



NorCal Premier Soccer

Tryout Window Policy (2021/22 Season)

Tryouts During COVID-19 Public Health Guidance

NorCal Premier Soccer expects that all member clubs fully respect & comply with local health guidelines, and make responsible decisions in the best interests of the health & safety of their membership & the wider soccer community when deciding when & how to return to the field. All clubs are also reminded that US Club Soccer sanctioning & insurance is dependent on this (please see US Club Soccer language below).

"For activities to be sanctioned with the normal US Club Soccer-provided insurance coverage in effect, members returning to play must be in compliance with the requirements established by the applicable local and state public health authorities. If members are not in compliance, the activities are unsanctioned and US Club Soccer-provided insurance coverage is not in effect."

NorCal Tryout Window Overview

The NorCal Tryout Window was created with the intention of standardizing the period when clubs form their teams for the upcoming season - to increase roster stability, allow coaches to focus on player development, and ensure the integrity of NorCal competitions. A tryout shall be defined as any club session for the purpose of player selection. Any tryouts held outside of these windows, will be treated as a recruitment violation by the NorCal PAD committee. There are two periods of the season during which clubs may hold open tryouts - **NorCal Tryout Window & NorCal Winter Recreational Tryout Window**. Changes from the 2020/21 season Tryout Window are highlighted in red.

NorCal Tryout Window

Open period when any player, regardless of club affiliation, may tryout with any NorCal club, without requiring permission from their current club DOC. The NorCal Tryout Window applies to all teams within all NorCal member clubs. Each RAC may further define their own window by adapting the dates within the NorCal Tryout Window (*deadline for RACs to further define 2021 Tryout Window was March 19, 2021*).

2021/22 Season Age Group	Birth Year	NorCal Tryout Window
U8 - U14	2014 - 2008	May 10 - June 27
U15 - U19	2007 - 2003	May 10 - June 27

RACs may set tryout periods outside of the NorCal Tryout Window for players currently registered with clubs in their region ONLY, if approved by the NorCal Board of Directors.

- If approved by the NorCal BOD, it is the responsibility of the club to ensure that players registered with clubs in other Regions DO NOT participate in these tryouts. It is also the club's responsibility to ensure that all communications for these tryouts include clear messaging that they are for players registered with clubs in their Region ONLY, and players registered in other Regions are NOT permitted to attend.*

NorCal Winter Recreational Tryout Window

Period for clubs to hold open tryouts for the sole purpose of adding players not currently registered with a competitive team in a NorCal club (NorCal defines a 'Competitive Player' as any player who plays on a team participating in the following leagues; NorCal Premier Soccer Leagues (including NPL), CRL, CCSL, ECNL, Development Academy). This is to ensure that clubs can continue to provide a pathway from recreational soccer to competitive club soccer, at the end of a player's typical recreational season.

- Dates: November 1, 2021 - February 6, 2022**
- Competitive players currently registered in other NorCal clubs are **NOT** permitted to attend a tryout at this time. The only time that this is permitted is in the NorCal Tryout Window. Any marketing of a club's Winter Recreational Tryout should include language to reflect this.
- Any recruiting of other NorCal clubs' competitive players at this time (or any other time outside of the NorCal Tryout Window) will be treated as a recruiting violation by the NorCal PAD.



NorCal Premier Soccer

Tryout Window Policy (2021/22 Season)

Spring Transfer Freeze (*April 4 - June 6, 2022*)

Any player transferring between NorCal clubs after April 1 will be ineligible to play in NorCal competitions for their new club until June 1, 2020 (exemptions due to special circumstances may be given by the NorCal).

NorCal Code of Ethics “Recruiting” Definition

Outside the NorCal Tryout Window: "Recruiting" refers to making any contact or communication with a player who is registered with another NorCal club, in which the player is asked or allowed to join a club, attend a tryout or club training session, or play or guest play for another club, without first receiving permission from the Director of Coaching of the player's club.

Inside the NorCal Tryout Window: "Recruiting" refers to making an initial or first contact or communication with a player who is registered with another NorCal club, in which the player is asked or allowed to join a club, attend a tryout or club training session, or guest play for another club, without first receiving permission from the Director of Coaching of the player's club.

Note: Players do not need DOC permission to contact other clubs during the Tryout Window, and Adult members are permitted to respond to such contacts during the Tryout Window, without requesting permission from the player's DOC.

All other NorCal Premier rules concerning recruiting, movement of players, and tryouts still apply. Clubs are expected to familiarize themselves with rules in the [NorCal Code of Ethics](#) & [NorCal Handbook](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

- Is the Winter Recreational Tryout Window an opportunity for competitive players who are currently registered with a NorCal club to attend open tryouts outside of the tryout window at another NorCal club?
 - *No - the opportunity for this will be in the NorCal Tryout Window*
- Who is permitted to attend a tryout in the Winter Recreational Tryout Window?
 - *Any player who is not registered as a competitive* player in a NorCal Member Club*
- Can a club add non-competitive players to their rosters, or invite them to attend training sessions at other times during the season?
 - *Yes - the Winter Recreational Tryout Window is the time for clubs to hold advertised, open tryouts for players not registered on competitive teams with a NorCal club, but non-competitive or unaffiliated players are free to tryout at all other times in the season*
- What's the repercussion for clubs that hold tryouts outside of the tryout window?
 - *If competitive players currently registered with another NorCal club tryout with a club outside of the NorCal Tryout Window, this will be referred to PAD as a recruiting violation. Potential repercussions include, but are not limited to; DOC/coach suspensions, player or team suspensions (sit out period), club fine, club loss of club voting rights, review and potential revocation of NorCal membership.*
- What can clubs do to ensure that they are operating within the rules?
 - *Clubs should take proactive steps to ensure that any tryouts in the Winter Recreational Tryout Window are for players not registered with competitive teams of another NorCal club only, including marketing & official communications (website, flyers, press releases, email blasts, etc.)*
- Can a club host an ID Clinic, Open Team Training Sessions, Evaluation Day, Open House, etc., outside of the NorCal Tryout Window instead of an “official” Tryout?
 - *RACs will make the decisions on whether clubs in their region are permitted to hold pre-tryout clinics or not, and the rules surrounding them*
- Are all teams within a NorCal Member Club required to adhere to the NorCal Tryout Window?
 - *Yes, as a NorCal Member Club, each club is expected to follow NorCal policies with all teams in a club regardless of the league they compete in.*



NorCal Premier Soccer

Tryout Window Policy (2021/22 Season)

Approved RAC Tryout Dates (Summer 2021)

Region	U8-U14	U15-U19
R1	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27
R2	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27
R3	May 10 - June 6	May 10 - June 6
R4	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27
R5	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27
R6	May 24 - June 6	June 7 - June 27
R7	May 24 - June 6	June 14 - 27
R8	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27
R9	May 10 - June 27	May 10 - June 27