



# Fishers Soccer Club Policy and Procedure



## Section I. FSC Player Tryout Policy

### 1.0 Recreational Division Tryouts.

No tryouts shall be held for the Recreational division of soccer play within Fishers Soccer Club (FSC). All players desiring to participate and having duly registered and having paid the appropriate registration fees shall be provided the opportunity to be assigned to a team.

As a general rule, all players shall be assigned to teams within their grade level, provided that an adequate number of players exist for that grade level division. In situations where a player's age differs from the age of most of the other players in their particular grade, a parental request to play up to a division of players of comparable age may be considered by the Rec Director(s). The decision as to whether to approve such a request shall be at the Rec Director(s)'s discretion. If a sufficient number of players do not exist for a given division in which players are available, every effort shall be made to ensure that an opportunity to play soccer within FSC exists.

### 2.0 Travel Division Tryouts.

Tryouts for all U8 through U14 FSC Travel teams shall be held each year at the conclusion of the spring season, usually in late June. All players shall try out in their age-appropriate division.

Players who intend to try out for the FSC Travel program are encouraged to preregister for tryouts online. Players unavailable to attend the tryouts due to extreme circumstances shall preregister and mention their conflict in the "comments" section of the online registration form. Parents of these players should also notify the Travel Director(s) about the conflict.

At the discretion of the Travel Director(s), supplemental tryouts may be scheduled as necessary to seek additional players. Such tryouts shall be conducted by the FSC Director of Coaching and/or his FSC-approved training staff.

No FSC coach, trainer or manager shall have the authority to commit any prospective player to a roster without the consent of both the FSC Director of Coaching and the FSC Travel Director(s).

Tryouts, team playing level, and registration are all subject to the policies and rules of United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and Indiana Youth Soccer (IYS).

### 2.1 Qualification of Players.

All players meeting appropriate USYSA and IYS criteria for eligibility and having appropriately registered for the tryouts shall be provided an opportunity to be assessed for assignment to a Travel team.

### 2.2 Assessment of Players.

Upon appropriate registration, players desiring to participate in the FSC Travel division tryouts shall be subject to a tryout assessment. Tryout assessments shall be used to identify new players



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and compare their skills against existing players in each gender age group. The tryout format shall cover skill assessment, small sided games and full sided games. Players shall be evaluated based on USYSA playing level criteria. The FSC Director of Coaching and the FSC-approved training staff shall conduct the Travel division tryouts in conjunction with the FSC Travel Director(s).

Under no circumstances will any individual be permitted to evaluate their own child. These players shall be evaluated by the FSC Director of Coaching and/or another FSC-approved trainer.

### **2.2.1 U8, U9 and U10 Player Assessments.**

Prospective U8, U9 and U10 Academy participants shall be assessed at tryouts by the FSC Director of Coaching and/or FSC-approved training staff.

### **2.2.2 U11 through U14 Player Assessments.**

All U11 through U14 players shall be assessed at tryouts by the FSC Director of Coaching and/or by the FSC-approved training staff.

### **2.2.3 Assessments for Over-Age (Captive) Players.**

All over-age (captive) players shall be assessed at tryouts by the FSC Director of Coaching and/or FSC-approved training staff. Such players are also encouraged to try out and/or coordinate with the Indianapolis Premier Soccer Club (IPSC) so as to help assure consideration for placement on a team for the spring season.

### **2.2.4 U15 through U19 Player Assessments.**

U15 and older players shall be directed to the IPSC for evaluation and possible placement on U15 and older teams.

## **2.3 Formation of Teams.**

Teams and Academies shall be formed at the conclusion of club tryouts.

### **2.3.1 Formation of U8-U10 Academies.**

As recommended by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) "Best Practices" Player Development document, all U8, U9 and U10 players shall participate in an Academy style program.

### **2.3.2 Formation of U11-U14 Teams.**



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Upon completion of tryouts, U11- U14 division team assignments shall be made based upon FSC developmental philosophies and the skill level of the players. Placement of players on specific Travel teams shall not be directed by other players, parents, guardians, or FSC staff.

Pre-tryout rankings and player evaluations from the prior season submitted by the trainers and coaches shall be used as guidance in the team selection process. As pre-tryout preparation, trainers and coaches shall each rank existing players and submit their list to the Director of Coaching. Pre-tryout rankings shall not be used to determine teams prior to tryouts, nor shall they excuse any player from attending the tryout session. Pre-tryout ranking results shall be considered confidential.

Team lists will be formally developed after reviewing the tryout assessments of new potential players and comparing them to the pre-tryout rankings, evaluations and assessments of those who played for the program the previous year. Once the team lists are finalized, the tryout staff shall make recommendations to the FSC Travel Director(s). Once approved, the team lists shall be posted on the FSC website. The number of players that register shall determine the final number of players on each team. Teams shall not be considered final until FSC player registration with IYS is completed. FSC retains the right to utilize the Club Pass system throughout the year to augment the number of available players on a team and to adjust teams based upon the manner in which players develop.

### **2.3.2.1 U11-U14 Team Designations.**

The top team in each U11-U14 gender age group shall be designated as the Red team. The second team in each U11-U14 gender age group shall be designated as the White team, the third team in each gender age group shall be referred to as the Blue team, and the fourth team in each gender age group shall be referred to as the Black team.

### **2.3.3 Oversight Committee.**

The Oversight Committee shall ensure that team formations correlate to data collected from the pre-tryout rankings, evaluations, and assessments. The Oversight Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that player placement on teams is in accordance with this policy, and that players have not been inappropriately assigned to teams. The Oversight Committee shall not have the authority to alter individual or team placements unless to remedy errors in procedure or in the recording of evaluation, assessment, or pre-tryout ranking data. The Oversight Committee shall consist of the FSC President, Vice-President, and the Travel Director(s). The Oversight Committee shall consider all tryout data confidential, and shall not share the data with any parent, player, coach, manager, or trainer.

### **2.3.4 Discrepancies.**

The teams shall be selected in a professional manner with honesty and integrity. There will not be a process offered for players to petition placement decisions or request placement changes. Parental desires for specific team placement of their child shall not be accommodated for any reason.



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### 2.4 Playing Up an Age Level.

If deemed developmentally appropriate by the Travel Director(s) based upon player assessments by the FSC Director of Coaching and FSC-approved training staff, and supported by prior year player evaluations, a player may be asked to try out and play up one (1) age group level. Players shall only be allowed to play at a higher level other than their current age group if, at the discretion of the training staff,

1. The player indicates a level of skill at or near the top of the majority of players in their current age group or level of play,
2. The player's development would be impeded by remaining at the current level of play,
3. The age group team to which the player is being moved has adequate roster positions to allow for that player without displacing a current player on that roster.
4. The player would not be at a physical disadvantage by being promoted to a higher level of play or age group, and
5. The player demonstrates the ability and maturity level to play at the next higher age group or level of play.

Additionally, at the discretion of the FSC Director of Coaching and Travel Director(s), players may be asked to play at an older age group to appropriately balance a team needing additional players. The higher playing level evaluation criteria listed above shall be used as a guide for determining a player's eligibility, although not all criteria need be met.

No opportunity shall be offered to any player where the safety of the player may be in jeopardy due to the player's lack of experience, skill level, or size.

Parents shall retain the authority to decline the club's offer for their child to play up in age group.

### 2.5 Special Circumstances for Over-Age (Captive) Players.

U14 teams are permitted to roster up to three (3) over-age (captive) players for league and tournament play during the fall season. However, in the spring season, the U14 team must be promoted to the U15 age group or release their over-age players. If it is determined by the FSC Director of Coaching and the FSC Travel Director(s) that the team is to move up in age group, the FSC team will cease to exist and the team will be transferred to the Indianapolis Premier Soccer Club (IPSC). This will require players to register for IPSC during the advertised IPSC registration period, and will also require that the players purchase IPSC uniforms. If the team remains at the U14 age group and thereby releases their over-age players, the over-age players may participate in the IPSC tryouts for an opportunity to play for a U15 or older team. Release from the FSC U14 team does not guarantee an IPSC roster position.



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Over-age (captive) players shall register with FSC for one half of the year (fall only) and will be released after the fall season. Full year non-captive players whose team is promoted and transferred to IPSC shall be refunded for one half of the yearly fee.

### **2.6 Selection of Coaches.**

Each FSC Travel team shall have, at a minimum, one (1) parent coach on the coaching staff. However, no more than two (2) parent coaches shall be assigned to a team. Parents who are interested in coaching shall submit their names to the FSC Travel Director(s) for approval. The Travel Director(s) and FSC Director of Coaching shall review factors such as prior coaching experience, prior playing experience, coaching licenses obtained, commitment, and interview evaluations by the FSC Travel Director(s). As a general rule, current coaches will be given preference, if warranted.

Individuals who are interested in coaching during the upcoming year shall submit to a background check and attend a mandatory coach's meeting. During the coaches meeting, each coach and/or potential coach shall be required to acknowledge the FSC coaching and training policy by signing the FSC-approved coaching agreement form. Failure to sign the coaching agreement form shall be cause for removal from the list of coaching candidates for the upcoming soccer year. Parent coaches that are not already licensed shall be required to obtain the requisite license within six (6) months.

If no qualified parent coach volunteers for a team, that team will be considered as having "Full Trainer Coverage". This will result in the players of the team being required to pay an additional trainer fee for "Full Trainer Coverage".

### **2.7 Team Postings and Player Commitment.**

All FSC-approved teams, along with their Red/White/Blue/Black designations and the names of their assigned trainers, shall be publicly posted on the FSC website ([www.fisherssc.org](http://www.fisherssc.org)) within 24 hours of the conclusion of tryouts for the gender age group.

#### **2.7.1 Player Identification.**

To protect the privacy of players, team postings shall list players by "First Initial, Middle Name, Last Initial". For example, Jane Marie Doe would be posted as "J. Marie D."

#### **2.7.2 Player Commitment.**

Players that have been assigned to a FSC Travel division team, or a FSC Academy, will be required to accept positions via email, and then register in order to guarantee their roster position.

#### **2.7.3 Option to Move Over to the FSC Rec Program following Travel Tryouts.**



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All HSE resident players who try out for the FSC Travel program and do not make a Travel team or who are assigned to a FSC Travel team and do not accept the offer to play with the Travel team will be given an opportunity to register for the FSC Rec program. Due to team assignment and uniform ordering logistics, all such changes must be made within the short time frame established each year. Completed SPORTS registration forms must be delivered in person to either the Rec Director(s) or the SPORTS office with full payment by the requisite deadline date.

### **2.8 Determination of Team Training Level.**

The training level for each team shall be set jointly by the team trainer and coach with the approval of both the FSC Director of Coaching and the Travel Director(s). Each team will be notified of their training level by the team coach after the training level decision has been made. The decision making process could take up to two (2) days as relevant feedback will first need to be collected.

#### **2.8.1 Academy Training.**

The Academy format will have three (3) practices/training sessions per week with an Academy trainer.

#### **2.8.2 “Full Trainer Coverage”.**

“Full Trainer Coverage” will be provided to the Red teams in the U11-U12 gender age groups, to all U13-U14 teams, and to other teams that opt for such coverage. Teams with “Full Trainer Coverage” shall have two (2) mandatory nights of FSC trainer run practice sessions per week and one (1) additional night of age group training run by the Red team trainer and/or the FSC Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching will also run two (2) team training sessions per season and assist the team trainer in two (2) games per season in order to observe the team in a game environment. Teams with “Full Trainer Coverage” will have a trainer at all league games and tournaments. A substitute trainer may attend team practices and/or games in exceptional situations where the team trainer is not available.

#### **2.8.3 Teams that do not have “Full Trainer Coverage”.**

U11-U12 teams that do not have “Full Trainer Coverage” shall have two (2) mandatory nights of FSC trainer run practice sessions per week and one (1) additional night of age group training run by the Red team trainer and/or the FSC Director of Coaching. These teams will have a trainer at a minimum of fifty percent of all league and tournament games. A substitute trainer may attend team practices and/or games in exceptional situations where the designated team trainer is not available.

### **2.9 Determination of League Playing Level.**

If not automatically determined by IYS, CIYSL, GIRLS, or ISL, the FSC Director of Coaching shall determine the team playing level after consultation with the team trainer. Teams shall not be designated to play at a level which is higher than suitable for the majority of the team players.



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A team desiring to play in any other league, such as a premier league, must obtain the prior approval of the FSC Director of Coaching..

Coaches, trainers and/or managers shall not unilaterally decide the team playing level or league, and shall not have the authority to register their team with any league. Additionally, the FSC Registrar will not process any team with IYS until their playing level is approved by the FSC Director of Coaching. If a coach or manager registers the team in any league without FSC approval, FSC shall not be responsible for any penalty fees incurred due to incorrect registration and those fees shall be the responsibility of the team.

If not automatically determined by IYS, CIYSL, GIRLS, or ISL, the FSC Director of Coaching shall evaluate the playing level of each team after the fall season, prior to the spring season, and determine the appropriateness of remaining at the current level of play, moving the team to a higher level of play, or moving the team to a lower level of play.