

# WFFSC Tryout Process And Steps

## Overview)

WFFSC primary goal with tryouts is to gather information about each player to couple with coaches past experiences with the players in order to build teams that can function well together in practices and games. To function well together a team should not have a wide range of talent meaning all the players should be at about the same level of ability. Then at practices and games all the players can perform at about the same level. This allows coaches to tailor practices to the team's abilities and place the teams in the appropriate competitive divisions.

The secondary goal is to provide a fun and rewarding experience to the players. There may be player wishes that will be taken into consideration when forming teams as long as it does not conflict with the primary goal outlined above.

## Practical Considerations)

Each year teams are reformed. Some teams, if well built previously, will tend to stay together. This happens more in the older age divisions, whereas in the younger age divisions there are more changes with teams each year. Teams in U8 are typically brand new. Teams in U9/U10 and U11/U12 may undergo significant changes as kids develop quickly in these age groups. Some advance more rapidly than others. By the U13/U14/etc age divisions the players have mostly developed their skill levels so there are not as much change in these age divisions.

In the U12 and below age divisions there are typically at least 3 different competitive divisions for outdoor play and 2 divisions for indoor play. This allows for teams of varying talent levels to participate and have a hopefully enjoyable experience. However when the teams get to U13/U14 and above the number of competitive divisions decrease so that lower-level teams tend to struggle in games against stronger teams. So teams at these older levels have to have a reasonable level of ability in order to compete. What this boils down to is that at the younger ages the less talented players may be able to participate and have fun as there are divisions where they can play other teams at about the same level. However at the older ages there are just not competitive divisions for players that are not performing at a decent level of ability. So building lower-level teams is not possible to ensure that they have a positive experience. So while WFFSC tries to place as many players as possible there are times when it is not possible.

Those evaluating the players are typically current or former coaches who have a reasonable level of understanding the game of soccer and what constitutes a solid player. It is not a perfect system but given the time constraints WFFSC does the best it can to provide each player with a reasonable evaluation.

## Evaluation Guidelines)

The activities during the tryout should enable the players to demonstrate their talent to the evaluators. Some of the attributes that evaluators judge are speed, skill, size, strength, endurance, aggressiveness, and understanding of the strategy of the game. Most of these will be shown with small-sided scrimmages with the exception of speed for which there will be a timed sprint to gauge the speed of each player. The intent with the small-sided scrimmages is to provide each player with the opportunity to have lots of touches and interact with a group of players. As time permits larger scrimmages may take place especially for the younger ages.

## Timeline)

The tryouts are held in June with the evaluations gathered and assembled in a spreadsheet. The WFFSC Competitive Coordinators are the only ones to have access to this detailed data. The data will be condensed into a ranking that will be exposed to the coaches for discussions. Meetings are held with coaches in each age group to form the teams. The first goal in each age group is to use the data and information to form the Anchor team that will represent WFFSC at the highest-levels of competition. Then subsequent teams will be formed for the middle and possibly lower levels of competition. Teams will be announced typically by mid to late July and teams will begin to practice in August for the upcoming fall outdoor season in Superliga, which is the RI Competitive League. The older teams, where most of the kids are playing in high school, typically do not play in the fall but get formed in fall for indoor play.

Towards the end of October teams will begin the process of transitioning to indoor. For the existing teams it should be a smooth transition. For the older teams it is time to form the teams for indoor and coaches take the lead in doing this. These older teams are mostly the players that play in high school.

The teams typically play two sessions of indoor from Nov-March and then transition again to outdoors in Superliga and this runs April till June.

During each of the seasons there are tournaments that the teams may participate in.

The Competitive year wraps up in June when another round of tryouts take place. The intent is that when players go to tryouts for a team they are committed to playing all year for their team. If a player drops out at some point and then wants to rejoin later it is only possible if the coach has not replaced the player on the roster.

## Fields Used)

WF08 – U9/U10 field

WF09 – U11/U12 field

WF10 – U13/U14 field (also has 4 U8 fields overlaid)

#### U7/U8 Age Divisions)

Most of the kids in this age group are new to competitive. At this age there is not typically a huge difference in the kid's abilities as they are still developing. So the tryout will consist of a timed sprint and some small-sided 4v4 games to quickly perform an evaluation of the players. Also the coaches in this age group tend to also be new to the Competitive Program unless they have coached an older sibling. The format of play for this age group is 4v4 with no keepers.

Required Field) WF10

#### U9/U10 Age Divisions)

This age division is usually the largest group of players and form the most teams. The tryouts will be done on different evenings for boys and girls. For each there will be a timed sprint followed afterwards with scrimmages. Three fields will be setup. One half of WF10 will be setup with two fields with small goals with 4v4 on each field. There will be 7v7 play on WF08. Players will be moved between fields so evaluators have a chance to see all the players. Players who wish to be evaluated for keepers will play that position on WF08. The format of play for this age group is 7v7 with 6 field players and a keeper.

Required Fields) WF08 and half of WF10

#### U11/U12 Age Divisions)

This age division is usually has the next largest group of players. The tryouts will be done on different evenings for boys and girls. For each there will be a timed sprint followed afterwards with scrimmages. Three fields will be setup. One half of WF10 will be setup with two fields with small goals with 4v4 on each field. There will be 9v9 play on WF09. Players will be moved between fields so evaluators have a chance to see all the players. Players who wish to be evaluated for keepers will play that position on WF09. The format of play for this age group for outdoors is 9v9 with 8 field players and a keeper. So with larger rosters there will be fewer teams. For indoors the play is typically 7v7.

Required Fields) WF09 and half of WF10

#### U13/U14 Age Divisions)

This age division is usually has fewer players than the others. The tryouts will be done on one evening for both boys and girls with separate play for each. For each there will be a timed sprint followed afterwards with scrimmages. All fields will be setup. Each half of WF10 will be setup with two fields with small goals with 4v4 on each half. There will be 7v7 play on WF08 and 9v9 play on WF09. Players will be moved between fields so evaluators have a chance to see all the players. Players who wish to be evaluated for keepers will play that position on WF08 or WF09. The format of play for this age group for outdoors is 11v11 with 10 field players and a keeper. So with larger rosters there will be fewer teams. For indoors it is 10v10.

Required Fields) WF08, WF09, and WF10