



# **Try-out Guidelines for Summer (2012)**

Representative Teams (U12 – U18)

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## **Sort-Out Guidelines for Summer (2012)**

Development Teams (U9, U10 & U11)

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## Reason for Release

This guideline details the processes and policies for West Ottawa Soccer Club (WOSC) Representative team try-outs and Development team sort-outs. This guideline is managed by the West Ottawa Soccer Club Technical Committee (WTC).

Further refinements to the try-out process based on experiences over the past few years have resulted in a new approach for selection to top level and development teams.

## Change History

Sunday, October 24, 2010	First Official Release	WTC
Monday, November 15, 2010	Updates to account for goalkeeper selections	WTC
Tuesday, November 30, 2010	Added roster size targets	WTC
Thursday, December 02, 2010	Added in information about try-out pilot	WTC
Sunday, December 05, 2010	Final Edits	WTC
Tuesday, December 21, 2010	Play up policy added and registration date deadline clarified	WTC
Monday, June 27, 2011	Updated for summer 2012 teams	Loomes
Monday, July 4, 2011	Version 1.92 – clarifications following review.	Loomes
Wednesday, July 6, 2011	Version 1.93 – updates following review from CHC	Loomes
Thursday, July 7, 2011	Version 2.0 – Updated after final WTC review	Loomes
Monday, July 11, 2011	Version 2.1 – Final edits.	Loomes
Monday, July 11, 2011	Version 2.2 – Final edits from CHC review	Loomes
Wednesday, July 27, 2011	Version 2.3 – Final review at BoD	Loomes
Friday, July 29, 2011	Version 3.0 – following coach community sessions	Loomes
Monday, August 8, 2011	Version 3.1 – clarified U9 – U11 try-outs status	Loomes
Friday, September 2, 2011	Version 3.2 – minor corrections for release	Loomes
Monday, October 3, 2011	Version 3.3 – updated L5 tryout process	Loomes
Tuesday, January 24, 2012	Version 3.4 – updated U9/10/11 sort process	Loomes
Friday, January 27, 2012	Version 3.5 – updates after review	Loomes
Friday, January 27, 2012	Version 3.6 – roster size correction	Loomes
Monday, January 30, 2012	Version 3.7 – EODSA league for U11	Loomes
Sunday, February 5, 2012	Version 3.8 – EODSA clarification for L5 play at U16+	Loomes



## Executive Summary

### Representative Teams

For summer 2012 Representative Team selection there are noticeable differences described in this guideline as compared with last year.

Through-out this guideline you will see the term top level teams – this refers to L3&L4 (formerly known as Regional and Premier) at ages U13 and up and U12 Division 1A & 1B (formerly known as Premier 1 and Premier 2).

For top level teams at U12 to U18 try-outs will be held over multiple weekends in September on outdoor playing surfaces. Results from these try-outs will be a component of the overall player assessment for selection onto Summer Teams as well provides access to the top level winter development training.

After selection to a top level summer team performance monitoring will continue through to around May 30<sup>th</sup>, at which time final placements will be confirmed. One to three teams per age/gender will be formed following the conclusion of winter development training. First Summer Team will roughly equate to the top level team in an age group (L3 for example), Second Summer Team will roughly equate to the second team in an age group (L4 for example) and where applicable a the Third Summer Team will roughly equate to the third team in an age group (L4B or L5A for example). Movement between teams is possible even after May 30th as performance is monitored through July 31st of each year (final league roster freeze).

Where possible player assessment for placement on summer teams will be based of winter 2011/2012 development/training performance with additional information taken from fall try-out results and summer 2011 performance. Evaluations during winter 2011/2012 will be completed by independent assessors – at no time will parents be able to evaluate or influence grading.

### Development Teams

In line with Long Term Player Development (LTPD) the development age groups have been revamped for the summer 2012 season. Please refer to the WOSC Mini Programs Guide for further details. As a result the sort-out process is under review with a desire to change the process to one resembling a spring training program that allows for a longer assessment period whilst the players receive coaching from Staff Coaches. For 2012, though the process will be somewhat familiar with a three to four stage sort-out.



## What age do I try-out for?

Players shall try-out for a level of play at their natural age. For example a player born in 1997 will try-out for a U15 team.

## General Rules

- Players must be registered for try-outs a minimum of two business days prior to the first try-out session they intend to participate in
  - For most top level teams this means players must be registered by September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011
  - For most EODSA League and development league teams this means registering in the Spring of 2012
- Players should try-out at their natural age
- Players intending on playing EODSA League Division 1 at U13 +, Division 1 and 2 at U10 and U11, and Division 2 at U12 should **NOT** register for top level teams try-outs in September 2011
- Players register and pay once – this allows a player to try-out for all available levels within one age group. This also entitles players to attend the fall and spring try-outs for one fee



## U12 Division 1A & 1B, U13 to U18 L3 & L4 Try-out Format

For these age and level groups, try-outs for summer 2012 teams will take place in September 2011 on outdoor playing surfaces. Results from these try-outs will be a component of the overall player assessment as well determines access to the top level winter development training program.

Fall try-outs will be run through the WTC with assessments performed by 100% independent assessors – at no time will a parent be assessing their child or the age/level their child plays in. Assessors will be club lead coaches, non-parent summer 2011 Team Head Coaches (THC) and WTC representatives.

The format will be full field games and players will be assigned to teams at random. For U12 through U15 each player will participate in three games. For U16 and older players will play in two games. Please note player releases do not occur in this format.

A player must have an assessment before being permitted to attend top level winter team training or being assigned to a top level summer team. This is mandatory for all players.

### Why the change?

There are a number of reasons to institute these new try-out guidelines, all of which are centered on player development and development appropriateness. In essence we must ensure players are training and playing at the developmentally appropriate level. The longer the assessment period, and the more realistic it is, allows for a true gauge of where the player is best suited to train and play.

### Schedule

The try-out schedule will be available at [www.wosc.com](http://www.wosc.com) in early September.

### Timeline



Figure 1 – Flow of events for selection to a top level summer Representative team



1. Fall Try-outs will take place in September – results will be a component of the overall player assessment for summer team selection as well as the guidance for selection to top level winter development training
2. Winter development training will be assessed by 100% independent experienced assessors – assessments/results will be used in the overall player assessment for summer team selection.
3. Summer Team – within two weeks following March/Spring break players will be assigned to a summer team and train as a team with the assigned THC. Assessments are ongoing and movement is possible. Some players may not be assigned to a summer team – in which case they may be asked to attend the spring L5 try-outs
4. Confirmation of player placement is completed by May 30<sup>th</sup>; it is possible that movement may occur up to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Overall Player Assessments

As noted the fall try-outs will be a component in the overall player assessment used for placement on Summer 2012 Representative Teams, as follows:

Fall Try-out	
Winter Development Assessment	
Summer 2011 Performance*	
Spring L5 Try-out*	
	100%

\*only as required

## Criteria for Assessments

As noted above the overall player assessment will include input from experienced 100% independence club lead coaches as well as try-out results. Whilst we can't show all the criteria it will definitely be important for players to demonstrate the following attributes:

- Coachability
- Attendance
- Individual skill level (e.g., dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, heading)
- Heads up play/decision making – is the player attempting to “Control-Look-Decide-Play”
- Attacking, defending and transition capability
- Problem solving ability
- Desire to win/want the ball
- Commitment to challenge
- Movement off the ball
- Positioning
- Promptness to sessions/try-outs
- Overall fitness
- Attitude
- Focus and listening skills
- Game readiness
- Sporting behaviour



## Summer Team Placement

### Players that Participated in a WOSC Assessed Winter Development Program and the Fall try-outs

Players will be assigned to one three categories – notification of assignment will be no later than March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012:

1. First Summer Team
2. Second Summer Team (where applicable)
3. Third Summer Team (where applicable)
4. Assigned to L5 spring try-outs

**Categories #1, #2 and #3** - Players assigned to First Summer Team, Second Summer Team and Third Summer Team will begin team training in late March or early April, once full registration fees are paid. First Summer Team will become the top team in an age level (L3 team for example), Second Summer Team will become the second team in an age level (L4 team for example) and Third Team will become the third team in an age level (L4B or L5A for example) – however players are reminded that assessments are ongoing through May30th, at which time placement will be confirmed. Performance, attendance and commitment will be monitored closely. A number of roster spaces will remain open until after the conclusion of the Spring L5 try-outs to allow for movement.

It should be noted that at some ages L3 is not the top team and L4 is not the second team – in some case an L5A team will be the second team.

**Category #4** - For players that attended the fall try-outs and participated in WOSC assessed winter development but were assigned to Spring L5 try-outs there is still a path back to a top level Summer Team. Based on performance at the Spring L5 try-outs the player may be invited to train with a top level Summer Team. Confirmation on final team placement will be based on assessment of performance during training with the top level team – a WTC representative will work with the THC of the top level team on the assessment. Please note the player will not have to pay for the Spring L5 try-outs in this case.

### Team Selection Process

Players are selected to top tier teams by a committee, to include the assigned THC, a WTC representative, the winter programs Lead Coach, and for second and third teams the assigned THC from the next higher team. For top tier teams players may be selected by position; for example: top goalkeeper, top five defenders, top five midfielders and top five strikers.



## **Players that did not participate in one of or both of WOSC Assessed Winter Development Program and Fall try-outs**

**I did not attend the fall try-outs but did participate in WOSC assessed winter development** – At the discretion of the WTC a player may be assigned directly to a Summer Team, top level or L5; otherwise the player should attend the same age Spring L5 try-outs.

**I did attend the fall try-outs but did not participate in WOSC assessed winter development** – At the discretion of the WTC a player may be assigned directly to a Summer Team, top level or L5; otherwise the player should attend the same age Spring L5 try-outs.

**I did not attend the fall try-outs and did not participate in WOSC assessed winter development** – Player should attend the Spring L5 try-outs.

## **Recommended Roster Sizes**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Before conclusion of Spring L5 Try-outs</b>	<b>After conclusion of Spring L5 Try-outs</b>
U12L5 Div 1A	14	15
U12L5 Div 1B	15	16
U13 - U15 L3	14	15
U13 - U15 L4	14	15
U16 – U18 L3	15	16
U16 – U18 L4	15	16



## U9, U10 and U11 Development Teams Sort out Format

For the development teams in the mini age group which includes U9, U10 and U11 (and will include U12 in 2013) the levelling of players will be referred to as a sort out. At this age group players are still developing and it is our intention to provide opportunities to maximize player development.

### U9 Sort outs

There are three levels of play in 2012, please refer to the WOSC Mini Programs Guide for explanations and details pertaining to the levels of play. Players that want to play at levels T1 and T2 must attend the preliminary round sort outs. Players wishing to play at level T4 do not need to attend any sort outs and will be automatically assigned to a West Ottawa Development League (WODL) division-2 team . The sort out process and guidelines are as follows:

#### Preliminary Round Sort out #1

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group A to ~ L
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete
  - Quickness, speed and agility
  - Balance and coordination
  - Ball mastery
  - Two ninety (90) minute sessions

#### Preliminary Round Sort out #2

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group ~L to Z
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete
  - Quickness, speed and agility
  - Balance and coordination
  - Ball mastery
  - Two ninety (90) minute sessions



## Data Process

Following the preliminary round players will be split into three groups based on assessment results:

- Group #1 will be the top ~25 players and assigned to a final sort out
- Group #2 will be the next ~60 players and assigned to WODL Division-1 (no further sort outs)
- Group #3 will be the balance of the players and assigned to WODL Division-2 (no further sort outs)

## Final Sort Out

This round will select players for the Eastern Ontario Development League (EODL) teams. This will be a single ninety (90) minute session. The top ranked players based on assessments will be assigned to the EODL team and the balance of the players will be assigned to the WODL Division-1.

## U10 Sort Out

There are four levels of play in 2012, please refer to the WOSC Mini Programs Guide for explanations and details pertaining to the levels of play. Players that want to play at levels T1, T2 and T3 must attend the preliminary round sort outs. Players wishing to play at level T4 do not need to attend any sort outs and will be automatically assigned to a West Ottawa Development League (WODL) Division-2 team. The sort out process and guidelines are as follows:

### Preliminary Round Sort out #1

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group A to ~ L
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete
  - Quickness, speed and agility
  - Balance and coordination
  - Ball mastery
  - Two ninety (90) minute sessions

### Preliminary Round Sort out #2

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group ~M to Z
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete
  - Quickness, speed and agility
  - Balance and coordination
  - Ball mastery
  - Two ninety (90) minute sessions



## Data Process

Following the preliminary round players will be split into three groups based on assessment results:

- Group #1 will be the top ~25 players and assigned to the EODL Division-1 sort out
- Group #2 will be comprised of players and assigned to EODL Division-2 and WODL Division-1 sort out
- Group #3 will be the balance of the players and assigned to WODL Division-2 (no further sort outs)

## EODL Division-1 Sort Out

This is a single ninety (90) minute sort out session. The top 10 players based on assessment results will be assigned to the EODL Division-1 team. The balance of the players will be assigned to the EODL Division-2 and WODL Division-1 sort out.

## EODL Division-2 and WODL Division-1 sort out

Based on the number of registrations multiple alphabetically sorted ninety (90) minutes sessions will be scheduled. The top ranked players based on assessment results are assigned to EODL Division-2 teams; the number of teams entered is based on the assessed talent levels. The balance of the players are assigned to WODL Division-1.

## U11 Sort Out

There are four levels of play in 2012, please refer to the WOSC Mini Programs Guide for explanations and details pertaining to the levels of play. Players that want to play at levels T1, T2 and T3 must attend the preliminary round sort outs. Players wishing to play at level T4 do not need to attend any sort outs and will be automatically assigned to a West Ottawa Development League (WODL) Division-2 team. The sort out process and guidelines are as follows:

### Preliminary Round Sort out #1

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group A to ~ L
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete
  - Quickness, speed and agility
  - Balance and coordination
  - Ball mastery
  - Two ninety (90) minute sessions

### Preliminary Round Sort out #2

- Players split alphabetically by surname – this group ~M to Z
- Assessors will evaluate the following:
  - Ability/desire to compete



- Quickness, speed and agility
- Balance and coordination
- Ball mastery
- Two ninety (90) minute sessions

## Data Process

Following the preliminary round players will be split into three groups based on assessment results:

- Group #1 will be the top 30 players and assigned to the EODSA League Division-1 sort out
- Group #2 will be comprised of players and assigned to EODSA League Division-2 and WODL Division-1 sort out
- Group #3 will be the balance of the players and assigned to WODL Division-2 (no further sort outs)

## EODSA League Division-1 Sort Out

This is a single ninety (90) minute sort out session. The players will be sorted based on assessment results will be assigned to the EODSA League Division-1A, Division-1B teams and Division-1C teams.

## EODSA League Division-2 and WODL Division-1 sort out

Based on the number of registrations multiple alphabetically sorted ninety (90) minutes sessions will be scheduled. The top ranked players based on assessment results are assigned to EODSA League Division-2 teams; the number of teams entered is based on the assessed talent levels. The balance of the players are assigned to WODL Division-1.



# All other Ages and Levels of play (Spring L5 try-out)

This will be a traditional try-out series held in the Spring of 2012, under the following general conditions:

- A maximum of 40 players will attend a try-out session – if more than 40 players are registered then additional sessions will be added within the try-out stage and players split alphabetically
- There will be three try-out stages
- The first try-out stage will involve small sided games.
- The second try-out stage again involves small-sided games
- The third try-out stage will take place on a full mini sized dome
- There can be releases following the first, second and third stages
- Players are guaranteed one try-out per level of play, at stage T1 or stage T2. If the first try-out stage is missed a player may attend the second tryout stage. If the first and second try-out stages are missed a player may only attend the third try-out stage by meeting one or more of the exceptions noted in the *Player Absenteeism from Try-outs* section
- The WTC reserves the right to recommend a player directly to team placement based on tryout results from L3/L4 tryouts and/or from winter programs assessment
- The WTC reserves the right to recommend players directly to the second try-out stage
- The WTC reserves the right to recommend players directly to the third try-out stage
- The WTC reserves the right to recommend a player directly to team placement following the conclusion of the second try-out stage
- Players selected to a team will be informed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the third try-out stage
- Players released will be offered the opportunity to play in the development or recreational levels of play

## Format

Try-out T1 Stage		Try-out T2 Stage		Try-out T3 Stage
A – ~L	~M – Z	A – ~L	~M – Z	Final sort out

## Ranking

**90%** will come from the tryout and sort out assessments scores and those scores will be based on the following points:

- Individual skill level (e.g., dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, heading)
- Heads up play/decision making – is the player attempting to “Control-Look-Decide-Play”
- Attacking, defending and transition capability
- Problem solving ability
- Movement off the ball
- Positioning

**10%** will be in the form of intangibles and will also be determined from the tryout and sort out assessments based on the following points:

- Promptness to tryouts



- Overall fitness
- Past Performance
- Attitude
- Focus and listening skills
- Game readiness
- Sporting behavior
- Coachability

## Tryout and sort out Session Format

- Pinnie allocation (begins 15 minutes prior to start of session)
- Warm up (10 -15 minutes)
- Small sided games and/or full field games
- Cool Down/discussion (5–10 minutes depending on time and # of participants)

## Assigned Assessors

It is important that the try-out be scored objectively with input from multiple sources including the candidate THC, WTC representative add one or two independent, experienced assessors. This is a target and understood this may not always be achievable.

## Note regarding L5 Teams

- There will be no more than three L5 teams per age group entered in to the EODSA league at ages U13+;
  - In the case where there are three teams entered at U13+ there would be one pooled team (“A” team taking the top players from the Spring L5 tryouts) and, depending on the assessed talent and geographic split, either two balanced geographic based teams, or “B” and “C” pooled teams.
  - In the case where there are two teams at U13+, and based on the assessed talent and geographic split there would either be two balanced geographic based teams, or “A” and “B” pooled teams.
- At younger ages teams will continue to be balanced first by geography then by try-out results

## Roster Sizes

Team	Roster Size Target
U12 L5 Div 2	Up to 18
U13 – U18 L5 Div 1	Up to 18



## Player Absenteeism from Try-outs

Players not attending all tryouts sessions RISK their chances of making a Team. – Exceptions to this include:

- Illness and Injury (Doctor certificate required)
- Death in the family
- Extended travel commitments
- Recently moved to the area

Players on a long-term absence that will miss the entire tryout process may make a Representative team if:

- They played with one of the WOSC Representative teams the season before;
- They played at the same competitive level the year before; and
- The WTC agrees to make a spot available

If the absentee player in question satisfies these criteria he/she will most likely be asked to come into the team and train with them for a selected period of time. This will allow the WTC and the THC an opportunity to evaluate the player further before making a final decision about selection.



## Play-up Guideline

The WTC requires players to try-out and play at their natural age; however the overriding principle is development appropriateness. Please review the following information that describes the requirements set upon an underage player in making an older age team:

### Guidelines

*A player must demonstrate a high degree of individual skill which must be transferable to game situations. In addition, a player's individual skill must meet or exceed the technical abilities of other participating players within the age group the player wishes to participate in.*

*A player must match other players within the age group up in physical strength and speed.*

*A Player must meet or excel over other participating players within the age group in game awareness and general knowledge of the game. This includes the mental strength that will be necessary when dealing with chronologically older opponents.*

*Player must be able to comfortably interact with players within the intended age group on and off the field (games, training and social gatherings).*

### Requirements

In order to be selected to an older age level team, an underage player, along with meeting the above guidelines, must rank as shown in the table below at the conclusion of the try-outs.

Mini Field Team	Seventh or better
Full Field Team	Tenth or better

### Process for request to play up

The player must make a request in writing to the WTC to try-out at an older age. The WTC will review the request and inform the player of the decision.

In some instances the WTC may choose to deny an underage player the opportunity to play up for more than one season if it is felt that it is in the best interest of the player's long-term development to return and play at their natural age level.



## **Representative Player Agreement**

For players assigned to a representative team during the registration process players are asked to confirm their commitment to the program. This includes attendance, performance and attitude expectations, as well the player confirms the understanding there will be repercussions if the agreement isn't followed.