



1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe how the Saint Louis Park Soccer Association traveling soccer teams are formed. The ultimate goal is to improve transparency and consistency in the team selection process.

2. Roles

Coaching Director – The coaching director is responsible for establishing the coaching staff. This is a paid member of the club that helps recruit both paid and volunteer coaches for the club.

Coaches – The SLPSA club utilizes both paid and volunteer coaches for its teams. The coaches work with the teams throughout the season to help improve the skills of the players.

Boys/Girls Traveling Coordinators – The traveling coordinators are volunteer board members responsible for establishing traveling teams for each age group.

Club President and Vice President – These are volunteer board members responsible for supporting/maintaining the club vision.

Team Selection Committee – A committee made up of the coaching director, traveling coordinators, club president and vice president.

3. Tryouts

The club provides tryouts to provide non-biased player assessments each season. The evaluators are professional soccer players or experienced coaches. The evaluators are not SLPSA coaches for the age groups being evaluated.

The tryout process evaluates the following:

1. Ball control
2. Speed of play (mentally and physically)
3. Passing
4. Teamwork
5. Positional skills (both offense and defense)

The club will also make multiple tryout dates available for players that may be on vacation or perform poorly at a certain tryout. In fact, the club encourages players to attend both tryouts for their age group to do the scrimmage portion a second time as the higher scrimmage scores are used. The club asks players to do the skills portion only once. Since it is a smaller part of a players score, it is unlikely to change a ranking.



4. Coach Rankings (previous season)

Each season the coaches are required to rank their players in terms of ability. They are also asked to incorporate each player’s attitude, commitment level, and ability to perform in key roles (goalkeepers, defenders, etc).

5. Coach’s Picks

Sometimes the coaches are the best judge of how well a player will perform on their team. This is especially true in the following circumstances.

- A player had a bad tryout, but typically performs well
- A player has an injury or is ill during a tryout
- A player has a bad attitude, work ethic, or creates team dynamic problems
- A player tends to miss games and practices
- A group of core players work together very well as a team

For this reason, a coach is allowed to select (protect) a small number of players for their team. When a coach uses a coach’s pick, the coach is also allowed to select which player is removed from their roster. The number of players a coach can pick depends on the age group and is described in section 6. Coach’s picks must be registered with the SLPSA.

6. Team Formation

Teams are formed by the team selection committee. This committee meets before the season to decide how the teams will be formed. The team selection committee forms the team based on the following selection criteria.

1. Tryout results
2. Coach ranking
3. Coach’s Picks

The selection criteria are weighted as follows:

Age Group	Tryout Skills	Tryout Scrimmage	Coach’s Ranking	Coach’s Picks	Goalie Pick
U9	30%	70%	0%	1*	0
U10	20%	50%	30%	1*	0
U11	20%	40%	40%	3	0
U12	20%	40%	40%	3	1
U13 and up	0%	50%	50%	4	1

* Only applies when multiple levels of teams are formed.



6.1. U9 Age Group

U9 is the first year of traveling soccer. This age group is considered developmental with minimal emphasis on competition. This age group is usually a mix of the U8 and U9 age groups. If there is enough interest and talent at the U8 level, a dedicated U8 team may also be formed.

7. Playing Up

It is also possible for players to be considered for older age groups. This sometimes occurs out of necessity if there are not enough players in a certain age group. Players can also attend tryouts at the older age group. If their tryout ranking places them in the top 30% of the age group, they will be placed on the team. They might also play on the older team as one of the coach's picks (pending approval from the team selection committee).

The selection committee may decide to not allow playing up if an age group is short players.

8. Exceptions

Occasionally, exceptions to the team selection policy need to be made. These exceptions usually relate to the challenge of having a smaller club. There may not be enough players at certain age groups to form teams so age groups need to be combined. Exceptions to the policy can be made if the team selection committee unanimously agrees and the affected age groups are notified of the rationale.