

St. Andrew Apostle CYO SOCCER

Last Revised 4/4/06

Player Evaluation and Team Selection Procedures

A. Introduction

The St. Andrew Apostle CYO Soccer player evaluation and team selection procedures apply to the St. Andrew CYO boys' and girls' varsity and junior varsity soccer programs. The St. Andrew Athletic Council's goal in adopting these procedures is to ensure that the process of soccer player evaluations and team placement is conducted in a fair, consistent and thorough manner and is consistent with Archdiocese of Washington CYO guidelines.

B. Pre-Evaluation Activities

In the time between the soccer sign-up night and the next Athletic Council meeting, a proposal for the number of teams in each age group will be presented by the Soccer Coordinator(s) to the Athletic Council by assessing the number of players who signed up. To ensure adequate playing time for each player, the Athletic Council will strive to create enough teams to have approximately 16-18 players per team.

Once registration is closed, which coincides with the closing of the scheduled sign-up night, new players will be placed on a waiting list. Players who are wait-listed will be kept in order of their contact with the Soccer Coordinator(s). If an opening occurs, wait listed players will be notified in their order of contact with the Soccer Coordinator(s).

If within a particular age group, the per team ratio of players is excessive, then there will be an effort made by the Soccer Coordinator(s) to contact other parishes (i.e. St. Bernadette's or St. Jude's) that may be in the same situation to pursue the possibility of combining players from multiple parishes to create additional team(s). For instance, if Parish X had 24 players signed-up and Parish Y had 26 players signed-up, each parish would select an "A" team of approximately 16-18 players and the remaining players from both parishes would form a "B" team of approximately 14-18 players.

In this same period, if possible, the Athletic Council will select coaches for the teams. Coach selections will be conducted per the "St. Andrew Apostle Team Coach Selection Guidelines / Procedure".

The Soccer Coordinator(s) will schedule and conduct an evaluation meeting prior to the player evaluations. This evaluation meeting is open to the Soccer Coordinator(s), coaches, coaching candidates and Athletic Council members only. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Select the evaluation team, which consists of the Soccer Coordinator(s), the A team and B team head coaches (or coaching candidates if coaches have not yet been determined) and 1-3 knowledgeable coaches from other teams.
- Prepare for the evaluations and team selections
- Develop the evaluation plan
- Review the rules and expectations for the season
- Handle any other administrative tasks

C. Player Evaluations

Although the exact timing will vary from year to year, evaluations will generally be scheduled late in the school year (May-June) prior to the Fall soccer season.

The evaluation sessions for the four groups (varsity boys, varsity girls, junior varsity boys and junior varsity girls), if necessary, will each be conducted for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Multiple evaluation sessions may be held for a particular age group. Circumstances necessitating multiple evaluations might include an unusually large number of players being unable to attend an evaluation and the absence of a coach.

All registered players who signed up on the designated sign-up night must attend at least one and preferably all evaluation sessions. Excusable absences from the evaluation session(s) must be approved – in advance of the scheduled evaluation – by the Soccer Coordinator(s).

1. Evaluation Process

The Soccer Coordinator(s) will oversee each evaluation. He and/or she will help organize and run the drills and scrimmages with the evaluation team, and ensure that each player participates equally. The goal of the evaluations is to enable the evaluation team to evaluate players. To facilitate this process, the coaches and/or coaching candidates will play a role in running the evaluations, and will be given the full opportunity to observe the players. **It is the Athletic Council's expectation that the evaluation team will observe each player during the evaluation, assess his or her skill level and make team selections based on that skill level.**

At the beginning of the evaluation, the Soccer Coordinator(s) will give a brief introduction to parents, players and attendees to explain the procedures, introduce the coaches and answer any questions.

To enable the coaches to identify each player, the Soccer Coordinator(s) will assign each player a unique number that will be attached to each player's shirt or shorts. Each coach will have a list of players indicating each player's assigned number.

i. Drills

The evaluation(s) may consist of a number of different drills and some scrimmaging. The actual agenda must be established among the Soccer Coordinator(s) and the evaluation team prior to the evaluation as part of the pre-evaluation meeting. Although the specific agenda may vary, a sample evaluation might be conducted as follows:

1. Shooting at the goal
2. Dribbling under pressure
3. Pass and go
4. Throw in plays and corner kicks
5. Four on four scrimmages
6. Closing remarks by Coordinator and coach(es)

During these drills and scrimmages, certain skills and attributes will be assessed in order to evaluate the players. A sampling of the skills and attributes that will be assessed may include:

1. Ball Control (trapping, settling, vision of field)
2. Movement without Ball (support position, knowledge of game)
3. Accuracy of passing (at the intended teammate has to stretch, run extra, etc...)
4. Accuracy of shooting (at the Goal Keeper or in corners)
5. Fitness Level
6. Strength of kicks (distance and velocity of kicks)
7. Heading skills
8. Tackling skills coupled with 50/50 ball attitude (controlled aggressiveness)
9. Goalkeeping skills (Catching ability, movement, angle play, direction of defense, agility, toughness, judgment)

The Soccer Coordinator(s) will remain available to help address any issues that may arise during the evaluation. The Soccer Coordinator(s) will have final authority over all aspects of the evaluation.

The Soccer Coordinator(s) will conclude the evaluation by briefly explaining the Player – Team Placement Process, identifying the next steps for the group, and answering any questions.

D. Player – Team Placement Process

The Soccer Coordinator(s) must be present during the player – team placement process. The final team selections will be made by the evaluation team as soon as possible following the evaluations and in accordance with the “St. Andrew Apostle Team Coach Selection Guidelines / Procedure”.

After considering all evaluations by the evaluation team members, the head coach shall make final decisions regarding player/team placement with the advice and consent of the Soccer Coordinator(s). Assessments of evaluation team members are reviewed as part of the team selection process to ensure that head coach selections are fair and reasonable. Any disagreement that cannot be resolved between the head coach and the Soccer Coordinator(s) regarding final player/team placement decisions shall be resolved by majority vote of the Athletic Council.

The evaluation team will select the players of the most competitive team (at the varsity level, Mid-Atlantic A; at the junior-varsity level, Tournament A) first. If there is a second Mid-Atlantic team at the varsity level, or a second tournament team at the junior-varsity level, the evaluation team will select these players next.

Once all the players in a particular program (e.g. Varsity Boys) are selected, the Soccer Coordinator(s) will compile the teams on rosters, post the player / team assignments and notify players and coaches that the team assignments have been posted. **Coaches must refrain from revealing player selections until 24 hours after the player / team assignments have been posted and, during the selection process, shall keep confidential any and all information concerning the selection process including any conversations among themselves about their selections.**