



Player Evaluation Process

The Lamar Soccer Club serves over 300 children between the ages of 5 and 18. The Club has 4 stated goals:

- Ensure that the children have fun
- Help the children become better soccer players
- Give the children an opportunity to exercise
- Provide a challenging soccer environment for players of all abilities

In order to meet the above requirements, the Lamar Soccer Club holds player evaluations each Spring. These evaluations help the Club build the proper teams for the following Fall. To help parents, coaches (and players) understand the evaluation process, we have outlined it below. In addition, we have included a Q&A section with questions that have come from parents over the past few years.

Player Evaluation Process:

1. **Who is evaluated:**

Player evaluations are done every Spring for players who will play in the upcoming Fall. This includes all players who will play on U10-U18 teams.

2. **Why does the club evaluate players:**

The Club wants to do its best to match players of equal playing ability. This helps provide a challenging environment for all players, while at the same time building confidence.

3. **How does the evaluation process work:**

The evaluation process includes a number of criteria:

a) Coaches' written evaluations

All registered team coaches (both head coaches and assistant coaches) are required to provide a written evaluation of every player. Each player is scored on a number of different criteria, including playing ability, attitude, and attendance. The players are also individually ranked. A copy of a blank evaluation form is attached for reference.

4. **b) Evaluations**

Evaluations are held each spring for play the following year. In addition to the coaches' written forms, the Club also believes it is important to get objective feedback from a third-party source. Currently, we use Tom Jones (LSC Training Coordinator) to manage our try-outs. LSC holds a 90-minute session with each age group to evaluate the technical abilities of each player. They use a series of small sided games to score the players. These scores are tallied and a ranking of all players in each age group is provided to the Club. All players who are interested in playing Fall soccer must attend the Evaluations.

c) **Independent Evaluations - Special Circumstances**

On occasion, at the discretion of the Club Coordinators and Club President and based on feedback from parents and coaches, the Club may arrange for additional independent evaluations. This could simply be independent evaluators attending selected games, or a special scrimmage arranged by the club within a specific age group. The results would be utilized at the placement meetings as part of the evaluation process.

d) **Evaluation meetings**

Once the above evaluations have been completed, the Club holds evaluation meetings with all coaches in an age group. The meetings are led by the Club General Managers (Ted Arnold "Boys GM" and Dan Pacious "Girls GM"), and attended by the Club President (Mark McGee). These meetings provide an opportunity for the coaches to review the written evaluations and the try-out rankings. All players are then placed on teams, based on ability. If a player is new to town and does not have a coach's evaluation and does not attend the LSC Evaluations, they will be placed on the bottom team in their age group.

5. **When are the team rosters available:**

After the coaches' meetings, the Board reviews the teams one last time. All team rosters are approved by the end of June. At this point, the Club begins to determine coaching assignments. Our goal is to have 1 Head Coach and 1-2 Assistant Coaches for each team. In July, the Club Registrar emails all coaches with their rosters and their team bracketing. Additionally, parents will receive an email communications, informing them of the team placement.

Parent Q&A:

Can my child move "up" or "down" from season to season?

The Lamar Soccer Club makes every attempt to put players on the most appropriate teams. However, a child's ability will change as they mature in the sport. Some children will get stronger and more coordinated with time; others will lose interest in soccer and begin to focus on other activities. Each season provides a new opportunity for your child

to be evaluated. Remember that ability is not the *only* factor in our evaluations. Other criteria, like a positive attitude and respect for the team, are also weighed.

It is also important to note that the Club tries to keep all teams consistent during the school year. The expectation is that players will play on the same team for both the Fall and Spring seasons. However, there are fewer players in the Spring (due to other sports, such as softball and baseball) and this may give certain players the opportunity to move "up" for the Spring session. Placement on a team during one school year is NO guarantee for following years.

What if we disagree with the placement of our child?

The Club will not move a child "up" to a higher team because of a parent's "request". We will encourage the parents to speak with the coaches about how their child can improve their skills in the future. As far as moving a child down, STYSA does not allow older players to play in a younger age bracket

When do Evaluations take place?

The LSC Evaluations usually take place at the end of May or the beginning of June. All parents will receive email communications from the Club in advance of the evaluations.

Where do the Evaluations take place?

All evaluations will be held at the Lamar Soccer fields (George Park, Richmond, Texas). Players will be expected to bring a ball and water bottle and to wear cleats and shin guards. Location information will be included on the email communications from the Club.

What if my child cannot attend the Evaluations?

Lamar Soccer Club Evaluation sessions are mandatory. If you know ahead of time, that your child has a conflict, please contact the Club Coordinator in advance (Dan Pacious for girls or Ted Arnold for boys). If your child gets sick on the day of evaluations, please alert the coordinator. The players who cannot attend their sessions, will be required to attend a session with another age group. Not attending any Lamar soccer Club Evaluations will hurt your child's ability of being placed on a top team.

Can I see the coach's evaluation of my child?

No. It is important to remember that all of our coaches are parent volunteers. They are not professionals. The evaluations that they complete are strictly confidential and are

collected after the coaches' meetings. We do encourage you to ask your child's coach for feedback throughout the season.

How are the teams configured?

The teams are configured according to the evaluation process. The size of the teams will vary by age and season. For example, in the U10, U11 and U12 Divisions, the game format is 8 v. 8, so there will generally be 9-12 players on each team. With the U13 teams, the format is 11 v. 11 and teams will be configured with 16 to 18 players. The exact numbers will vary season to season according to the number of players signed up, and the number of teams that can be configured. This will allow for player movement from one team to another each season.

If my child is not a strong player, will they be "cut"?

Absolutely not! As long as your child is registered for the Fall season, they will be placed on a team. It is the Club's intention to have ALL interested children participate in soccer. If, however, you do not register your child during prior to the Evaluations session, and wait for end of the summer, we cannot guarantee a spot on a team. All player placements and coaching assignments are made over the summer and "last-minute" registrations cannot always be accommodated.

What if my child is a really good player...can he/she play "up" for the next age group?

A player's ability for a player to play up will be determined by the General Managers and the results from the evaluations.

If I volunteer to coach, will this influence my child's team placement?

Lamar Soccer Club is always looking for coaches to volunteer their time and the Club will make all efforts to assign their child to his team..