

Guideline - Age Group Coordinators

Purpose:

In the spirit of fair play it is important for players and coaches to feel players are placed on teams with skill, size and maturity in mind. These guidelines direct the Age Group Coordinator (AGCs) to balance the teams in a fair and reasonable way. Keeping in mind that coaches who wish to 'stack' a team to dominate a division will always find ways of accomplishing their goals, SVYSA asks that AGCs preserve the spirit of recreational play.

General guidelines for all age groups:

- Balance the teams by age: half the team should be at the top of the age group and half at the bottom. Distribute girls evenly on coed teams. Also balance the teams in total numbers, not to exceed individual age group limits without checking with the coach and the board.
- Requests: Reasonable, supportable requests need to be considered in younger age groups (U6 and U8) only. Requests are not to be entertained in U10-U14.
- Players will be placed with siblings unless otherwise requested.
- Players who have played up in the previous season will be considered second season players, not bottom of the age group players.
- It is preferable to have the AGC not coach, be the spouse of a coach, or have a child playing in the same age group. When this is not possible the teams should be formed by another AGC. The actual coordinating after team formation may be done by someone within the age group.
- No more than one Assistant Coach shall be granted as a request. 'Dynasty' teams are created when 3-4 parents coach together year after year.
- All coaches must fill out the pink coach registration form. This is a CYSA requirement.
- All team formation will be reviewed by a second Board of Directors member who is familiar with the age group before final rosters may be printed.

U6 and U8

- All above guidelines: coed play
- U6 / 5 a side / 11 players maximum
- U8 / 7 a side / 14 players maximum
- When possible, grant requests. Consider day care/car pooling related requests.
- Groups of players will be allowed to stay together as long as there is age and gender balance on the teams.
- Reversible maroon and white jerseys will be worn.
- Use geographic boundaries by school for practice purposes (Charter school, St. Frances etc. players should be allowed to play together if they request to do so).

U10

- Boys and girls separated, 8/9 a side play, 13-15 per team
- Players moving up may be kept together if the skill level of all teams remains even throughout the division. Always balance the top and bottom of age group.
- Requests for team changes are discouraged. Consider each request individually. Do not allow strong players to leave weaker teams for stronger teams. Encourage strong players at the top of the age group to try out for select (U-12 select may pick up very strong U-10 players).
- Reversible blue and white jerseys will be worn.

U12 and U14

- Boys and girls separated, 11 a-side play, 15 per team
- No more than 1/2 the team shall stay together, balancing top and bottom of age group. Additional players will be added again balancing age and skill. It is the responsibility of the AGC to gather accurate information from coaches and previous teams to properly judge abilities and ensure good team chemistry.
- No requests will be granted for specific team placement, although a request for a different coach will be considered.
- Teams may choose individual colors or U12 may wear blue and white U10 style jerseys. Parents and players need to be in agreement on this and coaches are encouraged to actively recycle uniforms. Color choices need to be cleared by the AGC to avoid duplications.

U16 and U19

- Boys and girls separated, 11 a-side, 16 per team (up to 18 with board approval)
- Teams will be formed by the AGC with attention to previous team assignments, while balancing age and experience.
- Requests by players may be considered by the AGC. U16 & U19 players get prejudiced towards coaches and other players. They are truly playing for fun now and we want to keep these players playing.
- Teams may choose individual colors.
- Player passes are required as they play in the district playing league.

In all instances it is the responsibility of the AGC to gather information on the players to balance the teams.