

Fredericton District Soccer Association

Competitive Programs Policy 03 – Tryouts and Selection

- 1.1 General. The FDSA is committed to holding fair and transparent tryouts for all competitive teams. The credibility of our competitive programs depends on selecting the best players available and that the process was fair, transparent, and equitable. Consequently, the following guidelines for the conduct of tryouts and the selection of players are to be used by all competitive teams.
 - 1.1.1 Conduct of tryouts. The FDSA will determine the time, date, location and number of tryout sessions required for each competitive team. Due to the timing of competitive tryouts and the conflict with other spring sports, school programs and weather concerns affecting fields, some flexibility is permitted to allow for coaches, players and parents to adjust their schedules accordingly, and miss a limited number of sessions before cuts are made.
 - 1.1.2 Tryout format. The FDSA will make every reasonable effort to adhere to the below format; however, adjustments may be required as a result of unforeseen factors. Players should endeavor to attend all tryouts. Exceptions can be discussed with the coach(es) for extenuating circumstances (for example, injury, Ramadan, being away for school, etc.). No player can be told they have already been selected and excused from further tryouts.
 - 1.1.2.1 Premiership: condensed, 10-day tryout period consisting of six sessions in early-mid April.
 - 1.1.2.2 Division 1: condensed, 10-day tryout period consisting of six sessions in late April (only after Premiership tryouts have ended).
 - 1.1.2.3 U13 Foundations: two-week tryout period consisting of eight sessions beginning mid-April.
 - 1.1.3 Unofficial tryouts. Competitive team coaches shall not hold any pre tryouts or training sessions prior to the beginning of the official tryouts in order to maintain the fairness and transparency of the tryout process.
- 1.2 Player eligibility. Players must be registered prior to commencing tryouts in accordance with FDSA timelines. Players not showing on team / tryout list must show proof of registration (receipt) or they will be unable to participate until registration is complete.
- 1.3 Returning/overage players. FDSA alumni players who are in the city for the summer and are involved in a registered soccer program (i.e., university/college teams, senior leagues, national or professional teams) may request through the coach(es) to practice with a competitive team. All requests must be approved and appropriate user fees will be determined by the Executive Director.
- 1.4 Underage players/Playing up. This item is primarily applicable to Premiership/U13 Foundations teams; as a general rule, there is no playing up in Division 1 unless the Director of Soccer assesses that a particular program/team is under threat of being cancelled due to a lack of players.
 - 1.4.1 Definition. Playing up is where younger players request to tryout in an age category above that for which they are normally eligible. Players must self-identify to the Director of Soccer for approval prior to the start of tryouts.
 - 1.4.2 Intent. It is the FDSA's intent to form competitive teams that are as strong as possible, and to provide a challenging program at all age groups and levels. The FDSA encourages the ongoing

development of exceptional players; however, it does not wish to see the ranks of any particular division negatively impacted simply to bolster the ranks of another division. Therefore, in the normal course of events, all competitive players will play within their correct age group. Only in exceptional circumstances with players demonstrating clearly equal or superior skills will a player be considered to play in a higher age group. The FDSA reserves the right to decide whether an underage player plays above their age group.

1.4.3 Rules pertaining to playing up.

1.4.3.1 An underage player must identify themselves to the Director of Soccer after having completed registration for their age-appropriate category. The Director of Soccer will grant permission of each request on an individual basis, and must approve any and all final selection decisions that pertain to underage players prior to communication of said recommendation to the subject player, parent, or any other party.

1.4.3.2 For underage players where no Premiership program is available for the age group (i.e., 11 years of age), these underage players may try out for the U13 Foundations program and be evaluated/selected based on the same criteria as regular U13 players.

1.4.3.3 Underage players must clearly demonstrate an advanced level of skills that would place them in the top of their team.

1.4.3.4 Coaches' children may not play up by virtue of the coaches' appointment and must be independently evaluated.

1.5 Player selection. At the end of the tryouts, coaches will select their teams using the following guidelines.

1.5.1 The decision of a team selection and cuts shall be communicated to players immediately upon being made and in a fashion that demonstrates sensitivity.

1.5.2 All cut players are entitled to feedback from the coach upon request.

1.5.3 All players have the right to appeal their non-selection to a team.

1.5.4 All appeals must be made in writing and submit to the FDSA office within 48 hours of the decision being communicated.

1.5.5 The process for appeal is as follows:

1.5.5.1 A review of the player's evaluation including the player's evaluation sheet will be conducted by the coach, player, parents and FDSA representative(s).

1.5.5.2 The FDA representative will make a decision based on this review.

1.5.5.3 If the evaluation fairly identifies the rationale for cut, then the appeal will be denied.

1.5.5.4 If there is no rationale for the cut identified in the review or there is evidence that the player was not fairly evaluated, then the player will be re-evaluated over two to three practices.

1.5.5.5 Following the re-evaluation, the player will either be added to the team or cut from the team.

1.6 Selection criteria. Under the direction of the FDSA, coaches are responsible to assess players and use their experience and knowledge of the game. Coaches will decide what mix of skills and aptitudes are required to form a team and assess players accordingly before making their selections. Coaches should be prepared to offer players feedback on their tryout and evaluation.

- 1.6.1 As a guidelines to coaches, the FDSA suggests that four general areas be used in providing feedback to cut players:
 - 1.6.1.1 Individual skills such as dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, heading, etc.
 - 1.6.1.2 Team skills such as field awareness, ability to “see” the game, attacking, defending, transitional play, setting up plays, finding open space, problem solving, positional play, etc.
 - 1.6.1.3 Coachability factors such as listening, attentiveness, attitude, ability to accept constructive criticism, readiness, commitment, effort, sportsmanship, etc.
 - 1.6.1.4 Fitness factors such as aerobic fitness, running, ability to play a full game of soccer in adverse conditions, etc.
 - 1.6.2 All coaches must do an honest evaluation of each player and provide this evaluation upon request.
 - 1.6.3 In the event of any disputes, the appeals process will be followed.
- 1.7 Call ups. Premiership, Division I and U13 Foundations coaches may be required to “call up” players from teams in the level below and in the same age group in order to make up shortfalls in their roster throughout the season. FDSA supports this opportunity for players to develop and compete at a higher level. The process for calling up is negotiated between the coaches of both teams, and the players and parents. Coaches are to identify players they wish to call up for specific games and discuss this with the affected Coach. The player/parent is to be asked and upon agreeing to play up, will be allowed to do so. Playing up takes precedence over all lower-level play except critical championship games. Coaches should make every effort to involve as many eligible players as possible in the calling up process in order to share the burden and widen the experience. Call ups are eligible to play ½ of the regular season games unless otherwise stated by league rules.