

MASC RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION

Levels of Competition (adopted from Section 1 of the ISA Membership Rules)

The Marshalltown Area Soccer Club under the jurisdiction of the Iowa Soccer Association, Inc. sanctions play among teams at three (3) distinct levels:

1. Recreational
2. Select (Classic and Premier)
3. Olympic Development

Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to all players, coaches and teams in all levels.

A. Recreational

Recreational soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested citizens within the area served by the Member Organization to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for the athletic ability or soccer skills up to the limits of the Member Organization to accommodate them.

B. Select

Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and an expressed desire to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program. Team formation and player assignment guidelines that govern recreational teams do not apply to select teams. Member Organizations may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with the Association Constitution, Bylaws and Rules. Select programs are prohibited at the U10 age division and lower.

C. Olympic Development

State Olympic Development teams may be formed to represent the Association in any competition approved by the Association, the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the Federation, or the United States Olympic Committee.

Formation of Olympic Development teams shall be vested with the Association Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may delegate this authority at its discretion.

Types of Teams (adopted from Section 2 of the ISA Membership Rules)

A. Recreational Team - A team composed of players rostered specifically as detailed in these rules.

B. Classic Team - Any team not meeting the requirements to be considered a recreational team and by self selection do not want to or do not think they can compete at the State's premier level. (Also referred to as a Select team)

C. Youth Premier Team - Any team not meeting the requirements to be considered a recreational team. (Also referred to as a Select team)

D. Adult Premier Team - An adult team created to play at a higher level of amateur, adult competition which is eligible for National Cups competitions and interstate travel.

E. Tournament Teams - A team composed of players from more than one registered team. This team can only enter tournaments and competitions that allow Tournament Teams. Tournament Teams at the U10 age division and below are prohibited.

F. Olympic Development Team - A team selected through statewide tryouts to participate in activities as designated by the USSF Olympic Development Program.

Specific guidelines are contained herein for youth recreational team formation and player assignment.

- The team formation process will be random in nature. Special requests by players, coaches or parents for specific team assignments are strongly discouraged and will only be addressed if the situation permits.
- Criteria for player assignment will include NO consideration for the ability of the player or the relative strength of the team.
- Teams will remain in-tact during a soccer seasonal year (August 1-July 31) unless there is insufficient registration to support carrying a team for an entire seasonal year and/or the coaching staff supporting a given team disbands. In either of these cases, registered players will be re-assigned to viable teams based on available space.
- Teams will be re-shuffled or re-established at the beginning of each soccer seasonal year (August 1-July 31)*Teams competing in external leagues (GDMJSL, IPSL, Urbandale Coalition, etc.) may remain in tact from seasonal year to seasonal year as long as:
 - There is sufficient registration to support the team
 - The coaching staff on the team remains consistent from year to year
 - Players register and provide adequate payment prior to registration deadlines and in accordance with club and state association guidelines.
 - Roster vacancies will be backfilled based on the postal date stamp of a new player registration.
 - Players who do not maintain their registration status of a registered player throughout the seasonal year (August 1-July 31) run the risk of losing their spot on a roster to another player.
 - EXAMPLE: John Smith registers for the fall season but does not register in the spring. John is replaced by Bill Thompson as the roster had room for an added player and as there was interest of a player to participate in a more competitive environment. If both Bill and John register in the following fall season and there is only room for one of the two individuals, the determination will be made based on the postal date stamp of the registration form.
- All forms of recruiting, invitations and tryouts are specifically prohibited at the recreational level. Coaches will have no direct input to or involvement with the assignment of players to their teams.
- Minimum half game playing time is mandatory for all teams participating in recreational play.
- Teams which fail to meet one or more of the rules for recreational team formation and player assignment specified herein may be considered **select** in any Club or Association sponsored or sanctioned competitions including tournaments. The team status/eligibility will be determined by the State Office Staff.
- The modified rules for small-sided games will be followed. U06 players may be bulk registered as an age group division. U06 will play 3v3. U08 will play 4v4. U10 will play 6v6. U11 and U12 will play 8v8.

Clubs may choose to adopt the “side-by-side” approach to training and games for the U06 and U08 age divisions. In these cases the roster size for U06 will be 10 and U08 will be 12. Games will be played jointly between two (2) teams with two (2) games being played simultaneously.

Each team MUST have at a minimum either co-coaches or one head coach and an assistant coach who are always in attendance at training and games.

U08 teams choosing this format WILL NOT be eligible for tournament play.

Divisional Team Formation Guidelines and Practices

A. For U06, U08, U10 age divisions:

1. There are no select players or teams in these age divisions.
2. If a Club permits teams to remain together from season to season, the player has the right to stay on the team and the Club must insure that all those rostered players have been contacted and given the opportunity to remain on that team.
3. New recreational teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following methods:
 - a. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by age groups on a territorial basis (neighborhood, schools, precincts, zip codes, etc.)
 - b. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from one (1) player pool on a territorial basis as stated in (a) above.
4. Players' names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team.
5. If a person becomes the a coach of a new team formed by the Club in the current season, the coach may request that their child be rostered to the new team he/she is coaching.
6. Any other method of player assignment or team formation is considered non-recreational and the players on such teams will be registered as select team members with the State Association.

B. For U11 - U19 age groups:

1. All rules of team formation stated in (A) above apply in these age divisions except: If no players are available in the player pool, Clubs may actively seek players of the proper age division to be added to the team as long as no methods are used to assess the ability of the player and:
 - a. The player is not presently registered on an existing team.
 - b. The player did not play for a returning recreational team during the previous season.

C. Adults

1. Adult recreational teams are formed by rules adopted by local leagues.

D. A team not formed of players assigned as defined above is considered a select team.

MASC SELECT TEAM FORMATION AND PRACTICES (Adopted from Sections 210, 211, 212, 213, 215 and 216 of the Iowa Premier Soccer League Rules and Policies)

Select teams are formed in conjunction with the soccer seasonal year and player assignments to a select team are valid for a seasonal year (August 1-July 31) unless a player withdraws from the team. Select teams can only be formed through the try out process.

Prior to team formation, all interested players must be properly registered with the club. Specifically:

- Player registration must be received in advanced of published deadlines
- Payment or payment arrangements must be received by the published deadlines. Players participating on select teams will be requested to pay for one full year as select teams are formed for the duration of one soccer year (August thru July).
- Existing recreational teams which choose to move to IPSL mid-year, may conduct a restricted try out as defined in this policy with MASC board approval. The determination as to whether to conduct a tryout or not will be ultimately based on interest from the participants. At a minimum, there must be enough interest to fill a roster plus one additional player per the Iowa Soccer Association's roster guidelines. Interest is defined as completed and received registrations and payment for players by the established deadlines.

Recruiting Policy: Recruitment, or recruiting, is defined as any action initiated by a "Team Official" (coach, assistant coach, team manager/coordinator, trainer, or any person representing a team or club) who seeks to enlist the services of a player.

Section 1: Illegal recruitment is defined as the employment of any prohibited practice by a "Team Official". These prohibited practices include:

- a) Offering any inducement of material or monetary value to a player or player's family.
- b) Contact initiated by a club or club member to any player registered with another club at any time throughout the seasonal year. (August 1- July 31)
- c) Interference with a competitive player once the player has signed a registration forms and paid the fee to register with a team/club for the next seasonal year.

Section 2: Illegal recruitment does not include the following permitted practices:

- a) Club Scholarship for families meeting requirements for such a scholarship.
- b) Contact with a player for limited purpose of participating as a guest player with prior approval by the player's coach.

Club Promotion

Section 1: Clubs may generally promote their selective/competitive programs and try-out procedures/events, in their respective communities, publicly in the following places:

a) Club Websites, ISA, Public Media, Schools, libraries Sports Stores, Public Bulletin Boards and Club Newsletters which are mailed to a Club's Membership.

Section 2: When a player initiates contact, the club is at liberty to provide generic promotional material pertaining to program and tryout information.

Tryouts

Unrestricted (Open Tryouts)

For specifics regarding the try out process, please refer to the Marshalltown Area Soccer Club's Try Out Policy and Procedure. The determination as to whether or not to conduct a tryout will be ultimately based on interest from the participants and approval from the MASC Board of Directors. At a minimum, there must be enough interest to fill a roster plus one additional player per the Iowa Soccer Association's roster guidelines. Interest is defined as completed and received registrations and payment for players by the established deadlines.

If this criterion does not exist, the recreational team formation policy will take effect and drive the team formation for a specific team. This determination will be communicated to the impacted players and coach's by the club registrar or president.

a) Open tryouts may take place beginning the first Tuesday after Memorial Weekend.

b) Tryouts may only be used to form teams in the next seasonal year.

c) Players currently registered or unregistered to IPSL clubs may participate in unrestricted tryouts.

d) Any currently registered player who is selected for a new team that will play in the next seasonal year may not train or participate with their new team until all activities of their current team have come to an end for the seasonal year or the player receives a written release by the currently registered club's Coaching Director or designated club official.

Restricted

- Restricted tryouts are only for a club's membership or currently non-IPSL registered players and will be utilized to back fill vacant positions on an existing team that has already completed the Unrestricted/Open Tryout process
- Released players may participate in restricted tryouts. The player must present a completed IPSL release form.
- Restricted tryouts are permitted any time during the seasonal year as the purpose is to fill vacancies

- Any tryout solicitation, advertisement or invitation must clearly state that only non-IPSL registered players, released IPSL players and club members may participate.

Invites to Join a team that has completed an Unrestricted/Open Try Out

Invites from Unrestricted tryouts for U11 through U13 age divisions may be issued on or after 8:00 AM of June 20th of each seasonal year.

Invites from Unrestricted tryouts for U14 and above age divisions may be issued on or after 8:00 AM of June 28th of each seasonal year.

Invites may be one phone call, official letter, web publication, and/or email delivered by a club official, not a coach.

A player has 24 hours to respond.