

## **Northfield Soccer Association Team Formation and Tryout Policy**

The Northfield Soccer Association (NSA) is a member of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and as such, abides by its policies. Please refer to MYSA Policy and Rules Summary for more information. Age groups for team formation are now determined by the January-December calendar birth year, based on changes by the US Soccer Federation. Players can play up to an older age group but can never play down to a younger one.

### **Tryouts**

NSA conducts tryouts for all registered players in all age groups for the purposes of forming traveling teams for the MYSA spring/summer season and for placing each player in the best group for both the players and the team to succeed. This process also determines how many teams NSA will field at each age group and the competitive levels at which those teams will play. Tryouts and the resulting team formation must be completed prior to the MYSA deadline for clubs to submit their teams. Players must register with NSA prior to the tryouts. Registration will remain open until the tryouts.

An independent evaluator hired by the NSA board will conduct the evaluations. Team rosters will be determined by a team formation committee comprised of five people: the NSA director of coaching, the NSA traveling soccer coordinator(s), and as many members of the NSA board of directors as needed to form a committee of five. The committee shall be appointed by the board of directors. The team formation committee will use the tryout data provided by the independent evaluator. The committee may also use the written coach evaluations from the previous season.

Committee members shall recuse themselves from any team formation decision affecting their own child and/or a team that they coach or manage.

### **U11-U18 levels of play**

NSA's goal for team formation at the U11-U18 levels is to allow players to compete at the most competitive level possible for the team.

#### **U11-U14**

U11-U14 teams play at the Classic 1 (C1), Classic 2 (C2) or Classic 3 (C3) level; Classic 1 is the highest competitive level. NSA will select the level at which teams play. The team formation committee will form multiple teams if there are sufficient players. It will also designate the level of play of each team based on the recommendation of the tryout evaluator. It may form multiple teams at different levels, or balanced teams at the same level, based upon the recommendation of the evaluator.

#### **U15-U18**

U15-U18 teams play at the Premier, C1, C2, or C3 levels; Premier is the highest competitive level. The MYSAs determine the level of play based on a team's results during the previous season, utilizing a promotion and relegation system. The team formation committee will form multiple teams if there are sufficient players. The level of play will be determined by the team's results during the previous season. If there is a new team formed in any of these age groups, the level of MYSAs play will be C3, as mandated by MYSAs policy.

### **Teams under or over the roster limit**

The NSA endeavors to place all registered players on a team. Our preference is to "over roster" our teams if it keeps more kids involved in soccer and we do not have enough players to form 1 or more complete teams at a given age group. The designated "over rostered" players will be the last to register (based on time the registration was created in our registration system.) When all players are available for play, the coach and the team manager will create a fair rotation on a game-by-game basis. The NSA board will resolve any disagreements that arise regarding interpretation of this policy and its decisions will be final. Players that choose to not participate, as a designated "over roster" player will receive a full refund of all current season registration fees paid to NSA when they leave the team. Furthermore, if there is not a C3 team formed that a player(s) is eligible to play for and the tryout evaluator and the team formation committee determine that said player(s) does not qualify to play at a C2, C1, or Premier level (if any), then the player(s) will not be placed on a roster and will receive a full refund of all current season registration fees paid to NSA.

The committee may also continue to recruit unregistered potential players to fill any team rosters that it deems to be under the roster limit designated by the MYSAs or insufficient to field a competitive team. It may also combine age groups to form one or more teams. The team formation committee may place players on an older team based on tryouts or as necessary to prevent the players' age group team from exceeding its MYSAs roster limit or to prevent the next oldest team from failing to meet its minimum MYSAs roster limit.

Final rosters will be announced within ten days of the tryouts.

### **Playing up**

Players may petition to try out for an older age group where indicated on the registration form. The player may also tryout at their age level. The NSA seeks to preserve the cohesiveness of each school year age group. Players may register to "grade up," prior to tryouts, meaning a player whose date of birth falls behind the MYSAs birth year of the team of his or her classmates may register to tryout to be placed on an older team with his or her classmates. Refer to Section 1.3.3 of the MYSAs Policy and Rules Manual for a summary.

### **Players who miss tryouts**

All players are expected to attend tryouts. Players who miss tryouts must be registered and must contact the director of coaching to gain an exemption in order to be considered for placement on a

team, or excused absences for tryouts are a death in the family and illness or injury with a doctor's note. The team formation committee will make the final determination on the placement of all players who miss tryouts and may make its decision based on coach's evaluations from the previous season.

Approved by NSA Board July 11, 2016