



South St. Paul Youth Soccer Association
Player Evaluation Guidelines (Updated July 2013)

The following guidelines are for the formal player evaluations/tryouts:

- 1) Evaluations are made from the observation of players performing in related practices and small sided games. This format closely resembles actual soccer game situations and provides the best opportunity to observe individual soccer skills.
- 2) Players are placed into competitive small-sided game situations (4v4 & 6v6 & 8v8). This may include 11v11 practices where appropriate and if time allows. The maximum number of players will not exceed the actual size for the group (applicable for small sided games at younger ages). Each player will be given a fair amount of time during the scrimmage. Some players may participate longer than others due to requests from evaluators. The evaluators will determine the length of the small-sided games each session.
- 3) Qualified, experienced and independent evaluators will be used to evaluate players. There will be a minimum of 4 evaluators for each group. Each evaluator will be scoring each player in each area of assessment.
- 4) There are formal expectations for the evaluators. They are expected to work independently of each other. The evaluators are expected to excuse themselves if they have any familial relationship to players, coaches or parents in the group they are evaluating.
- 5) The following criteria are used to assess the players. It includes, but is not limited to, the points mentioned in each area of assessment. Each category is given a score of 1-5, with 5 being the best, and each area (technical, tactical and physical) is worth 33% of the final score. The total score will be the sum of all – a number between 12 and 60 that will determine the player rankings.

TECHNICAL 33%	TACTICAL 33%	PHYSICAL 33%
First Touch	Decision Making	Strength
Passing	Awareness	Speed
Dribbling	Communications	Stamina
Defending	Positioning	Aggressiveness

- 6) The data from evaluators will be handed to the appropriate Traveling Coordinator who will compile the information with an additional independent person, assigned by SSPYSA Board, monitoring the process.
- 7) Small sided games will have no set positions but will work from positional themes; and within this, player's positional sense will be observed. Rotation of players in a positional sense will occur naturally within the games and be encouraged.
- 8) Games will be mainly 4v4 6v6 and 8v8 allowing a large number of touches on the ball for players and a number of opportunities to be observed within the games and be encouraged.
- 9) Players are encouraged to interchange then return to a basic shape when the time is right. We are looking for individual and team play. We are not only looking at what skills the player has, but more importantly where, when and how they use them. This is the true measure of a soccer player.

10) **RULES OF SMALL-SIDED GAMES 4V4**

Kick-ins, not throw-ins for quicker transitional play. Players can pass or dribble the ball in.
No offside and no keepers, with focus on skills demonstration not on goal scoring (if scored, re-start from goal kick).
It is the way the player performs as an individual and team player that is most important.

RULES OF A SMALL-SIDED GAME 6V6 OR 8V8

Kick-in ONLY, no dribbling the ball. Keepers are used where they are available.
Players work to a team shape, but are free to interchange. (8V8 formation will be 3-2-2 or 3-3-1).
Format may be adjusted slightly based on evaluators' needs.

11) Each SSP Traveling Soccer head coach will be required to complete a player evaluation form (see below). While this form will not be used for ranking, it will be kept by the club and made available to coaches during the team selection process. The coach will be scoring the player based on his/her experience during the last season. Each coach will be scoring his/her team ONLY.

TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	PSYCHOLOGICAL	PHYSICAL
First touch	Decision making	Concentration	Strength
Passing	Awareness	Attitude	Speed
Dribbling	Communications	Composure	Stamina
Defending	Positional sense	Desire	Aggressiveness

12) Parents of players that are trying out/being evaluated must remain away from the tryout fields. They are welcomed and encouraged to be at tryouts. During the tryout, parents are not allowed to talk to the evaluators and should refrain from discussing issues with their children.

13) Players trying out for a roster spot should NOT wear any South St. Paul gear (no logos on T shirts/Shorts/hats, etc...)

14) Players can try out for an older age group, but must place in the top half of the locking positions by score (see Team Formation Policy) on the highest tiered team in order to be eligible for the older age group. The only exception to this rule is for players to play up with their grade level peers. Under special circumstances (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.

15) Players missing tryouts must receive an excused absence from the Traveling Coordinator or DOCT. The player is then eligible to be a coach selection pick (unless the player is trying out for an older team). Players without an excused absence who missed tryouts will be placed on the lowest skill team. A supplemental tryout will be provided only if ten or more players in a specific age group were not able to try out with an excused absence.

16) Some age groups may need to be blended in order to accommodate as many participants as possible. SSPYSA makes every effort to place every player on a team.

17) Commitment for Traveling (Competitive) soccer is high. If your child cannot make the required commitment, please consider in advance whether this level of play is appropriate for your family.

18) All Coaching Candidates are invited to observe the tryouts with the following guidelines:

- A) You will be observing, not participating, unless you are asked to help with a specific tryout activity.
- B) You CANNOT interact directly with the evaluators. If you have questions, please approach any SSPYSA Board Member in attendance and they will take care of your needs.
- C) Feel free to take your own notes about players whom you are observing, but remember that all ranking will be completed based on the official results of the evaluations in conjunction with the rules of the Association.