

East Ridge Soccer Club (ERSC) Policies and Procedures

Terminology

East Ridge Soccer Club = ERSC

East Ridge Athletic Association = ERAA

Board of Directors = BOD

Competitive League (aka Traveling)

Developmental League (aka Recreational) = D-League

1.0 What is the East Ridge Soccer Club?

East Ridge Soccer Club (ERSC) organizes competitive (aka traveling) and recreational (aka developmental) leagues for players ages 5 through 19. Competitive soccer is offered as both a spring/summer and a fall sport. Recreational soccer is offered as a spring/summer as well as a fall sport. Placement on competitive teams is based on a player's ability and availability of teams. The curriculum for both programs stresses basic skills, encourages team play and sportsmanship, and strives for fair playing time for all players. ERSC competitive soccer participates in leagues sponsored and governed by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and participate in the assigned District of MYSA.

East Ridge Soccer Association is affiliated with the East Ridge Athletic Association (ERAA). ERAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the community's youth through athletics.

1.1 ERSC Board of Directors

ERSC is managed by an all-volunteer board of directors whose actions are governed by the ERSC Bylaws. A list of the current ERSC board members can be found on the ERAA /ERSC website along with a listing of upcoming board meetings. Persons wishing to speak at any board meeting should contact the ERSC or President or Vice President seven days prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda. The actions of the Board of Directors are guided by the Bylaws of the East Ridge Soccer Club.

2.0 General ERSC Timeline

The general ERSC timeline is shown below. A detailed calendar is available on the website.

Competitive League

August Tryouts and team placement for following spring/summer competitive season

August Teams organized for fall season; practice begins for fall season

August Registration opens for spring/summer season

August	Registration closes for fall season
September	Games begin for fall season
October	Fall season concludes
November	Annual ERSC meeting
November	Deadline for spring/summer registration without late fee
January	Indoor club training
Jan/Feb	Coaches' meeting
February	Indoor club training
Feb/Mar	Parents' meeting with respective teams & coaches; tournaments scheduled by teams
March	Indoor club training
April	Outdoor team training begins when fields are approved for use
May	League play begins
June	Registration open for fall season (fall teams based on current spring/summer teams)
July	Spring/ Summer League play concludes
July	<i>Post-season play</i>

Developmental (Recreational) League

February	Registration open for spring/ summer season
March	Deadline for spring/ summer registration without late fee
May	Outdoor training begins
May	Games begin
June	Registration open for fall season
July	Spring/summer season games conclude
August	Deadline for Fall registration without late fee
September	Fall season begins
October	Fall season concludes

2.1 Spring/Summer Competitive Season (U9-U19)

The U9 and U10 teams are deemed “developmental” meaning scores are not kept and team standings are not posted. U11-U19 teams are competitive and scores and team standings are kept and posted on the MYSA website.

Spring/Summer teams are selected through a tryout process and skills evaluations prior to the spring/summer season. Refer to the Tryout section for a description of the tryout and team formation process.

Your coach or team manager will notify you of your practice dates, times, and locations. Indoor practices may be offered by the club or organized by the team. Players are encouraged to take advantage of indoor training. Outdoor fields are typically available in late April, as notified by the local municipalities. No teams are allowed on fields until notified by the ERSC. Teams generally practice two to three times per week depending on the game schedule and coach preference. Players are encouraged to attend all

practices and notify their coaches if they will be absent. In some instances, not attending practices may affect player game time.

Teams will play one or two games per week in league play starting in mid-May through the middle of July. League games are scheduled on weeknights only. MYSA designates which nights of the week each age level will play several months prior to the start of the season. Playing nights are listed on the MYSA website.

Teams may also participate in weekend tournaments, with the number of tournaments decided collectively by the team or by the coach(es) and/or team manager. ERSC will pay for a limited number of tournaments and any additional over that amount will be paid for by team members. U9 and U10 teams may participate in the MYSA Jamboree that is held at the end of the season. U11-U19 teams will participate in district playoffs and state championships, if qualified. These games are generally held in July.

2.2 Fall Competitive Season (U9 – U14 only)

The fall team rosters will be based on that team's spring / summer roster and are not dependent on the August tryouts (which place players for the following spring/ summer teams). Add/ changes to the teams are coordinated by the appropriate director.

Practices generally start in mid-August. The Fall league is a six-week season with games starting in early September and ending in mid-October. Teams that qualify may also participate in a season-ending tournament or Fall Jamboree.

2.3 Spring/Summer Developmental / Recreational League (U5 – U10)

This season begins in mid-April and concludes in late June. Depending on weather, this season runs approximately 8-10 weeks. The format consists of training sessions coupled with games. The program is based on the concept that skill development sets the foundation for long-term success. The training sessions are led by a trainer. Teams are formed for games with volunteer parent coaches leading each team.

2.4 Fall Developmental / Recreational League (U5-U9)

This season begins in late August and concludes in October. Teams may also participate in a Jamboree. The format consists of training sessions coupled with games. The program is based on the concept that skill development sets the foundation for long-term success. The training sessions are led by a trainer. Teams are formed with volunteer parent coaches leading each team.

3.0 Registration (Competitive and Developmental / Recreational)

ERSC registration is held on-line through the ERAA / ERSC website. Registration dates will be published on the website and communicated via email distribution to member families.

Late sign-ups are accepted on a space available basis. Late registration and payment must be completed on the ERSC website. Late fees may be implemented by the ERSC board, if deemed applicable.

3.1 Registration Fees

Registration fees will be posted on the ERAA / ERSC website prior to the start of the registration process. Registration fees cover the cost of the MYSA league/player fees and insurance coverage, ERSC assessments, equipment, fields, referees, player development, and district / state tournament fees. Fees may also include one or more in-state tournaments. Fees also include *volunteer* coaches (and their associated coach's certification training), *but fees do not include costs for paid coaches*. If a team requires or requests a paid coach, that is an extra fee. (Note also that if a coach resigns from his/her coaching duties, the ERSC will do its best to find a replacement, and if it the only option is a paid coach then the team will be responsible for paying that cost.) Uniforms are included for the Developmental / Recreational league. Uniforms for the Competitive League are not included, but are required. Competitive league uniforms will be chosen with the intent that they last for 2 spring / summer seasons. A separate tryout fee will be charged for competitive player team placement (and will also be required if a player is placed on a team after the club's August tryouts).

The costs covered by registration fees will be communicated via the website prior to tryouts and during the registration process.

For the Competitive league, the cost of one, in-state tournament per team is included in the 2011 registration fee. In future years, the number of tournaments paid for by the club will be decided before registration. Any tournaments played beyond the quantity set by the board will be at the team's expense. State tournament fees are covered by ERSC.

Some competitive teams may independently elect to purchase additional indoor facility time for additional practices.

3.2 Financial Aid

Financial assistance may be requested from ERAA and ERSC. The amount that ERSC is able to provide is dependent upon the number of applicants. A Financial Aid Form must be submitted to the Registrar by the requested deadline in order to be considered for financial aid. Premier players are not eligible. Families that do receive financial aid are required to volunteer a minimum of four hours per player per season.

3.3 Refunds

Refund requests must be submitted in writing to the ERSC registrar. All refunds are subject to fees that cover expenses incurred by ERSC in the registration process. Tryout fees are non-refundable.

3.4 MYSA Birth-year Guidelines

Players are placed on age-based teams according to specific MYSA birth-year guidelines. These guidelines are available on the MYSA website.

3.5 Birth Certificates (Competitive)

All players are required to submit a copy of a valid birth certificate to the ERSC registrar to receive a player pass. In some instances, parent managers may collect these for their respective teams and submit them to the registrar.

3.6 Code of Conduct Forms (Competitive and Developmental / Recreational)

All players are required to agree to and sign the ERAA Code of Conduct form. All parents of players are required to agree to and sign the ERAA Parent Code of Conduct form. All coaches are required to agree to and sign the Coach Code of Conduct form.

3.7 Background Checks (Competitive and Developmental / Recreational)

All coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, board members, or any others leaders of players are required to pass a background check. Team managers may also be asked to pass a background check.

3.8 Competitive League Registration and Player Passes

3.8.1 Player Registration

Players must complete the ERSC registration form and Emergency Information Consent Form, pay their fees, and produce a valid birth certificate to be considered fully registered. Any player who has not met these requirements will not receive an MYSA pass and will not be able to play on the team.

3.8.2 Adult Registration

Coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, team managers, and any other adult who interacts with players must complete the required MYSA Disclosure and Consent Form. Any adult who has not submitted this form will not receive an MYSA pass.

3.9 Adult Volunteer Hours

The operation of a successful soccer club requires a time commitment of each player's family with a minimum investment of 4 hours per year. There are many ways to volunteer in ERSC including being a member of the Board of Directors, a coach, an assistant coach, a parent team manager, a committee leader or committee member, or general volunteer for tournaments or other club needs. Families who do not volunteer or prefer to "buy out" their volunteer hours will be assessed the fee of *\$40 per hour*.

4.0 Equipment and Uniforms

Each competitive player who pays the uniform fee and any developmental / recreational player (for whom the uniform is included) will receive two jerseys (competitive) or one jersey (developmental /recreational), shorts, and socks. Shin guards and soccer shoes

must be supplied by the player. Each player is encouraged to bring their own ball (U4-U8 size 3; U8-U12 size 4; U13-U19 size 5). Contact the Equipment Coordinator with any equipment or uniform questions.

5.0 Competitive Tryouts

Tryouts are held for spring/ summer season only. Players are expected to attend the appropriate tryout according to the MYSA Birthyear Guidelines. Tryouts for are held in August for spring / summer team placement the following year. Refer to the ERSC website for specific dates and times.

5.1 Competitive League Tryout Registration and Fees

All players must register for tryout participation with ERSC and must have paid the appropriate, non-refundable registration fee prior to tryouts. A surcharge will be required to register on-site on the day of tryouts. For any player wanting consideration to join an ERSC competitive team after August the tryout fee payment is required.

5.2 Tryout Evaluation and Criteria

The tryout guidelines are available on the ERSC website.

5.3 Tryout Schedule

The detailed tryout schedule will be posted on the ERSC website prior to the start of tryouts.

5.4 What to Bring to Tryouts

- Shin guards
- Indoor or outdoor soccer shoes
- Water bottle
- Undershirt
- Soccer ball

5.5 Absences

Players who need to miss any portion of tryouts should contact the Director of Coaching / Director of Player Development for an excused absence.

5.6 Tryout Level

Please review the MYSA Birth Year Guidelines to verify your child's playing level.

Club policy allows children who are young for their school grade to request to play with their schoolmates. (e.g. a child with an early August birthday who will turn 9 in the MYSA Guidelines but is in the 4th grade in school can play U9 or U10 – it is up to the parents' decision.) Final decision will be made by the Director of Coaching/Director of Player Development. Please contact the Director of Coaching / Director of Player Development with your request.

If a player is not in the above category (playing with schoolmates), they still have the option to try out to play at a higher age level, but they must attend BOTH their own age tryout AND one of the higher age tryout A player will only be charged for ONE tryout session even if participating in more than one tryout session Please contact the Director of Coaching / Director of Player Development if your child wishes to try out at more than one level. Please refer to the tryout guidelines and criteria portion of this document for additional details.

5.7 Team Formation and Posting

Some age groups might need to be blended to accommodate as many participants as possible. It is the intent of the ERSC Board of Directors to have all teams, including those with no declared head coach, posted on the ERSC website, within 72 hours of completion of tryouts. ERSC reserves the right to continue forming or reforming teams and / or to make roster changes up to the MYSA team submission deadline.

6.0 Fundraising

6.1 Tournaments

In the near future, the ERSC will be hosting an annual tournament which will serve area youth with a competitive opportunity as well as providing the club a fundraising event. A successful tournament requires many ERSC parent volunteers. Four to five volunteers are needed to help organize the tournament. Commitment would be monthly meetings beginning 9 months before the tournament then bi-weekly meetings for the last two months before the tournament. Many tasks will be completed outside of the meetings. Many volunteers will be required on the weekend of the tournament to help with concessions, field management, and volunteer management. Each family is expected to volunteer for 4 hours on one of the days of the tournament.

6.2 Other Fundraising

ERSC is currently seeking corporate sponsors to help raise funds for improved player development programs. If your company would like to donate money to sponsor our program or can help a team earn money by volunteer work, please contact the Board President. Let us know if your team is interested in doing some fundraising.

7.0 Miscellaneous

7.1 Parent Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to consider a board position when elections are held in November of each year at our annual meeting. Parents are also needed to coach, assistant coach, and manage each team. ERSC provides coaches training and additional training is available through MYSA as well.

7.2 Photographs and Publicity

Team photographs may be offered and scheduled for the competitive and recreational / developmental program. Your coach will provide you with the date, time, and order form if applicable.

We are always looking for articles, success stories, tournament wins, league or other off the field activities to publish on our website. Please forward these to your parent manager for placement on your team's section of the website or to the Director of Communications and Website for placement on the ERSC website and / or in the local print media.

7.3 Referees

Many of our referees are young adults learning to be referees. Please keep this in mind before you criticize them or question their calls. Players, coaches, and spectators may be asked to leave the field if they cannot control themselves. Respect referees and remember they have the final say on any call on the field.

Contact the Field / Referee Coordinator for details on how to become a referee and recertification clinics in our area or with any questions. This is an excellent way to make money with a sport you love.

7.4 For the Good of Soccer – Sportsmanship

ERSC does not support a win-at-all-costs attitude. Playing for ERSC should be a memorable and rewarding experience, both for the successes achieved as well as the fun in achieving them. As a reminder to parents, players and coaches, each will be asked to read and agree to with a signature (either hard copy or electronic) a Code of Conduct.

8.0 Related Websites

Please visit the soccer section of the ERAA website as your first contact whenever you have questions. The ERSC website contains links to many related website. A few of these are also listed here for your convenience.

East Ridge Athletic Association (ERAA) www.eraamn.org

MN Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) www.mnyouthsoccer.org

MN State Referee Association (MNSRA) www.mnsra.com

8.1 Questions

Please contact the appropriate board member or the Director of Coaching / Director of Player Development with any comments or questions about ERSC.

9.0 What is MYSA?

MYSA stands for the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. Their mission statement reads "The Minnesota Youth Soccer Association promotes the game of soccer for all youth in Minnesota. We promote the importance of education, self esteem, diversity

and teamwork in a safe, fun environment, allowing players to develop their fullest potential in soccer and in life”. They support both competitive and recreational programs throughout the state.

ERSC is administered out of the east district of MYSA. Teams can play in other districts assigned by the MYSA DOC. The ERSC Registrar is responsible for submitting all teams, players, coaches, and managers to MYSA prior to each soccer season along with associated fees. Competitive players are issued a player pass for the upcoming season and have access to free player clinics, liability/ medical insurance, and a subscription to Soccer Times Newsletter. They have access through MYSA to free coaching clinics, licensing programs, player / team development resources, and liability/ medical insurance. For more information and links to other soccer sources, see the MYSA website.

The MYSA Youth Council recommends small-sided games for ages U9-U12. This format promotes more touches on the ball using smaller teams and smaller fields. Benefits include more time with the coach, more actual playing time, and experience repeating game situations more frequently.

	Under 9 Developmental Travel	Under 10 Developmental Travel	Under 11 Competitive	Under 12 Competitive
Format	6 vs. 6	6 vs. 6	8 vs. 8	8 vs. 8
Team Size	Min: 8, Max: 12	Min: 8, Max: 12	Min:10, Max: 14	Min: 10, Max: 14
Field Size	Min: 35x45 yds Max: 45x55 yds	Min: 35x45 yds Max: 45x55 yds	Min: 45x80yds Max: 50x90 yds	Min: 45x80 yds Max: 50x90 yds
Goal Size	Min. 6 Max 6.5 x 12 ft wide	Min. 6 Max 6.5 x 12 ft wide	7 ft high x 21 ft wide	7 ft high x 21 ft wide
Ball Size	4	4	4	4
Game Length	2 x 25 min halves	2 x 25 min halves	2 x 30 min halves	2 x 30 min halves
Levels	Maroon, Gold	Maroon, Gold	Classic 2 (C2), Classic 3 (C3)	Classic 2 (C2), Classic 3 (C3)
Referees	1	1	1-3	1-3
Offsides	Not in effect	Not in effect	Is in effect	Is in effect
Substitution	Allowed at any stoppage of play with referee’s discretion	Allowed at any stoppage of play with referee’s discretion	Allowed at any stoppage of play with referee’s discretion	Allowed at any stoppage of play with referee’s discretion

9.1 MYSA Player / Adult Protection Guidelines

Definitions

For the purposes of this document, we will define "Adult" as those persons in their roles as Coach, Assistant Coach, Board Member, Team Manager, or Volunteer who work with, for, or around players. This would include anyone older than the age group they are interacting with. For example, a 15-year-old Assistant Coach of a U11 team would be considered an Adult for the purposes of these guidelines. "Player" defines all persons who are members of, or play on, a soccer team. This definition does include those players who participate at the U19 level, even though they may be of legal age. In the example of the 15-year-old Assistant Coach, if s/he is also a rostered participant on a U16 or higher team, that person is also subject to the guidelines applicable to a Player.

Guidelines

These guidelines recognize that the lines of authority and separation between Adults and Players must be recognized and respected. Generally, Players are children and as such, deserve special protection. These guidelines provide that protection while setting levels of acceptable conduct of Adults.

1. Physical Contact
 - a. Adults must be aware that any physical contact with Players can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat and injury, or console or congratulate a player. In the instance of teaching a skill, minimal contact should be involved and none which places the Adult in a position of power and/or intimidation.
 - b. Sexual contact of any kind or type is prohibited between Adults and Players, whether or not contact is consensual.
2. Social Contact
 - a. Adults should not socialize or spend time alone with Players except at games, practices, or team functions. An Adult in a one-on-one situation with a Player is generally considered to be inappropriate.
 - b. Adults should avoid instances such as driving alone with a non-family Player. However, in the event that a Player remains on a field waiting for transportation, the Adult should wait with the Player on the field to guarantee the Player's safety and well being. (Adults should stress with their Players' parents the responsibility for safe and timely transportation to and from the field.)
 - c. During out of town tournaments, a non-parent / custodian Adult shall not share any sleeping arrangements with a Player.
 - d. Adults should respect the privacy of Players. If shower or changing room facilities are available, schedules should be arranged so that Adults and Players have separate use. If using a changing room Adults should provide privacy for Players to make necessary preparations before entering for pre/post game discussions. In addition, Adults should not allow others to enter except by the expressed wish of the Players still present.
3. Health and Well Being

- a. Adults share the responsibility for Players' health while at practices, scrimmages, and games. Adults should have Players' release forms and a medical kit with them at all times. Adults are also responsible for seeing that the field conditions are safe for the Players and that the field equipment is in good, safe condition prior to the start of any activity.
 - b. Head injuries resulting in disorientation should result in a Player remaining out of the game.
 - c. Adults transporting Players must model safe driving technique and enforce seat belt use with the Players and other vehicle occupants.
 - d. Adults need to be aware of signs of neglect and abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) of the Players and report to appropriate authorities.
4. Language
- a. Offensive, vulgar language by Adults or Players is unacceptable. Adults should model good communication skills.
 - b. Language that is denigrating in nature, content, or tone; or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, or religion is unacceptable.
 - c. Inappropriate language targeting officials, opponents, or spectators may be grounds for Player penalties or Adults removal from the game and/or premises.
5. Violations
- a. Violations of these guidelines by Adults or Players will subject them to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, warnings, sanctions, suspensions, or release by the Affiliate Member and/or MYSA.
 - b. Appropriate legal authorities may be called upon based on the nature of the violation.
 - c. Anyone witnessing a violation of these guidelines should report the violation to the ERSC Board or to the office of the State Risk Manager / Vice President of Administration of MYSA.

10.0 Tryout Guidelines and Criteria

10.1 Introduction

East Ridge Soccer Club (ERSC) is the organization that supports both Recreational / Developmental Soccer and Competitive Soccer for the East Ridge Athletic Association (ERAA). ERAA is the parent organization of ERSC. ERSC is a member club of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA).

The club forms teams to fill berths in the MYSA league that are granted to ERSC. Playing level is based on regular season standings from the just-completed season. There is no limit on number of C3 teams that can be formed for any age group.

All teams from the previous year are considered by the club to be dissolved upon completion of the summer season's last MYSA game – either regular season, district playoff loss, or last game played in the state tournament.

The club runs open tryouts for players interested in playing soccer for ERSC. Teams are formed based upon results of those tryouts. Players not registered with ERSC prior to the deadline for registration will typically be placed on the lowest team formed for that player's applicable group.

10.2 The following guidelines are for the formal player evaluations:

1. Evaluations are made from **observation** of players performing in **related practices and small-sided games**. The 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. 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 of evaluators. The evaluators will determine the length of the small-sided games each session.
3. Qualified and experienced evaluators will be used to assess players' abilities. Each evaluator will be scoring each player in each area of assessment. Scores from these evaluators will make up the total tryout score.
4. The format may be adjusted based on the DOC or evaluators' needs.
5. There are formal expectations for the evaluators including but not limited to the following:
 - They are expected to work independently of each other.
 - The evaluators are expected to excuse themselves if they have any relationship to any players, coaches, or parents in the group they are evaluating.
 - Each evaluator should work from a different sideline of the field in order to maximize the independence of scores.
6. Every evaluator is responsible for providing accurate and independently generated scores for attributes displayed by each player in each of four categories: Technique, Tactics, Physical, and Psychological. For each of the four categories, players are given a score by each evaluator. The total score per player from each evaluator will be the sum of all four scores.
7. If a player played in ERSC the previous season, his/her coach's evaluation input will also be used as part of the overall evaluation process.

Technical

The Technical categories include elements like dribbling, passing, first touch on the ball, and defending. These are the most basic components of soccer. The following lists provide guidelines for evaluations of individual technical skills.

Individual *defending* skills evaluated include but are not limited to:

- Proper foot positioning

- Block/ slide / poke tackling timing and ability
- Recovery
- Pressure on ball
- Denying penetration

Individual *dribbling* skills evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Dribbling to possess
- Dribbling to penetrate
- Dribbling for speed
- Shielding

Individual *passing* skills evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Passing technique
- Receiving technique
- Shooting technique
- Long ball technique

Tactical

Elements in the tactical category being evaluated are decision-making on both offense and defense, awareness of players and space, communication and positional sense.

The larger formats are used to provide evaluators an environment to observe and score cooperative (team), technical, and tactical skills. The following lists provide guidelines for the evaluation of cooperative, technical, or tactical skills.

Defensive skills:

- Denying penetration
- Communication
- Closing down space
- 2nd defender
- 3rd defender (not expected at U12 age level)
- Recovery

Attacking skills:

- Decisions by thirds
- Using support
- Movement without the ball
- Penetration by dribble / pass / shot
- Spatial awareness

Psychological

The psychological portion of the evaluation is based on desire, engagement, composure, attitude and the ability both to follow instructions and to solve soccer-related problems.

Physical

The physical portion of the evaluation is based on strength, speed, quickness, and stamina.

8. Each format will be evaluated separately with an independent score for each format.
9. The data from evaluators will be handed to the appropriate director who will compile the information with at least one additional independent person assigned by the ERSC Board monitoring the process.
10. ERSC is looking for individual and team play. ERSC is looking not only at what skills the players have, but more importantly **where, when, and how** they use those skills.
11. Coaches' Evaluation of Players: Each ERSC head coach will be required to complete a player evaluation form by July 25 of the summer season (see below). It is extremely important that coaches complete these forms, as those who neglect to complete the player evaluation may not be reimbursed for their child's registration fee and / or may not be chosen as head coach in the following season. The coaches that fail to provide these will be reminded by e-mail. This form will be used during player placement / team selection process. The coach will be scoring the players based on his/her experience during the last season. Each coach will be scoring his/her team only.

Technical	Tactical
First Touch	Decision-making
Passing	Awareness
Dribbling	Communications
Defending	Positional Sense
Psychological	Physical
Concentration	Strength
Attitude	Speed
Composure	Stamina
Desire	Aggressiveness
Attendance	

12. Parents of players who are trying out 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 speaking with children. If evaluators or board members feel parents / observers are too close to the tryout area, they may be asked to move farther away.
13. Players can try out for an older age group, but must be ranked in the top "lock" position (see team formation) for the older group in order to be eligible for the top team. In addition, the player must have the skill and ability to start every game at the higher age group. The only exception to this rule is for players that are playing up with their school grade level (generally kids born after August 1), however,

final decision will be made by the Director of Coaching/Director of Player Development.

14. Players missing tryouts must receive an excused absence or they will not be eligible for placement on the top team in their age group (or mixed age group team). Excused absences are limited to the following:
 - Injury or sickness with a doctor's / clinic note
 - Death in the family; or,
 - An excused absence may be granted for other reasons with the majority approval of the board of directors.

To request an excused absence while tryouts are in progress, a parent or guardian must come to the tryout facility, sign the player in, and request an excused absence from the tryout officials. The only officials that have the authority to grant an excused absence from tryouts are the Director of Coaching and Player Development, ERSC President, or ERSC Vice President. Coaches and team managers have no authority to grant excused absences to any players.

Any absence that is not excused under the aforementioned rules is considered unexcused. A player who misses tryouts without an excused absence will not be eligible for placement on the top team formed for the applicable age group. If too few players exist to complete formation of the highest level team, players with an unexcused absence may be placed on the highest level team in order to complete team formation.

In regards to a player who has played at an age group up, for a minimum of two years, an excused absence can be granted for the upper age group, with the approval of the Director of Coaching and Player Development, providing the player meets all of the requirements needed for an excused absence.

15. Players that are interested in, and trying out for, the position of goalkeeper are strongly encouraged to attend keeper tryouts and the full field tryouts. Keeper tryouts will be held separately, but in close proximity to field tryout dates.
16. A supplemental tryout will be provided only if there are ten or more players in a specific age group that were not able to tryout with excused absences.
17. ERSC makes every effort to place every player on a team. In order to accommodate as many participants as possible, some age groups may be blended with other age groups.
18. Commitment levels for Premier and C1 are high. If your child cannot make the required commitment please let us know in advance and they will not be considered at these levels.
19. All coaching candidates and ERSC board members are invited to observe the tryouts with the following guidelines (including candidates who are not designated as coach-evaluators by the club):
 - Coaching candidates and/or ERSC board members will be observing, not participating, unless asked to help with a specific tryout activity by the Director of Coaching/Director of Player Development

- Coaching candidates and/or ERSC board members CANNOT interact directly with the evaluators. If coaching candidates have any questions or concerns related to communication with the evaluators, they are to discuss these with any ERSC Board member present at the registration area. The board member will take care of the coaching candidate's needs.
- Coaching candidates are free to take notes about players, but all ranking will be completed based on the official results of the evaluations in conjunction with the rules of the club.

10.3 The Process of Team Formation

1. Tryout scores will be audited by an ERSC board-designated auditor to ensure integrity in the data entry.
2. A designated board member (without a conflict of interest) will convene the team formation meetings within a period of time that will allow for team formation and posting to be completed in accordance with section 5.7 of this document.
 - It is imperative that the head coach for a team be available to complete team formation. In the event that the head coach is not available to attend the meeting, the head coach must make all necessary arrangements to complete team formation in the time specified. The Director of Coaching and Player Development must be informed of arrangements made by an absent head coach.
 - Teams without designated head coaches will be formed in accordance with the guidelines contained in this document that deal with team formation for teams without a designated coach.
3. Rules for top team formation.
 - Teams will be formed from the available tryout pool according to the following table:
 - a. The top 25 players from U13 and above
 - b. The top 20 players from U11-U12
 - c. The top 15 players from U9-U10
 - The top eight players in U13 and older (six for U11-U12 and four for U9-U10) based on tryout scores will make the "lock" position and are guaranteed a spot on the top team (for exceptions, see section 4)
 - A player whose primary position is goalkeeper is considered a discretionary player and the head coach is not bound by these limits in selecting him / her.
4. Coach's Lock Veto
 - Each coach in the U11 and older groups where lock players exist will get a right of one veto on a lock player. For example, if a U15 team is being formed and there are 8 lock players listed based on tryout results, the coach forming the team can "veto" a player out of the pool of 8 lock players. It is expected that the coach will make serious, careful and thoughtful consideration before invoking a veto and will closely confer with

the Director of Coaching and Player Development during the process. Once a veto has been invoked, the remaining lock players must remain on the team being formed. The balance of the team will be selected according to club rules. A player cannot be “vetoed” twice by different coaches in one season(e.g. if a lock player is vetoed from any team, then that player will automatically become the top lock on the next team down in the selection process and cannot be vetoed out of that new lock position by the next coach forming their team).

5. Rules for other team formations.
 - After a top team is selected, the next top eight players and older (six for U11-U12 and four for U9-U10) will be in a “lock” position for the next level team. The head coach on the next level team can pick the rest of the team without any further restrictions (except the coach cannot veto a lock player who was vetoed in the first round higher level team formation, as mentioned above). This process continues until all teams are formed.
6. In the case where a coach has not been designated by the coach selection committee and therefore is not available to pick the team at the time of team formation, the following options are available to the director. It is the director’s decision as to which option best fits the situation:
 - The Director of Coaching and Player Development may pick the team based on tryout rankings.
 - Volunteer parent coach or hired coach from the previous team re-hired for the next season may pick the team
 - Past year’s coach can work with the director to pick the team
 - A knowledgeable team manager from past year’s team approved by the director may pick the team
7. New team placement (Classic levels, Maroon or Gold) will be determined based on MYSA rules and feedback from head coaches, evaluators and ERSC Board members.
8. Premier level teams have separate tryouts and their selection follows separate rules.
9. Each coach will be given average scores for all players available for his/her team prior to making his/her selections. All coaches will also have access to previous year scores from coach player evaluations to enable them to make the best decisions on player selection.
10. Any exceptions to these rules will have to be approved by the ERSC board or designated committee.

11.0 Coach Selection Process

The ERSC is committed to developing fundamentally sound soccer players. In order to achieve this goal is to ensure that we have qualified coaches at all age levels.

It is ERSC policy to have paid coaches for the top level teams for boys and girls at the U12 to U18 level. Top teams are defined as Maroon/C1 or higher level league play. In addition, a parent of a player will not be allowed to be the head coach one of these U12 to U18 top level teams. A parent of a player may be able to assist a team with written consent from the Director of Coaching/Director of Player Development.

Interested coaches are required to fill out an application. Candidates will need to meet the minimum certification requirements and / or be willing to commit to coaching education and training. If a candidate does not meet the minimum certification requirements for the age and playing level, the ERSC Board of Directors will defer this requirement in the coach commits to acquiring the certification during the same calendar year.

All coaches will be required to sign a code of conduct form provided by the Director of Coaching/Director of Player Development.

NOTE: The ERSC Board of Directors has the right to waive the minimum certification requirements in special circumstances where they deem it is in the best interest of the players.

If teams do not have a qualified volunteer for a coach, the parents will need to hire a qualified head coach that will be assigned by the ERSC Board of Directors. The parents will need to negotiate a contract with the assigned coach. A contract template is available. A copy of the coach contract must be submitted to the ERSC Secretary prior to the start of the spring/summer season.

Coach Training Reimbursement -- The ERSC will reimburse coaches for the following training and certifications, provided that they successfully complete the course, are a current ERSC Head or Assistant Coach, and request reimbursement by sending a copy of the course certification / license to the ERSC Treasurer.

- USYS "Y" Module
- USSF "E" Certification or equivalent
- USSF "D" License or equivalent (NOTE: Reimbursement will occur over 2 years provided candidate is a coach for ERSC for both seasons)