



## South St. Paul Youth Soccer Association (SSPYSA) Team Formation, Try-Out, and Playing Time Policy (updated July 2013)

Participation in the SSPYSA offers children a unique opportunity to learn. Not only will they be learning the skills needed to participate in this team oriented sport, they will also be learning life skills that will benefit them well beyond the years when they are part of our program. Being part of a new group of young people offers kids the chance to be Risk Takers: they meet new peers, develop new friendships and experience the different teaching styles of their coaches. **Recognizing these benefits of participating in a team sport, it is the policy of the SSPYSA not to take placement requests into consideration when forming teams.** Team member contact information is made available and carpool arrangements can be made within the team structure.

### RECREATIONAL (IN HOUSE) TEAMS:

Older players (U8+) will be ranked by the team formation committee based on the number of years played. This ranking is based on registration information and previous year's coaching evaluation. Participants are then placed on teams by evenly distributing players of experience first, then adding players who are new to the game of soccer.

Sometimes, due to a low number of participants in a specific age group, ages will be combined to form a large enough number of teams to allow for a variety of opponents over the course of a season (i.e. 10, 11 and 12 year olds playing on a U12 team). If this is the case, players will be evenly distributed on teams by both age and experience. This will help prevent any teams from being "stacked" with an unequal number of older or more experienced players. SSPYSA reserves the right to combine ages as needed each year in order to establish enough teams at a given age group to provide for the maximum number of teams possible. ***Members of the South St. Paul Youth Soccer Association are strongly encouraged to invite their friends, neighbors and classmates to consider our recreational soccer program in the summer! The more age appropriate teams we can form, the better for everyone!***

### PLAYING TIME POLICY:

1. All players are to be given equal playing time. This applies to all ages at all times, including jamboree tournament games for older ages.
2. Players should be given the opportunity to play at all positions.

### COMPETITIVE (TRAVELING) TEAMS:

The competitive season runs from September of one year (2013) through July of the following year (2014). It is the intent of the SSPYSA Board to form competitive teams for the full September through July "season". Therefore, players who register for both Fall AND Summer for the Competitive League, will be given preferential placement before a player who is registering for ONLY Fall.

Tryouts are held for Summer Competitive Teams. Those tryouts are held in late July or early August. Players are observed and scored by our Director of Coaches and Training (DOCT) and experienced coaches who are qualified to evaluate players appropriately. \*Please see our website for the **Evaluation/Tryout Guidelines** for details about what is being observed and scored during this process.

Players are scored and then ranked within the age group for which they are trying out. The top players in the tryout are considered "locked" and will be offered a roster spot. The balance of the players will become part of the "player pool" and will be selected at the discretion of the DOCT and the team coach (if one has been assigned). If a player is attempting to "age up" (for example: a 13 year old wishing to play on the U14 team) rather than play with their own age group, he/she would need to place in the top half of the locking spots by score on the highest team being fielded in order to be allowed to join that age group. Locking players may NOT refuse a roster spot on the team for which they have qualified in order to play on a lower level team within the Association.

## ABSENCE FROM TRYOUTS

Players missing tryouts must receive an excused absence from the DOCT or appropriate board member (Traveling Coordinator). The player is then eligible to be a coach selection pick. Players without an excused absence who miss tryouts will be placed on the lowest skill team. A supplemental tryout will be provided only if there are ten or more players in a specific age group who are not able to attend the scheduled tryout.

**U9/10 Teams (Minimum 8 – Maximum 12):** While these teams are not considered “competitive”, evaluations will be held if there are more players registered than spots available. Participation on a previous team does NOT guarantee a spot on that roster for the following season. Players attempting to “age up” will need to place by score in the top two spots of the roster (4 spots lock on a U9/10 teams, so this is the top half.) U9/10 Teams may not under-roster. **Minimum roster must be reached in order to register a team with MYSA.** Locking players may NOT choose to play down on a lower level team within the Association.

### PLAYING TIME POLICY:

1. All players are to be given equal playing time. This applies to all divisions at all times.
2. Players should be given the opportunity to play at all positions.

### U11/12 Teams: (Minimum 10 – Maximum 14)

\* C1 teams have a minimum roster of 10 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 6 spots are locked. Players aging up must place top 3 by score of the highest tiered team.

\*C2 teams have a minimum roster of 12 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 6 spots are locked. Players aging up must place top 3 by score of the highest tiered team.

\*C3 teams have a maximum roster of 14 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 6 Spots are locked. Players aging up must place in the top 3 by score of the highest tiered.

### U13/19 Teams: (Minimum 15 – Maximum 18)

\* C1 teams have a minimum roster of 15 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 8 spots are locked. Players aging up must place in the top 4 by score on the highest tiered team.

\*C2 teams have a minimum roster of 16 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 8 spots are locked. Players aging up must place top 4 by score on the highest tiered team.

\*C3 teams have a maximum roster of 18 players. Individuals filling open spots must be approved by DOTC and SSPYSA Board. Top 8 spots are locked. Players aging up must place top 4 by score on the highest tiered team.

If there are enough players for multiple teams, the players who remain after the selection of the top team will be resorted according to their original rank and the selection process will begin again.

### PLAYING TIME POLICY:

#### U11+ Competitive Division C3:

1. All players are to be given equal playing time.
2. During district or state playoff games, the coaches are allowed some discretion in playing time but players should still play a minimum of 50% of the game.

#### U11+ Competitive Division C2:

1. All players are to play a minimum of 25% of the game.

2. During district or state playoff games, the coaches are allowed some discretion in playing time, but players should still play a minimum of 15% of the game.

U12+ Competitive Division C1 or Premier

1. All players are to play at some time in the game.

Exceptions:

1. Playing time may be restricted for disciplinary reasons. If this is the case, the rules upon which such a decision will be based should be communicated to the entire team and enforced equally.

### **Traveling Rosters**

Adjustments may be made to rosters to ensure that the players have the opportunity to play in a safe and competitive setting. Players are required to play at their own age level with the following exceptions:

\*A player trying out for an older age group must place in the top half by score on the highest tiered team in order to play at that level. A player attempting to "age up" may NOT be a "coach selection".

\*Players may play with an older team if this allows them to play with their school GRADE peers.

\*Preference for open spots will be given to players who register for both Fall and Summer Traveling. A player registering for both will be considered for open spots before a player registering for just the Fall season.

***\*Players will be moved at the discretion of the board in order to create a team, and the SSPYSA Traveling Committee will have final approval on all rosters. If special circumstances exist (such as the inability to register an entire team due to being ONE or TWO roster spots short of the required minimum), placement of players based on evaluation score and the needs of the team will be at the discretion of the DOCT and the SSPYSA Board of Directors. Placement of players under these circumstances will NOT imply the establishment of any policies and will be determined on an as needed basis each year.***

### **Traveling Coach Selection**

All coaching applicants should submit an application to the SSPYSA Traveling Committee for review.