



**MapleBrook Soccer Association  
Tryout and Team Formation Frequently Asked Questions  
2012 Summer Season**

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## 1. When are 2012 tryouts being held?

Tryout dates and times for summer 2012:

**U9 Boys** (8-1-02 to 7-31-03): Mon., 8/1/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
**U10 Boys** (8-1-01 to 7-31-02): Mon., 8/1/11 from 7:00-8:30 pm  
**U11 Boys** (8-1-00 to 7-31-01): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 2:00-3:30 pm  
**U12 Boys** (8-1-99 to 7-31-00): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 2:00-3:30 pm  
**U13 Boys** (8-1-98 to 7-31-99): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 4:00-5:30 pm  
**U14 Boys** (8-1-97 to 7-31-98): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 4:00-5:30 pm  
**U15 Boys** (8-1-96 to 7-31-97): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
**U16 Boys** (8-1-95 to 7-31-96): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
**U17 Boys** (8-1-94 to 7-31-95): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm

**U9 Girls** (8-1-02 to 7-31-03): Mon., 8/1/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
**U10 Girls** (8-1-01 to 7-31-02): Mon., 8/1/11 from 7:00-8:30 pm  
**U11 Girls** (8-1-00 to 7-31-01): Thurs., 8/4/11 and Fri., 8/5/11 from 2:00-3:30 pm  
**U12 Girls** (8-1-99 to 7-31-00): Thurs., 8/4/11 and Fri., 8/5/11 from 7:00-8:30 pm  
**U13 Girls** (8-1-98 to 7-31-99): Thurs., 8/4/11 and Fri., 8/5/11 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
**U14 Girls** (8-1-97 to 7-31-98): Thurs., 8/4/11 and Fri., 8/5/11 from 4:00-5:30 pm  
**U15 Girls** (8-1-96 to 7-31-97): Thurs., 8/4/11 and Fri., 8/5/11 from 12:30-2:00 pm  
**U16 Girls** (8-1-95 to 7-31-96): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 7:00-8:30 pm  
**U17 Girls** (8-1-94 to 7-31-95): Tues., 8/2/11 and Wed., 8/3/11 from 12:30-2:00 pm

**Goalkeeper Tryouts** (U13-U17): August 1 from 6:30-8:30 pm

## 2. Where are tryouts being held?

All tryout sessions will take place at Gleason Fields (18815 67<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Maple Grove, MN 55311).

## 3. Do players need to attend tryouts to play fall soccer?

No, only players that are intending to play summer soccer attend tryouts.

## 4. What is the purpose of tryouts?

The objective of tryouts is to place each player at the most appropriate competitive level for their ability. This gives players the greatest opportunity for success, improvement, and enjoyment. This is a difficult task, for several reasons:

- No evaluation system is perfect.
- Player evaluations are just a snapshot of a player's ability.
- We are bound by roster sizes, and sometimes have more (or fewer) players than spots at a given competitive level.

## 5. We had fun this year. Can we keep the team together for next year?

While we are excited to hear that your season was enjoyable, we are committed to our philosophy of "open" tryouts. Players develop at different rates, and movement between teams from year-to-year is common. In fact, playing with different players and coaches assists us with long-term player development. We also have new players in the community every year that are looking to join teams.

## 6. Can anyone tryout at MapleBrook?

MapleBrook hosts "open" tryouts. In other words, each team is reformed each year. Roster spots are not held or guaranteed for team members from the previous year.

## 7. How much does it cost to tryout with MapleBrook?

Our non-refundable Tryout Fee is \$60 for U9-U17 age groups.

## **8. Why are tryouts held in August?**

August tryouts give us several advantages:

- Tryouts for Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) affiliated clubs are not allowed to take place until after the MYSA State Tournament.
- Tryouts are held after the MYSA season and State Tournament ends, but before High School tryouts begin.
- Team formation can be completed so that players can play in fall and winter leagues together. Teams often begin indoor training programs during the winter.
- Tryouts can be held outdoors, with no indoor rental costs.
- Tryouts are held on natural grass. Indoor time is difficult to acquire due to limited space, league play, and team training.
- Team meetings can be held in the fall, and uniforms can be ordered.
- Players are in good physical condition immediately following the soccer season, and are not "rusty" after a long winter.
- Other sport seasons do not create conflict with attending tryouts, as would be the case at other times.

We recognize that August is also a prime family vacation month. We attempt to compress the tryouts into a short window, and we publish tryout dates as far in advance as possible.

## **9. What are the registration requirements?**

Players preregister using our online registration process. Registering online before tryouts gives us the opportunity to forecast the expected size of the player pool, staff evaluators, make other plans for the event, and expedite the check-in process at tryouts. Payment of MapleBrook's \$60 non-refundable Tryout Fee is due when the registration is submitted.

## **10. If I tryout with MapleBrook, am I bound to the club?**

No, players are not bound to the club if they tryout with MapleBrook. The \$60 Tryout Fee is only for tryout expenses and is not a *Registration Fee*. Consistent with MYSA's Policies and Rules Manual (1.3.4.1), players are bound to a club once they have personally or electronically signed a registration form and submitted their Registration Fee payment. MapleBrook's Club Registration Fee will be collected November 1st.

## **11. I don't care which team I play on, do I need to tryout?**

No, but your expectation should be to be placed on the lowest level team assuming roster spots are available. It is important that you register so that you can be placed on a team. If players are not registered, it is difficult to know how many teams to form at each age group.

## **12. What is MapleBrook's refund policy?**

- A player will be refunded all club fees if MapleBrook Soccer Association (MBSA) is unable to provide a viable team for the player. Please note club fees do not include any tryout or registration fees.
- If a player is injured prior to April 15th and is unable to play for the entire season (Doctor Diagnosis Required) MBSA will refund \$100 of club fees. If the player is injured after April 15th there will be no refund of club fees.
- Team fees charged to the player will be refunded at the discretion of the team.
- Clubs fees will not be refunded for players that move residences outside of the MBSA area, voluntarily withdrawal or other circumstances other than season ending injury as described above.
- All requests for refunds should be submitted to the MBSA President or Treasurer.

### 13. What is the player release policy? (Note: a release does NOT result in refund of club fees)

- If a player attends tryouts, registers, and is placed on a roster – but later desires to leave MapleBrook – the following issues must be addressed:
  1. In accordance with Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) rules, a player is bound to the club when they sign the registration form and submit payment of club fees.
    - a. When a player submits registration to multiple clubs (i.e. tries out with different clubs), they are officially bound to the first club for which a signed registration form and club fees were submitted.
  2. In order to be released from MBSA (allowing a player to join another club, the appropriate MYSA form must be completed and signed by the MapleBrook President, and the President of the receiving club. . This is a rule of MYSA.
  3. If MBSA places a player on a team for which she/he does not want to play (e.g. wanted to play C1, but was placed on C2) and the player wishes to leave MBSA, the parents should notify the MBSA Director of Coaching in writing. Email notification is also acceptable (all email addresses can be found at [www.maplebrooksoccer.com](http://www.maplebrooksoccer.com)). Phone calls will not be accepted as official notification. The player will be released if the following conditions are met:
    - a. Less than two weeks have passed between the date that the tryout results were posted on the MBSA website and the date of the request.
    - b. The player is asking for release in order to play at higher competitive level at another club (e.g. C1 at another club vs. C2 for MBSA). Note that a higher age group alone does not constitute a higher competitive level.
    - c. The player's family is physically moving residences to a location that makes playing for MBSA impossible due to the distance.
    - d. The players release would still leave a viable MBSA Team. A viable team is one which has at least:
      - i. 16 players, for age U13 and older
      - ii. 12 players, for U11 and U12
      - iii. 10 players. For U10 and younger
    - e. The release is requested with enough time to reasonably process before the MYSA deadline for interclub transfers (the process for releasing a player to another club).If none of the above conditions (a-e) are met, the player will not be released
  4. All requests for releases should be submitted to the MBSA President.

### 14. What level of commitment is required for MapleBrook Soccer?

MapleBrook soccer is a competitive, traveling sport. As with all traveling sports, MapleBrook requires a high degree of commitment of both time and money.

- Although we do our best to control costs, as a non-profit organization, competitive traveling soccer is expensive. Fundraising opportunities are available to help reduce the financial strain (please see our website for more details on fundraising).
- In addition to Club Registration Fees, many teams will have a staff coach that is paid a coaching stipend. The general range for coaching stipends is between \$50 and \$350 per player.
- Travel requirements may vary considerably by team. MapleBrook teams generally play in the MYSA North District, which currently means that we occasionally play midweek games as far away as Cambridge, Forest Lake, or even Duluth.
- Teams select the number and location of tournaments they wish to enter. Generally, this includes three weekend tournaments April through July.
- Teams often choose to enter at least one out-of-town tournament during the season which would require overnight accommodations.
- All MapleBrook players, regardless of age level or playing level, also make a significant commitment of time. Club-provided training usually begins indoors in early January and teams begin practicing outdoors as early as possible (usually around April 1).
- The competitive traveling soccer season ends in mid-July (for U9 and U10) with the MYSA State Tournament concluding in late July for U11 and older age groups.
- It is reasonable that players may have an occasional conflict during the season due to school activities, illness, family events, vacations, religious events, holidays, etc. However, during this period (April-July), it is expected that MapleBrook soccer will be the player's primary extracurricular activity and that each player will attend the vast majority of practices and games.

- From April through July, it will be very difficult for a player to be involved in a second competitive traveling sport, music lessons on dates that cannot be changed, or other extracurricular activities with a repeating, fixed schedule.

For example, consider a MapleBrook player who is also a traveling hockey player. During the winter, the player plays indoor soccer in addition to hockey. Since winter is the primary hockey season, when schedule conflicts arise, the player should attend hockey events. During the spring and summer, the primary soccer season, if there are scheduling conflicts the player should attend soccer events.

Premier and Classic 1 teams often require additional time and financial commitments. For example, travel may include much longer distances, and training periods may be extended throughout the year. Players who are unwilling or unable to make these commitments should consider non-competitive soccer options.

### **15. What happens if a player misses tryouts?**

If a player misses tryouts due to:

Major injury (e.g., broken bone) or a major illness (e.g., pneumonia):

- The player must have registered and paid in advance, and must have contacted the Director of Coaching about the injury or illness. Documentation of the injury or illness may be required to receive the “medical clearance.”
- A Coach’s Pick does not need to be used for a player that has been granted a medical clearance. The player may be placed on a team at the discretion of the Director of Coaching.

Minor illness (e.g., cold, allergy):

- The player’s expectation should be to be placed on the lowest level team, room permitting.
- A Coach’s Pick may be used for the player.

Other reasons (e.g. forgot, vacation):

- The player’s expectation should be to be placed on the lowest level team, room permitting.
- A Coaches Pick may be used for the player.

Late registrations (throughout fall and winter):

- The player may be placed on the lowest level team, room permitting.
- A Coaches Pick may be used for the player.

### **16. What happens if a player arrives late, leaves early, or can only attend one portion of the tryouts?**

Missed skill drills:

- If a player misses the entire set of technical skill activities, they will be assigned an overall skill score equal to the lowest score of all tryout participants for the purposes of player ranking.
- If a player begins the technical skill activities, but becomes injured or otherwise unable to finish, they will be assigned a score equal to the lowest score of all tryout participants (for that specific activity).

Missed small-sided games (all age groups):

- If a player misses the entire set of small-sided games, they will be deemed to have missed tryouts entirely, even if they attended the technical skill activities.
- If a player arrives late or leaves early; they must have attended at least 2/3 of the games to have been deemed present. Their scores from those games will be averaged for the games missed.

## 17. Can a player tryout for an older age-group (“playing up”)?

Playing at an older age-group is generally discouraged (MYSA policy 1.3.3.3). MapleBrook strongly believes that the vast majority of players are better served by playing within their true age group. However, players may apply for permission to tryout at an older age group. This request should be made when registering. Be prepared to supply the following information:

- Player name, age, current team, current coach
- Reason for request (exceptional ability, younger age group according to MYSA Birthyear Guidelines but would like to play with classmates in an older age group—summer birthday, etc.)

Important: If the player does not make the top team at the older age group, would they still desire to play at that age group (i.e., on a C2 or C3 team)? Or would they prefer to remain at their age-appropriate level? Players must answer this question in advance of tryouts, when they apply for permission to tryout at an older age. Permission to tryout at an older age level will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Coaching. Several factors will be considered:

- Parent and player wishes
- Opinion of current coach regarding player’s ability
- Competitiveness of teams at each level
- Size of player pool at each level
- Player is in the same grade as majority of the age group

The Director of Coaching will inform the player if they have been granted permission to attend the upper level tryouts.

- Unless informed otherwise, the player must attend their own age-appropriate tryout session as well.
- If the player is U9-U17, they only need to perform the technical skill portion of the tryouts once, but they must perform the small-sided game portion for both age groups.
- Please be aware that in some cases this will mean that the player must attend two consecutive age-group tryouts on the same day, which could mean up to three hours of field time.
- Permission to tryout at an older level does **not** guarantee the player a spot on any team at that age group.
- Players trying out at an older age group will be notified of their team placement in the same manner as all other players.

## 18. What will I need when I check in for tryouts?

- If not pre-registered, players must be prepared to register at tryouts and pay the Tryout Fee.
- If new to MapleBrook, these new players should bring their original birth certificate, or valid passport, to tryouts so that the date of birth (of the new player) can be verified. The original birth certificate or valid passport will be immediately returned.
- Players should not wear a club jersey, tournament t-shirt, Olympic Development Program t-shirt or any other apparel that could be deemed as an attempt to influence the evaluation process.
- Players must wear shin pads.
- Players should wear loose fitting clothes (t-shirt, shorts), socks (long enough to cover shin pads), and soccer cleats.
- Players should bring a water bottle which can be refilled during tryouts.
- Players should bring a soccer ball to warm up before tryout session; the soccer ball should then be put away during the tryout session. The club will provide the soccer balls used for tryout sessions.

## 19. What is involved with Technical Skill Activities?

Technical skill activities are part of tryouts for all U11-U17 players. Five technical skill activities have been selected by the Director of Coaching, with approval of the Board of Directors, for inclusion in tryouts. These activities are published in advance, and distributed to Coaches and Team Managers. Players are encouraged to practice the activities. Diagrams of the 2011 technical skill activities are available on our web page (see Tryouts page).

- It is impractical to test for every possible soccer skill, so the set of drills are selected as a representative sample.
- Each technical skill activity has equal weighting, and the order that the activities are executed by players is irrelevant.
- Technical skill activity layouts are measured and set up in advance.
- All activities consist of an objective measurement (i.e. time) rather than a subjective evaluation.
- Technical skill activities are conducted using trained evaluators for timing, recording, and logistics.
- If weather forces a cancellation, MapleBrook will attempt to hold a make-up “rain date.” If this proves impossible, then only small-sided game scores will be used for player evaluations.

### **Scoring:**

For each activity, a relative ranking of player scores will be calculated. The player’s average rank generates an overall technical skill activity score, which constitutes 30% of the overall ranking.

### **20. What is involved with Small-Sided Games?**

Small-sided games are used for tryouts at all age levels. These games provide players the opportunity to show technical ability, tactical understanding, athleticism, and attitude.

- Players will play many games of short duration (approximately six to eight minutes each).
- Each team will have three to four players. If an uneven number of players are in attendance, one game may have an uneven match (i.e. 3v4). If time permits, 6v6, 8v8 and/or 11v11 games may be played.
- Evaluation is subjective. Evaluators of small-sided games will be a combination of independent, qualified, paid evaluators and qualified MapleBrook coaches/trainers that have no conflict of interest (i.e. coach within the age group).
- MapleBrook volunteers will handle such logistics as check-in, field marking, player rotation, and so forth. MapleBrook coaches may attend, and may take notes privately, but may not provide instruction or feedback to players.
- Players will normally play a minimum of six games. In exceptionally hot weather, or with very small tryout groups, MapleBrook may shorten games, provide longer water breaks, or reduce the number of games.
- All players will play in each game (no substitutions).
- Players will be rotated through games using a pre-defined rotation system. It is our intention that players play with, and against, many different tryout participants. We also attempt to have the players evaluated by many different evaluators.
- Players are not assigned positions for these games; they must move and act as the game dictates.

**Scoring:** All small-sided games are weighted equally. Every player earns a score for every game played. This score represents the summary of the evaluator’s assessment for that game. Players are not ranked within a grid, so multiple players may receive the same score for a particular game. Players are evaluated using a 1-10 scale (1 is least skilled; 10 is most skilled).

### **21. Do defenders score poorly in Small-Sided Games?**

Good defenders score well in small-sided games, because good defenders are comfortable with the ball at their feet and have excellent tactical awareness. Players who “hang back,” and do not engage in play, do not score well. This is not the behavior of skilled defenders. Players who simply “boot” the ball will also score poorly; again, this is not what skilled defenders exhibit. Defenders need the same ball skills as forwards and midfielders.

### **22. What happens to the tryout score data?**

After tryouts are completed, the score sheets are collected by the Director of Coaching. They are kept confidential until the team formation process begins. The Director of Coaching produces a rank order of players for each age group. Exact ties are given the same rank.

### **23. How are goalkeepers evaluated?**

For U9 through U12 players, there are no separate goalkeeper evaluations, as we do not advocate that players specialize in positions at such a young age. For U13 and older players, goalkeeper-specific tryouts are available.

- A player may tryout either as a goalkeeper or a field-player.
- The goalkeeper evaluations will be conducted by independent, paid evaluators qualified in goalkeeper skills.
- The evaluator will provide a ranking of all goalkeepers that attend tryouts at an age level, and will also provide an evaluation of the playing level of each (i.e. C1, C2, etc.). After consulting with the age group coaches, the Director of Coaching will use this information to place goalkeeper(s) on teams within the age group. Note that this may mean the top goalkeeper may not be placed on the highest level team if they evaluated at a lower level. The coach may use a Coach's Pick on a goalkeeper – for example, to add a lower-placed goalkeeper to the team or to add a part-time keeper who tried out as a field-player.

### **24. Why aren't coach's evaluations from the previous season used, or why doesn't the coach just pick the entire team?**

A fundamental philosophy of MapleBrook is "open" tryouts. Every year at each age group, new players move into the area, and new players come from other clubs. Since we wouldn't have previous year's evaluations for those non-MapleBrook players, we have not used previous coaches' evaluations as part of the tryout rankings. However, the coach's knowledge of players is not ignored – it is represented in the form of Coach's Picks.

### **25. How are coaches chosen?**

Near the end of the season, the Director of Coaching asks coaches if they desire to continue coaching. After tryouts, the selection of coaches is made at the discretion of the Director of Coaching, with final approval required by the Board of Directors. The Director of Coaching will consider several factors when selecting coaches:

- The desire of last year's coach
- The tenure of the current coach. Ideally, a coach is with a team for two to three years.
- Licensing and certification
- Experience
- Input obtained from parents throughout the year
- The results of tryouts, if the coach is a parent at the age group

Each position will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Coaching a particular team or level one year does not guarantee that a coach will be asked to coach the team in following years. It also does not guarantee that the coach's child will automatically make the team. Again, the circumstances of each age group are considered by the Director of Coaching. If no coach is identified for a particular team after tryouts, the Director of Coaching will act on that team's behalf with regard to roster decisions, possibly with input from the previous coach.

### **26. How are teams formed from the tryout results?**

- First, the goalkeeper tryout evaluations are examined by the Director of Coaching. Goalkeepers are placed at the Director of Coaching discretion.
- The Director of Coaching will meet with the head coach of the highest-level team at the age group, and the Head Coach will be shown the rank order of the tryout participants.
- The Head Coach, along with the Director of Coaching, will determine the desired roster size for the team.
- If an exact tie among players exists at the last roster spot, the coach may choose from among those ties.
- From this initial list, the coach may use Coach's Picks.

The order of tryout rankings and any Coach's Picks (if applicable) are to be held in strict confidence between the Head Coach and the Director of Coaching, and are not to be revealed to players, parents, spouses, managers, or coaches of other teams. A breach in confidentiality by the Coach is considered to be serious, and can lead to the suspension of his/her picks for the following year. When the top team is complete, the same process is repeated for the next team. The lowest level team may contain less than a full roster and may require additional (late) registrations to become viable. Lowest level teams may be combined at different age groups at the discretion of the Director of Coaching.

## **27. Will each team be filled to the MYSA maximum roster size?**

For each age group, MYSA defines a maximum roster size:

U9-U10: 12 players

U11-U12: 14 players

U13-15: 18 players

U17-19: 22 players (only 18 players may dress for a match)

This number represents the *maximum* allowable roster size. However, MapleBrook teams may not be filled to this maximum. The roster size of each team is determined by the coach and the Director of Coaching. The coach may choose the roster size, which may be fewer than the MYSA maximum, based upon player commitment levels, desired playing time, injuries, and so forth.

## **28. What are Coach's Picks, and how do they work?**

A Coach's Pick is a change that a coach is allowed to make to the tryout-produced roster. Coach's Picks are not required; they are optional for coaches. Coach's Picks are intended to be used to:

- Use the coach's knowledge of the players, including attributes such as cooperation, attendance, and so forth
- Allow the coach to select a player who missed tryouts
- Allow the coach to select a player who simply had a bad day during tryouts
- Allow the coach to add players from late registrations
- Allow the coach to select a particular keeper, or part-time keeper

## **29. What constitutes a Coach's Pick?**

A single Coach's Pick could be used to:

- Add a player to the roster who was not placed there as a result of tryouts (i.e. increase the roster size). For example, to add a player who was ill or absent.
- Remove a player from the roster who was placed there as a result of tryouts (i.e. decrease the roster size). For example, to remove a player who the coach knows has a very poor attendance record.
- Swap one player for another (essentially adding one player and removing another player *at the same time*). Note that both parts of this swap (the adding and removing) must be done at the same time. If a coach removes a player, then adds another at a later date, it would count as two Coach's Picks.

Each of the above constitutes a single Coach's Pick.

Number of Coach's Picks

- U9-U10 coaches have three Coach's Picks.
- U11-U12 coaches have four Coach's Picks.
- U13-U16 coaches have five Coach's Picks.

This constitutes approximately one-quarter of the roster size. A coach may elect to use no Coach's Picks, or any number up to the limit for the age group.

### **30. Can a Coach's Pick be used on late registrants?**

Yes. The coach may desire to leave roster spots open and save one or more Coach's Picks for late registrations. If the coach has used all available Coach's Picks, then late registrants will be placed only on the lowest-level team, space permitting.

### **31. Can a Coach's Pick be used on the coach's child?**

- Yes, on occasion. Coach selection is made at the discretion of the Director of Coaching, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. If the Director of Coaching decides that a particular coach would be the most appropriate selection for a particular team, then the coach may use a Coach's Pick on their own child if necessary. The player must have participated in tryouts.

### **32. Can Coach's Picks be used on goalkeepers?**

- Yes. Some coaches prefer a "full-time" goalkeeper, while others prefer to rotate field players in the goal. The Director of Coaching may assign any players who tried out as full-time keepers to teams, and the coach can use a Coach's Pick to adjust this selection if desired. There is no separate "Keeper Pick," it counts as one of the Coach's Picks.

### **33. Can Coach's Picks be used on players from different age groups?**

- No. Coach's Picks may only be used for players at the age group of the team.

Can the coach replace players who leave the team after it's formed? If a player decides to leave the team (and is released by MapleBrook) after the team is formed:

- If that player was a Coach's Pick, then the coach "recovers" the pick and may use it again on a different player
- The player can be replaced by the next player in the ranking from the tryout data, subject to the discretion of the Director of Coaching (this depends on when the player leaves; the Director of Coaching needs to ensure the viability of the lower team). The player may be replaced by a Coach's Pick, if the coach has any unused picks remaining.

### **34. Are there circumstances when a different team formation process is used?**

Yes. These team formation procedures are designed to be used in the vast majority of age groups, where we have a large number of participants in the tryout pool. However, in the unusual circumstance of a low tryout turnout for a particular age group, MapleBrook will adjust the process as follows.

To illustrate the need for this, remember that the purpose of tryouts is to place each player at the most appropriate playing level for their ability. In most age groups, we have a large number of players in the tryout pool, and our team formation procedures are designed to accommodate such circumstances. However, on occasion we may have a particularly small tryout pool for an age group. As an extreme example, consider a U14 tryout pool with 20 players, 10 of whom are tremendously skilled, and 10 of whom are completely new to soccer. The tryout evaluations would identify such a situation, and there would be a natural break in the scores. If a single team were formed, several players would have to be placed at an inappropriate level for their abilities. In such a case, the Director of Coaching will consider the tryout results, and may determine that the best course of action would be to create two partially-full teams at different playing levels, allowing each to fill out rosters with late registrants. This process may be used at the sole discretion of the Director of Coaching (not each individual coach) after considering the distribution of tryout scores, and only in circumstances with low tryout participation. This is defined as 18 or fewer players for U9-U12, and 25 or fewer players for U13 and older.

### **35. When will I be notified of my team placement?**

It is our desire to notify players of their status as quickly as possible. Results will be published on the MapleBrook website when the entire age group is completed (not just one team). Individual scores are not published, and player listings will be in alphabetical order (not rank order from tryouts). Under no circumstances are Coach's Picks revealed.

### **36. What should I do if I think my child should have been placed on a higher-level team?**

First, recognize that the tryout process is not perfect. However, parents and players must recognize that every effort has been made to remove bias from the process. We often have more high-caliber players than spots on the top-level team. We have many examples of players who were placed on a lower level team for a year, then re-made the top team in subsequent years. While this can be distressing to players and parents in the short-term, sometimes players in this circumstance have their most enjoyable years, as they play significant minutes and assume leadership roles. Players at all levels receive the same curriculum of professional training. It is often easy (and natural) for parents to view their own child in an overly-optimistic light. In the long run, it is much better for a player to play at a level commensurate with their ability than to be elevated beyond their current skills.

### **37. How are U18 and U19 teams formed?**

MapleBrook's U18 and U19 are not formed through this tryout process. Since the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) allows U18 and U19 teams to self-select their competitive level (4.2.1.3), it is MapleBrook's policy that all players on non-Premier U18 and U19 teams are offered the opportunity to play on the same team the following year (i.e., the team may simply stay together). In the event that some players elect not to return, or multiple teams are merged, tryouts may be held at a later date, at the discretion of the Director of Coaching.

### **I have comments, feedback, complaints, suggestions, or compliments. Who do I contact?**

We welcome your input. If your thoughts are regarding these processes, policies, or a concern about a specific player or team situation, please contact Jean-Yves Viardin, Director of Coaching at [jviardin@maplebrooksoccer.com](mailto:jviardin@maplebrooksoccer.com).