



**TRY-OUT RULES
2011-2012**

for Classic, State, and Regional League Teams originating from the MAYSA district

MAYSA has established these rules with regard to competitive team tryouts in an effort to provide a consistent, fair, and equitable environment for both players and clubs in which all parties may best meet their needs and aspirations with respect to competitive soccer.

These rules will apply to any club or team forming a team to participate in Classic, State, or Regional League play during the 2011-12 seasonal year.

A copy of these rules should be available to all players at the time of registration or at tryouts.

RATIONALE

Classic, State, and Regional League teams are usually organized by conducting player try-outs. The Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA) feels that fairness in this process is important. To best accomplish this, it is necessary to provide a consistent approach for tryouts so that all teams, clubs and players may have opportunities to evaluate and explore all choices.

A player is expected to commit to a team for the entire seasonal year (August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012). Understanding that the commitment involves many facets of a family's life, MAYSA establishes these rules to provide families with the information needed to establish a fair expectation of what is involved with the tryout process.

Both clubs and families alike are depending on each other to play a role in making the tryout process as smooth as possible. As such, each party is due a base level of knowledge with regard to what to expect of each other during the tryout process.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- ◆ Any club intending to form competitive teams must provide MAYSA with an “informational statement” for each team that includes team formation policies. The “informational statement” must be submitted to MAYSA prior to distributing to players at tryouts. MAYSA encourages ALL clubs with competitive teams to do the same. All collected “informational statements” will be posted to the MAYSA web site for viewing. Informational Statements must include information pertaining to cost of joining a particular team, who the coach is expected to be, what events and travel can be expected, training location and commitment expected of player, in which league the team is expecting to participate, and any other relevant information pertaining to joining that team.

- ◆ Families should have access to the best information possible several weeks prior to tryouts for any team in which there is an interest in order to best consider the growing opportunities to participate in competitive soccer.
- ◆ Families should have the highest of expectations from clubs forming teams at competitive levels to be able to provide information in advance that accurately portrays the policies, rules, fees, costs, expected tournaments (if any), coaching staff, and opportunities for advancement associated with each team and/or club.

MAYSA strongly discourages families from trying out or committing to any club or team that cannot provide information regarding these matters to the family's satisfaction.
- ◆ Try-outs should be conducted on an open basis using trained and experienced coaches who can conduct activities that both identify the best prospects for a team, but also provide a challenging experience for the players, whether or not they are chosen.
- ◆ All parties are expected to exhibit ethical behavior. Clubs may not make evaluative statements about other clubs or teams and their coaching (in any form) and are advised to inform tryout attendees and their parents/guardians about the qualifications and objections of their own team, coach or club.
- ◆ Reasonable fees for trying out may be charged. Try-out fees must be related to the cost of conducting the try-outs. Try-out fees are not refundable. Membership fees may be charged as part of pre-registration or early player registration, but must be refunded to all players not accepted or to those who notify the club/team that they will not be playing with them within a timely fashion.
- ◆ Tryouts are not to be conducted for any team participating in U6 through U10 or in any recreational league. By definition these teams are recreational and US Youth Soccer Association policies prohibit tryouts to form them.

RESOURCES

- ◆ Standings: Competitive leagues have standings available on their respective web sites. This information will help determine what future placement is possible for any existing competitive team.
 - MAYSA Classic Leagues: www.maysa.org
 - WI Youth Soccer State Leagues: www.wiyouthsoccer.com
 - Midwest Regional League: www.midwestregionalleague.com
- ◆ League Policies: Competitive leagues have policies or guidelines regarding promotion and relegation (the involuntary movement of teams between upper and lower divisions at a given point in time)
- ◆ Birth date Guidelines: At the end of this document, the guidelines that determine the age appropriate level for a player, based on their birth date
- ◆ Informational Statements: MAYSA will post all submitted “informational statements” at http://www.maysa.org/tryout_info.php for viewing. All competitive teams are required to provide MAYSA with this statement.

PROCESS:

1. PERIOD OF OPEN PROMOTION

The scope of what is permitted during this period of “Open Promotion” is below and must be consistent with “informational statement” provided to MAYSA.

Beginning on April 25th 2011 and concluding on June 24th 2011, club representatives may initiate contact with players and/or their parents for the explicit purpose of promoting their respective club and inviting a player to attend tryouts.

“Open Promotion” is defined as:

Contact with player or parent(s)/guardian(s) of player initiated by club staff or agent of club with the intent to promote the club.

Under no circumstances may contact be initiated with any player age 14 years old and younger without a parent or guardian present.

Other activity not permitted during Period of Open Promotion:

- Contact with player or parent is not permitted under any circumstances at trainings or games until coach has dismissed team.
- Discussions regarding reducing fee structure by any amount for club being promoted unless consistent with club policy. (ie. a club *may* explain to candidate that scholarships are available, but they must qualify and apply per club policy. A club *cannot* guarantee a player half off the uniform cost/free uniform/half off registration fee, etc. if the player joins the club.)
- Discussions cannot contain promotion for the player to consider a specific team.
- Under no circumstances can a club guarantee a roster spot until a legitimate offer is made during the tryout process.

2. TRY-OUT DATES:

Any competitive teams conducting tryouts may begin May 17th, 2011. Any team(s) clubs possessing the intent to participate in MAYSA or WYSA’s Competitive Leagues (i.e., “Classic”, “Premier” or “First Division”) must conclude tryouts by the following dates: U11-U14 Boys and Girls, (June 9, 2011); U15-19 Girls, (June 24, 2011). Exempt from this conclusion deadline are U15-U19 **Boys Classic, Premier or First Division** level teams. Boys U15 and older team tryouts must conclude by January 30, 2012.

Teams must submit an “Informational Statement” to MAYSA in order to be eligible to conduct tryouts. Offers extended to and registrations accepted from players as a result of tryouts for teams that did not submit an “Informational Statement” to MAYSA will be null and void and will not be honored by MAYSA.

3. NOTIFICATION TO PLAYERS

Offers/notification to players must be in writing (e-mail is sufficient) and according to the dates presented in the table below. Extending an offer prior to the dates presented above is not permitted and will result in sanctions.

A legitimate offer must be in writing and must include:

1. Date and time of offer, with name of club representative making the offer
2. For which team the offer is being made

Start Dates for Offers/Notifications to Players		
Age Group & Gender	For Teams/Clubs Hosting Tryouts	For Teams/Clubs Not Hosting Tryouts
Boys & Girls U11 – U14	June 13, 2011	June 15, 2011
Boys U15-19	June 18, 2011 (May continue to January 30 2012)	June 19, 2011
Girls U15-19	June 25, 2011	June 27, 2011

Clubs may offer an “Alternate roster spot to a player. A club cannot offer more than six (6) alternate spots per age group per gender. If competitive teams are hierarchically ordered, an alternate spot can only be offered for the lowest or last team in that age group and gender for that club. Alternate roster offers do not need to identify where in line the player is in terms of who may be ‘next accepted player’ associated with the offer.

Example: Club “A” will have two girls U14 teams with Gold being the first team and Green being the second team. Because the Green Team is the lower of the two teams, the club may offer up to 6 alternate roster spots for that team. An alternate roster spot cannot be offered for the Gold team since it is the first team.

Competitive teams not holding try-outs must still provide an informational statement to MAYSA and must adhere to the offer dates stated above.

4. RESPONSE FROM PLAYERS:

Players may respond immediately to offers, but are **not required** to respond immediately. The club representative contacting player should very clearly remind player that an immediate response is not necessary and how much time a player has to respond.

Any offer extended to a player is valid for at least 24 hours during which time the player is guaranteed a spot on the team specified. A club or team may extend the length of time an offer is valid at their discretion.

A player is considered committed to a team (also known as “rostered to a team”) when a parent/guardian signs the player registration form and turns the form into a club representative. Any refund policies are at the sole discretion of the club.

Any player who commits to a team and then wants to change to another team in the same registration year will be considered a transfer and such transfer is subject to the MAYSA and WI Youth Soccer Association transfer policies.

5. CLEARINGHOUSE:

MAYSA will facilitate a clearinghouse for players who do not receive offers or for clubs with partial teams needing more players.

Birthdate Guidelines for 2011-12

These guidelines are established by US Youth Soccer as a means of standardizing the age of players participating in leagues across the country.

Competitive players (participating in Classic, State, and Regional Leagues) must adhere to these guidelines without exception.

<u>To Play in This Age Group</u>	<u>Player's Birthdate Must be:</u>
U9	On or After AUGUST 1, 2002
U10	On or After AUGUST 1, 2001
U11	On or After AUGUST 1, 2000
U12	On or After AUGUST 1, 1999
U13	On or After AUGUST 1, 1998
U14	On or After AUGUST 1, 1997
U15	On or After AUGUST 1, 1996
U16	On or After AUGUST 1, 1995
U17	On or After AUGUST 1, 1994
U18	On or After AUGUST 1, 1993
U19	On or After AUGUST 1, 1992

Age cut off dates are established by the United States Soccer Federation and the US Youth Soccer Association.

MAYSA's policy is to have U10 players play age-or grade-appropriate recreational soccer. However, it is recognized that exceptional U10 players should be allowed the opportunity to play at the level most appropriate for them. Under no circumstances may U10 players make up more than half the roster of a competitive team.

The WI Youth Soccer Association and MAYSA alike encourage clubs to consider the safety of each player when allowing younger athletes to play up in older age groups.

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