



U8 – U12 Recreational Team Building

Guiding Principles

June 2022

The following information will be used by staff to form recreational teams, from U8 to U12. While every attempt will be made to apply these principles consistently, special consideration may be given, to extenuating circumstances, that are determined to be in the best interest of the player(s) in the age group.

Process

While these steps may occur in different order, or even simultaneously, the same logic will apply. The sequence of these steps assumes that volunteers are in place and players register in a timely fashion, which may not always be the case. That said, best efforts will be made to follow these steps, in this order of process.

1. Coaches (Head Coach/Co-Coaches and Assistants) and Manager(s) will be assigned to the team
2. Team staff children automatically assigned to the team as follows:
 - a. **Maximum** four team staff (U8 to U12) - 1 head coach, 2 assistants, 1 team manager OR 2 co-coaches & a team manager. For female teams, a female representative must be included within the 4 team staff.
3. The remaining roster spots to be filled as follows:
 - a. Players added at **THEIR** request to play with friends or a specific team. The deadline for requests is June 30th for Fall Soccer and February 15th for Spring Soccer.
 - b. Teams will have no more than 75% of their roster built from requests, allowing a balanced allocation of new players to be shared amongst all teams. Once new players are placed, additional requests, above the 75% may be considered.
 - c. To ensure fairness, requests will be prioritized in the order they are received based on the timestamp of registration. Therefore, the earlier people register, the more likely it is that their request will be granted.
 - d. Please note that a team's roster may fill prior to the season's request deadline based on the timestamp of how many players have registered and requested a specific team. Some teams could potentially fill to the 75% capacity within the first couple days of registration being open.
 - e. If, at the time of registration, a player does not indicate a request, they will be randomly assigned to a team.
 - f. If no historical information is known about a player, at the time of registration, that player will be considered as "new".
4. Coaches can request players up to the total number of staff positions allocated to their team. For example, a U8-U12 team can have up to 4 staff members. If the team only has 3 staff,

- the coach can request a 4th player, even though that player is not related to a member of the team's staff.
5. Coaches CAN NOT request that a player is NOT included on their team. If there is a concern about the suitability of a player, the team staff shall make this known, in writing, by June 30th (fall) or February 15th (spring) and the club staff will evaluate the merit of the request and make a decision.

Additional Information

- Team building is meant achieve the following objectives:
 - Place friends with friends or familiar team staff
 - Create balanced teams both competitively and in roster size
- Roster sizes are set by the club; however, it may be possible to exceed the suggested roster size. Coaches can make a request; however, it will be subject to approval. Such approval will be evaluated based on all teams in the age group and not specifically the team. For example, a roster of 12, will not be allowed to go to 13 players, if there are other teams with fewer players, whose rosters are not fully built out. That player will be offered to a team with space on their roster, prior to allowing another team to exceed their suggested roster size.
- Rosters are built and players are offered spots by the club and not the team coaches. Coaches should avoid having discussions directly with players about joining their team as this causes confusion, if the club decides to place the player on a different team.
- When an age group is waitlisted, players may be offered a spot in an older age group (space permitting). This is used as a last resort to allow players to play, but is not considered to be used as an opportunity to play at an older level. It is purely to remove players from the waitlist. Requests to stay "playing up" will not be considered and players will be reverted to their proper age group in future seasons.