tryout. Clubs have leeway to choose the posting time, though EYSA suggests less than 24 hours to balance the time for coaches to make complete decisions against the stress players and families experience waiting for selection results. .
 - Text stating that:
 - "Players with offers posted online must contact the coach by email within 24 hours after the acceptance/registration time for the age/gender group, otherwise alternates will be selected.

- “Posted Alternates must contact the coach by email within 24 hours after the acceptance/registration time for the age/gender group to answer the question: *“If a roster spot on this team became available would you accept?”*”
- “If you have questions, please contact the Select Registrar of the local Club.”
- A table with the following column headers: Gender/Age Group (e.g. GU12), Coach Name, Coach Email, Players Selected, Alternates Selected

E. 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.

F. Offer Acceptances

1. Players offered a spot on the roster via the online posting would be required to accept or reject offers within 24 hours after acceptance/registration time for the age/gender group.
2. After the online process is complete the EYSA Tryout Coordinator would work to help facilitate communications between the various club coaches and registrars to identify possible team and player matches. For instance, if a team is short and there are players who tried out for other EYSA teams but were not offered a roster spot, the EYSA Tryout Coordinator could work to “match” players with teams by putting the coach and player in contact.

G. Playing Up:

The philosophy behind play-up is to be sure that the best developmental opportunity for players is provided. Play-up players should be clear starters otherwise should consider playing age appropriate with their peers. Players who are grade appropriate (i.e. late birthdays) are NOT considered play-ups. The play up parameters only apply to U11- U14. Once players hit high school play-up is not considered since they have to compete for positions on their high school teams across age groups.

1. For the U-10 age groups a player playing up must be ranked in the top seven (7). For the U-11 and U-12 age group a player playing up must be ranked in the top nine (9). For the age groups from U-13 and U-14 a player playing up must be ranked in the top eleven (11), of the players selected by the evaluators.
2. There are no playing up restrictions for players whose birthday places them in U-15 through U-19.
3. Players that are age appropriate may be exempt from this policy based on each member clubs own discretion.
4. A play-up exemption is only valid for one year --- the player must renew/regain their play-up status during tryouts in the following years.
5. No more than five (5) players may be allowed to play up on any one team.
6. Individual clubs may choose to implement more stringent play-up criteria than what is spelled out here in the EYSA policy if deemed appropriate for the Club. In the case of any pan-EYSA select team, the EYSA policy will be the guiding principle.
7. Coaches are requested to observe the following guidelines. In the event a coach makes discretionary picks, preference is to be given to the "in age group" players over those "playing up" when skill levels are approximately equal. In any event, no player playing up should be selected who is so weak when compared to the rest of the team that they are unlikely to have significant playing time.

H. Coaches Child Exemption:

The head coach may automatically have an "in age group" family member play on the team they coach. This exemption does not under any circumstances apply to assistant coaches, even if the assistant coach is officially appointed by the sponsoring Club prior to tryouts.

I. Notification & Offer Protocol Violations

The Notification and Offers process in this document will be enforced by EYSA. Any coach violating the protocol would be penalized by being required to appear before the EYSA Board to provide explanation. Additional penalties may also include monetary penalty fees paid to EYSA as well as termination of the coach by the EYSA member club.

EYSA coaches are additionally 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 acceptance/registration date. Coaches may communicate an offer prior to that date, but they may NOT request or require that the offer be accepted prior to the online acceptance/registration 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.

J. General:

1. Teams are formed for one playing season as defined by WSYSA and disbanded at the end of the season. All players formerly on a team must prequalify at tryouts to participate in successive years.
2. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach at all levels of Club Select play.
3. Failure to comply with the policies stated herein will be grounds for dissolution of that team, and suspension or removal of the coaches and administrators having knowledge of a violation by the sponsoring Club or EYSA.
4. 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.