



U-09 to U13 Tryouts

The Tryout Coordinator (TC) is responsible for the U-09 to U-13 age groups and will facilitate the tryout process and dispute resolution.

Pre-Tryout

In advance of tryouts, the following information must be gathered to facilitate steps later in the process.

1. Program Evaluation Form – Must be distributed to all families. These forms request feedback from parents, which is an important part of the smooth functioning of our organization. Failure to forward the forms could be cause for that coach/manager to not be reinstated for the next year.
2. Player Rankings (Coaches/Managers and Trainers) – The TC, prior to tryouts, must receive a single ranked list of rostered players from each coach/manager, assistant coach and trainer on every existing team. Coaches/managers are encouraged to include written assessments of players at this point in the process. The more detail, the better. This information becomes an important part of the ranking that is formed for the age group. This information is accumulated by the TC and kept confidential during much of the tryout process.
3. Coach/Manager Applications – Our teams employ professional trainers and for the more competitive and / or older age groups (typically U-11 and up) our professional trainers are typically the head coach. However, parent volunteers are selected to fill the role of team manger and in instances where the professional trainer is not the Head Coach, the team manager also serves as the Head Coach. A call for volunteers will be issued in early April with a deadline prior to the tryout date to permit an initial pre-tryout assessment. Only those volunteers seeking to be a head coach and / or team manger should apply. Where applicable, an appropriate NJYS coaching license is required. Final assessment and selection will occur once the tryout results are known.

Tryout Evaluation Process

1. A combined age-group-tryout is mandatory and will be organized by the TC. All players intending to play the next year must attend a tryout unless given special consideration by the TC. In special considerations such as injuries, the TC must be notified by a parent that their child can not participate in the tryout. It is also highly recommended that parents indicate to the check-in coordinator on tryout date(s) that their child is not able to make the tryout due to an injury so that it is properly noted. Parents should not rely on coaches informing the TC that a player is not able to attend tryouts due to an injury.
2. There will be a minimum of 2 - 90 minute sessions.
3. The tryout format will incorporate skills based evaluations in addition to the small sided games, which are a staple of the tryout process. For U-09 to U-11, tryouts will end in an 8v8 format while for U-12 to U-13, they will end in an 11v11 format.



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4. The sessions will be run using a combination of current team's professional trainer(s) and independent professional evaluators who have no previous exposure to the age group and gender.
5. The professional trainer-evaluators will consist of the current professional trainer(s) for each team and a minimum of one independent professional trainer-evaluator who is approved by the TC.
6. The TC must circulate the tryout evaluation process to the Travel Executive Committee prior to tryouts.
7. Once the professional evaluators are identified by the Travel Coordinator(s) for an age group and gender, the TC must identify one professional evaluator to take the lead role and coordinate the on-field evaluation while the tryouts are in progress.
8. In instances where a parent of a player in the age group and gender is also the only team trainer, the individual will be requested to identify a substitute professional evaluator.
9. It will be the responsibility of the professional evaluators to jointly develop a single ranking for the entire age group at the end of the process. The independent professional evaluator will make the decision whenever there is a disagreement over a ranking but will seek consensus among all evaluators.

Coach and Team Selection

1. The TC will gather and keep confidential all player ranking results.
2. For U-09 and U-10, a committee of at least 3 people, chaired by the TC and including at least two or more members of the TEC, will develop a final ranking for the age group incorporating all available information including the coach rankings, trainer rankings, tryout rankings, team flighting, etc. For the U-11 age group the committee will be expanded to at least 4 people and include the TC and at least three or more members of the TEC. They will develop a final ranking for the age group giving consideration to all available information including the coach rankings, trainer rankings, tryout rankings, team flighting, etc. For U-12 and U-13, a committee of at least 3 people, chaired by the TC and including at least two or more members of the TEC, will develop a final ranking for the age group incorporating all available information including the coach rankings, trainer rankings, tryout rankings, team flighting, etc.
3. Coach/Manager Selection: The Travel Executive Committee (TEC) will confidentially assess coaching/managing candidates and work with the TC to make a selection based on all available information including criteria such as experience, qualifications, program evaluation form comments, feedback from trainers, and the player rankings. Wherever possible, to promote continuity and the long-term best interest of the players, the TEC generally has a bias toward qualified returning coaches/managers "in good standing" and will try to select a volunteer parent from the top half of the player rankings for a team.
4. Team Category: The "A" team within a specific age and gender may not necessarily be considered a Premier team. In order to qualify for this status, the team must expect to meet the minimum guidelines required for a Premier team. Similarly, it is possible that two teams within an age-group and gender may be designated Premier if they both meet the minimum guidelines required for a Premier team and if approved by the TEC.



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5. Roster Selection: The committee(s) noted in #2, will develop a suggested roster directly from the final ranking and present it to the team coach/manager of the “A” team. The coach/manager can accept that roster or suggest changes, mindful that changes must be substantiated and agreed upon by the committee. Changes should be discouraged and kept to a minimum. Any irreconcilable differences between the coach and the committee will be referred to the TEC. A couple of alternates should also be agreed upon should any offers not be accepted.
6. The TC will repeat this process in order with all team coaches/managers.

Team Offers

1. The offer process will begin with the “A” team coach/manager confirming all players on the roster for the next year.
2. The “A” team coach/manager should complete their initial offers within 24 hours and have a final roster within 4 days. Any delays beyond the initial 4 days must be immediately declared to the TC. Upon completion of the “A” team roster, the TC will contact the “B” team coach/manager with the results. The “B” team coach/manager will not start contacting his/her players until the “A” team coach/manager is done.
3. The “C” team coach/manager will repeat the offer process.
4. It is absolutely critical that all families who attended the tryout receive a call. If any players did not make a team, it is the responsibility of the TC to contact those families.
5. All coaches/managers must submit their rosters for the next year to the TC as a last step in the process.