

COOK INLET SOCCER CLUB TRYOUT GUIDELINES

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 27, 2009

CLUB TRYOUT PHILOSOPHY

CISC will hold two annual tryouts, typically in the fall and spring. Tryouts may be single day or multi-day at the club's discretion. Full participation by players in tryout sessions is encouraged. Player selection and movement onto and off rosters can take place either in the spring or the fall as part of the tryout process. Generally, players that tryout in the fall and win a place on a team have a better chance of developing their skills and remaining with the team through the summer. A team or player that wins State Cup is not exempt from tryouts.

Typical roster sizes are 14 for U-11 and U12 and 18 for U13 through U19. Coaches may choose to take less than the maximum number of players on any given team, with open positions possibly being filled throughout the year from outside the club, from a lower tier team (see Player Movement section), or during spring tryouts. Coaches may also choose to take more than 18 players to enhance the development process and provide opportunities to train. Once a player is selected to a team at the fall or spring tryouts, they are committed to the team for remainder of the session (e.g. if you join a team in the fall, then you are committed through the following April). If a player is unable to fulfill the commitment to the team, the coach may fill the open position.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Each player will be evaluated at tryouts on their technical ability with a ball, tactical understanding in a small sided game, their physical attributes and fitness, as well as psychological attributes and game awareness. The evaluation process will be conducted by several club coaches, typically the Head Coach, Age Group Director, and the DOC or her/his designee. If a player is not able to make the tryouts as scheduled they must notify the Head Coach to make other arrangements for evaluation.

PLAYER PLACEMENT

Players will be placed on a team based on their observed ability, skill level, and commitment. Typically CISC forms two or three teams at the U-10, U11, and U12 age groups and one to two teams at the U13 and U-14 age groups (middle school age) and one team at U-15 (high school age) and higher age groups. Teams are designated as Blue (Tier 1), White (Tier 2), or Red (Tier 3). The club may form any number of teams at any given age if the DOC determines there is sufficient coaching staff available to support it, and if the team has the talent to be competitive.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Age groups with multiple teams or a pool of players will have opportunities for player movement during tryouts. Player movement typically occurs during tryouts. If a coach wants to recommend a player's movement at times other than during tryouts, both coaches, the Age Group Director (AGD), and the DOC must agree to the movement before the offer is extended to the player(s). Any new player transferring in to an age group or age pool will be evaluated and placed by the coaching staff, including the head coaches, AGD and DOC.

PLAYING UP

A player must be in the top half of the Blue team they are trying out for to qualify to "Play Up"; a player will not be allowed to "Play Up" on a White or Red Level team at U12 or higher. (*) The DOC has the final decision in granting or denying a player playing up. No more than two players will be allowed to play up on any competitive team unless approved by the DOC. (*) Playing up on a White or Red Level team will only be allowed at the U11 year for the development of our more exceptional youth players.

GRANDFATHER RIGHTS

Players in the 1997 and older age group will have grandfather rights for number of players playing up, and the requirement that they be in the top-half of the roster they are playing up on.

SELECTION PROCESS PRE-COMP – U11

Final placement of pre-competitive players to a U11 roster will be conducted by the DOC and Head Coach. Players will be evaluated by the process outlined herein. Note that pre-competitive players are constantly evaluated throughout their pre-comp and academy cycle.

SELECTION PROCESS U12 – U18

Final placement of any player to a competitive team roster will be conducted by the Head Coach for that particular team or age group in consultation with the other coaching evaluators from their session. A coaching evaluator may be any coach not directly associated to an age group or a player in the age group. Players will have 24 hours to accept a position once offered.

TEAM FORMATIONS

Typically only Blue, White, and Red Level Teams exist at U11 and U12; and only Blue and White teams exist at U13 and U-14; and only Blue team at U-15 and above. There may be some special circumstances to this rule (i.e. more or less teams in an age group). If the DOC determines that the talent level of a particular age group supports fewer or more teams than indicated above and if coaching resources are available within the club, adjustments may be made to the team numbers indicated. Blue teams are formed first, then White, and then Red. CISC's tiered team structure recognizes that children develop at different rates and that families may have different levels of commitment to soccer. The tiered structure enables effective player development at different rates, and provides the forum and the proper incentives to the young athlete to improve and be committed to their own development. Player movement among the tiered teams is healthy and should be expected.

TEAM SUMMARY

Blue Team (Tier 1)

The **Blue** team represents the highest competitive level within CISC. "Blue" players are typically very committed to soccer and participate in a program that encourages nearly year-round training. Coaching is provided by paid soccer professionals. Tryouts are competitive and Blue teams tend to travel widely to both games and tournaments to find appropriate competition. Parents can expect to incur significant additional expense for training, equipment, uniforms, tournament fees, etc. Travel to games and tournaments are additional.

- Year round training activities
- 4.5 hours a week training commitment
- Two trips outside the state in addition to attendance at State Cup and Regional Cup.
- Travel to in-state events
- Supplemental conditioning in the off-season
- Commitment to invest in their development; individual training
- "Play up" against older teams for competition
- Note: Blue team players that wish to take sessions "off" may coordinate their participation level with the coach, but they will be fully assessed player fees for all sessions.

White Team (Tier 2)

The **White** team represents the second highest competitive level within CISC. Play and training for this age group is for players with above average ability who need more technical development. Emphasis is on developing soccer skills and enjoyment of the game, which will be the foundation for future soccer success. Coaching and training is provided by experienced soccer professionals.

- Year round training activities with some time off or sessions off
- 3 hours a week training commitment
- One trip outside the state
- May attend State Cup with DOC approval
- Supplemental conditioning in the off season
- Attend travel tournaments in-state and out-of-state

Red Team (Tier 3)

The **Red** team represents the third highest competitive level within CISC. Play and training for this age group is for players with average ability who aspire to play competitively and will need long term development of their skill. Emphasis is on developing soccer skills and enjoyment of the game, which will be the foundation for future soccer success. Coaching and training is provided by coaches and experienced soccer professionals.

- Year round training activities with some time off or sessions off
- 3 hours a week minimum commitment
- Does not attend State Cup
- Supplemental conditioning
- May attend travel tournaments in-state and out-of-state with DOC approval

COMMUNICATION

Tryout advertising will be conducted in the local newspaper and through other advertising avenues and channels, including the club website. Tryout results will be posted on the club website within 72 hours from the end of the last tryout session. At tryouts each player will be given a unique bib number for their age group. This unique number (coupled with their initials) will be used to indicate the selection and placement to a competitive roster. Player names will not be posted on the club website.

CLUB & COACH CONFIDENTIALITY

The evaluation results are sensitive and will be kept confidential by the club. Each coach has their own opinions and selection philosophy. However, the results of the tryout evaluations are to be respected and supported as decisions made by coaches who desire successful development of all players. Coaches are expected to maintain confidentiality and demonstrate professionalism in their discussions with parents or others about tryout results. If requested, coaches may discuss player evaluations only with the player and the parent, and all feedback should be constructive and offered in the spirit of improvement. Coaches will not enter into a discussion with a parent regarding someone else's child.