

Fusion FC – Tryout Procedures

Tryouts will be conducted each spring for the following fall/spring season. Generally, tryouts will be held at Fusion F.C.'s Red Land Soccer Complex; other arrangements may be made with approval from the Travel Program Vice President (VP). Older age groups are more likely to host tryouts at alternate locations. (*Please note: Dates or locations are subject to change due to weather, field conditions, field availability, etc... In the event of a change or cancellation, Fusion F.C. would notify families of the new tryout dates and times as soon as arrangements have been made.*)

The club will announce the tryout dates for each age/gender group no less than 1 month prior to the tryouts.

There will be two tryout sessions held for each age group from U8 (U9 play-up) through U14*. A candidate must attend at least one session however; it is strongly encouraged that a candidate attends both tryout sessions. A candidate may tryout to play-up to an older age group; however, the candidate must also attend tryouts for his/her age-appropriate group as well. (**EXCEPTION* U13 and above boys will be holding individual age group tryouts; U13 and above girls will be holding individual age group tryouts. Additionally, unique teams may be created for purposes such as summer tournaments, Snowflake, etc... the process and procedures for those tryouts would be agreed upon between the coaches and at the discretion of appropriate VP of boys & girls programs.*)

Candidates & parents/legal guardians must complete all appropriate paperwork required by the club in order to tryout. Fusion F.C. STRONGLY ENCOURAGES candidates to pre-register online to expedite the sign-in process during the days of tryouts. Candidates DO NOT need to pay for club registration prior to tryouts. Payment for travel candidates is due at the time when a travel team invitation is accepted. When invitation is accepted, Fusion F.C. will direct the candidates & parents/legal guardians any further registration steps necessary.

As candidates sign in, parents will be provided with information pertaining to the tryout process, timeframe expectations and spectator behavior expectations. Players will be provided with the same color & number jersey for each tryout session they attend – with the potential exception of trying out for more than one age group. (For example: a U9 player will be blue #7 for both U9 tryouts. If they are trying out for U10 play-up, there may already be a blue #7 assigned. If that is the case, the candidate would be assigned a new jersey for both U10 tryouts).

In an effort to maximize the effectiveness of email communications and avoid tryout related messages being sent to spam mailboxes, Fusion F.C. will have notices posted advising candidates to add Fusion F.C. to the list of acceptable senders for their email service. This notice will also be included in the email sent to Fusion F.C. members announcing tryouts.

Roster Size

The following are recommendations on the number of candidates selected for each team. Note that these are recommendations, and each coach will have some flexibility in determining the size and make-up of the team. Any variance in these recommended numbers must be approved by the Travel Program VP's /or Director of Coaching (DOC) prior to the announcement of team selections.

Evaluators, coaches and the appropriate VP will work together to determine the candidates who best fit each team's roster. The top performing candidates will be invited to play for the highest level team in their age bracket. When the roster has been completed for the first level team, the next highest performing candidates will be invited to play for the second level team in their age bracket. The process will continue until all teams within each age bracket are built. Please note: the make-up of each bracket is unique and is assigned by CPYSL based on the number of teams available in each age group. Not all age/gender groups formed will have a Premier, A, B, C, D & E bracket. Some Fusion F.C. age/gender groups may have a Premier, B & D bracket while others may have A, B & C brackets, etc...

Playing 8v8

U9-U12 boys & girls travel teams: Each team should have a minimum of 11 with a maximum of 14 (*Per EPYSA guidelines, teams may not have less than 9 candidates on their roster*)

Playing 11v11

U13 & Up boys & girls travel teams: Each team should have a minimum of 14 candidates with a maximum of 18 (*Per EPYSA guidelines, teams may not have less than 7 candidates on their roster*)

Conduct of Coaches, Evaluators and other Club Personnel

The club will take measures, including establishing and adhering to the procedures listed in this document, to ensure that all candidates are evaluated carefully, accurately, and that team selections are done fairly and in a professional manner. The following guidelines address the conduct of the club's staff during the tryouts:

- All evaluators used during the tryouts will be selected and coordinated by the club's Travel Program VP's or DOC. The Travel Program VP's/ DOC will communicate with and supervise these evaluators during the tryout process. Fusion F.C. will make reasonable efforts to have a third party conduct evaluations for the club, keeping in mind timeliness and cost efficiency with respect to the membership of Fusion F.C. Coaches are strongly encouraged to attend tryouts and make notes of candidate performance to help familiarize themselves with players they may not have prior knowledge of and/or experience with.
- If/When using internal Coaches and evaluators, such persons will be selected for each age/gender group's tryouts with all possible considerations to avoid previous affiliation with the teams/candidates, conflicts of interest and other relationships or knowledge that may be considered unethical. (*For example purposes only: A coach that will be coaching U10 boys*

will not be used as an evaluator for that specific age group & gender; they would be assigned to evaluate U13 girls)

- In age/gender groups where the team coach(es) have changed for the upcoming year, the Travel VP's or DOC and previous team coach(es) will ensure that candidate evaluations are communicated to the new coach(es) to help with evaluations for that age/gender group.
- Evaluators will be instructed on practices and guidelines to ensure that all candidates are observed and evaluated carefully at all times during all on-field activities. These guidelines will be approved by the Fusion F.C. Board of Directors (BOD) each year prior to the tryout process.
- Spectators not serving as evaluators, including travel club personnel, team managers, and candidates' parents, will be instructed to stay off the playing field and away from the coaches/evaluators during the field sessions. Parents and spectators should refrain from coaching, commenting or encouraging their player during the evaluation process. Fusion F.C. will have painted lines on the grass to designate specific areas for parents and spectators. Additionally, Coaches and evaluators will be instructed to limit the interaction with parents and other spectators during the on-field tryout sessions. Questions or concerns during the tryout sessions should be directed to the Travel Program VP's.

It is the responsibility of club officers, coaches, representatives, and volunteers, to comply with the procedures and policies established by Fusion F.C. regarding tryouts and team formation. Above all, the tryouts and the resulting team assignments should be based on fair and open competition among the candidates. Coaches and evaluators are expected to provide a safe playing environment for all candidates during tryouts. Protecting the health and safety of the children trying out for Fusion F.C. travel teams is of paramount importance.

Team Selection & Candidate Notification

Upon the completion of the tryout sessions, candidates will be identified for selection. Travel VP's and DOC involved in a particular age/gender group will determine the appropriate offer for each candidate. All selections will be monitored and approved by the appropriate Travel Program VP /DOC.

Notification of team assignments and receipt of candidate responses is an integral part of the tryout process. Notification is equally important for candidates who are offered team roster positions with Fusion F.C and those that are not. The process must balance competitive needs and expectations.

Additionally, each travel coach should have an outline of their team's plan for the following season. Their plan need not be final and 100% detailed; it should generally outline the following:

- Anticipated tournament participation & dates (as much detail is available at that time; Fusion F.C. realizes not all tournament dates are announced this far in advance)
- Practice expectations (expects 1, 2, 3 days per week, trainer being used, etc...)
- Non-season expectations (will the team play indoor, do summer clinics, camps, etc...)

- An estimated cost for season (in addition to the Fusion F.C. registration cost – should include tournament fees, trainer fees, practice space rentals, lights & generators, etc...)

The following outlines the process for notifying candidates of the results of the tryout:

- Information obtained during candidate registration will be used to contact the candidate's family
- All selections and team placements will be approved by the club's Travel VP's or DOC prior to offers being sent
- Coaches and club personnel are not permitted to make commitments of any sort to a candidate or candidate's family prior to the completion of club tryouts & team assignments

Within ten (10) days of completion of the last tryout session for each age/gender group, the club will complete the following:

- 1) Appropriate Travel VP, board member or elected club representative will email each selected candidate (using pre-approved verbiage/template indicating that the candidate should 'reply to all' when responding) to offer a spot on a team and notify the candidate of an upcoming team meeting or events as noted above
 - 2) Selected candidates will be given (5) calendar days to accept or decline a spot on roster and ten (10) days to make their registration payment. If Fusion F.C. has not received a response by day 4, the appropriate VP, board member or elected club representative will call the candidate to follow-up on their decision. Candidates who tryout for two age groups will be given additional time to respond to an offer from one age-group team if the other age-group team has not yet made its offers to other selected candidates. However, when reasonable, all efforts will be made to finalize rosters for older groups who may have play-up candidates prior to finalizing rosters for the younger age group.
 - 3) In the event that an offer is not extended to a candidate, a club representative will contact the candidate by email to advise that there is not a spot available on a team for the candidate. Fusion F.C. BOD and VP's will agree to verbiage and discussion protocol prior to each tryout cycle.
 - 4) After the notification process, each Coach will confirm candidate responses and notify the appropriate VP of team status
 - 5) At the conclusion of tryouts, all placements are final upon acceptance of invitations to a travel team. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, exceptions can be made for altering such placements at the discretion of the Travel VP's and/or Club President in conjunction with all coaches that may be affected by the exception. When necessary, additional tryouts may be scheduled to ensure fair assessment for any players impacted by changing rosters.
- * NOTE Secondary Players- Once teams are formed and installed for league play; it is at the discretion of team head coaches for the use of secondary players. Secondary players would be used in instances such as player shortage, injuries, and other team need that would warrant the need for secondary players. Secondary players are not selected based on tryout results.