

Tryout Guidelines & Information

Overview

The following information and guidelines were created to provide an overview of the GCKA Travel Soccer tryout process and to set expectations for both parents and players regarding the implications of participating on a GCKA Travel Soccer team. The guidelines outlined below for team formation, team management, and other matters are required for an effective Select program operation.

Getting Started

Each year in the Spring, a tryout schedule is published by age group (i.e., U8, U10, U12) and posted on the GCKA website. Prospective players should register online and attend the appropriate tryouts based on age and/or skill level. Registration and required documents must be filled out for all players wishing to try out, including those who are unable to try out due to injury, illness, or family absences which are pre-approved in advance by a club Director.

What to Expect at Tryouts

Each player will be assigned a tryout number when they first arrive for tryouts. Players will keep this number throughout the entire tryout process. Upon arrival at the field, the player will be issued the designated tryout number that they should wear for the duration of the tryout session.

Players will be divided into small groups and asked to participate in small-sided games and other exercises designed to demonstrate skill and knowledge of the game. Players trying out for a goalkeeping position should make this intention known at registration.

Things to Bring to Tryouts

- Appropriate gear including shin guards and soccer cleats
- Water
- Properly inflated soccer ball of the correct size for their age group
 - Size 4 for U8-12. Size 5 for U13+.

How Players are Evaluated and Chosen

Each year at tryouts, players are evaluated for skill and knowledge of the game. Evaluators are instructed not to evaluate their own children if their kids are also trying out. All players, including returning players, are required to try out each year to be eligible for the team. **Roster spots are not guaranteed from year to year.**

At the close of tryouts, evaluations will be collected and reviewed by the club directors and coaches, and final results determined. No parent or player will be provided information about a player's specific evaluation score or ranking, including their relative rank when compared to other players. There is a strict confidentiality around player rating and performance.

Number of Teams to be Formed

The number of teams formed at each age/gender group will vary depending on the number and level of players trying out. The strongest full roster will be selected for the first team in each group, and if numbers of remaining players allow a second team will be formed, and the process repeated until there are not enough qualified players to form another team. There are several different divisions the Club competes in, and each team will be matched according to their level of play. A coach may choose to select extra players and format the team differently, but that is solely up to the coach's discretion and must be approved by a club director.

It is important to note that coaches do not “own” teams, and no coach has the authority to communicate any information relative to team status. In other words, no coach has the authority to disband a team or communicate that a team will be disbanded, regardless of their coaching status. Coaches will be assigned to age groups prior to tryouts and will be assigned to specific teams after tryouts are completed and teams selected. As team formation is a fluid process, no player or parent will be given any information on the team roster until the team formation is complete.

Tryout Results Notifications

Emails will be sent usually within 1 week of your tryout day. Players who have received an offer for a roster spot will have 48 hours to consider the offer, either accept or decline, and make the required payment. Payment plans are available. Not responding within the time frame specified in the offer letter may result in that spot being offered to another player. If additional time is needed, the parent should contact the coach or a club director with the reason an extension is needed and when you expect to have an answer. The coach and/or director may allow additional time if circumstances allow and will communicate that to the parents.

Offer Protocol Violations

All coaches and parents are prohibited from:

1. Recruiting any player currently rostered or offered a spot on another GCKA travel soccer team;
2. Colluding with players and/or parents in an attempt to circumvent the tryout and team selection process.

Any parent/player who feels a coach or other team representative may be attempting to improperly recruit or coerce them to a specific team should communicate directly with a club director.

Any coach violating the offer protocol may be removed from all coaching responsibilities with the Club.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/players must also agree to honor certain responsibilities to the club, coaches, and team:

1. To remain true to your acceptance of the roster spot and not engage in a “bait and switch” game between different clubs and teams.
2. Unless alternative arrangements are made prior to acceptance of an offer, any offer is for the entire soccer year. Refunds will not be given unless there is an extenuating circumstance (season ending injury, family moving out of town, etc.) Players will not be released from the club if they have an open balance on their fees.
3. To refrain from derisive and/or derogatory comments about teams, teammates, or coaching staff for any team.
4. To not be disruptive during team instruction, sessions, games, and other team/club activities.
5. To treat teammates and coaching staff with respect.
6. To be supportive and encouraging of teammates.
7. To learn the rules of the game and treat all league officials with courtesy.
8. To refrain from any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
9. To uphold the spirit and laws of the game.

10. To not bring loss of honor, reputation, or respect to the Club through actions or words.
11. To not blame, criticize or cause intentional harm to teammates.
12. To inform their coach and parents of any injury, and to follow treatment guidelines as prescribed by medical professionals.

Acceptance of a roster spot constitutes acceptance of these Rights and Responsibilities. Failure to uphold these responsibilities may result in suspension from the club or team, or affect club eligibility in subsequent seasons.