



St. Mary's Soccer Travel Program Tryout Policy

Updated February 2020

Policy

The St. Mary's Soccer (SMS) Travel Program will conduct open tryouts each May and/or June. Open tryouts are defined as:

1. All players must participate in the tryout process and receive an evaluation to be eligible for a travel team roster spot.
2. Returning players are not guaranteed a roster spot on the rising age group team. They too must participate in the tryout process to be eligible for the travel team roster.
3. SMS does not favor any one high school in the selection of players.
4. The intent of the open tryout process is to roster the best players available in each age group to form the best teams possible.

Travel teams are selected for a seasonal year (fall, winter, and the following spring). SMS adheres to all Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) guidelines and the policies of the leagues in which our teams participate. Supplemental tryouts may be held as needed and approved by the SMS Vice President of Travel (also known as the SMS Travel Vice President) and SMS Director of Coaching to fill vacant roster spots.

Procedure

General Process: SMS will conduct tryouts in an environment designed for player safety while fostering quality evaluations. All players will be evaluated based on predetermined soccer attributes demonstrated during tryouts. Travel team selection will be announced following travel team tryouts. Any request for a tryout waiver based on medical necessity must be approved by the SMS President and/or the SMS Director of Coaching. Specific aspects of the SMS tryout process are listed below.

Advertising

1. All tryouts will be posted on the St. Mary's Soccer website (www.stmaryssoccer.org).
2. Additional advertisement may include:
 - a. Flyers
 - b. Open house
 - c. Social media such as Facebook and/or Twitter
3. General tryout information will be displayed on the club website (www.stmaryssoccer.org).

Registration

1. All players participating in travel team tryouts must register for the tryouts.
2. The preferred method of registration is online via the club website (www.stmaryssoccer.org).
3. Additional forms are available at registration, but will incur an additional fee.
4. Each registration form must be signed by the player's parent or legal guardian as well as the player.

Tryout Fee

1. SMS may charge an administration fee for travel team tryouts. This fee will be determined by the Executive Board and announced on the club website (www.stmaryssoccer.org). The same-day walk-up fee may be greater than the online fee.
2. The fee is waived for the U09 age groups.



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Player Tryout Number Assignment

1. Each participant will be assigned a specific number to be worn during tryouts.
2. This number may be in the form of a t-shirt/jersey (which the player may keep after tryouts) or player penny (which must be returned after each tryout).
3. The number assigned must be worn for each tryout session the player participates during the tryout period.
4. If the player loses the assigned numbered t-shirt/jersey there will be an added charge to replace that t-shirt/jersey.

Dress / Equipment

1. Players should wear soccer appropriate clothing.
2. Clothing with zippers or pockets will NOT be allowed.
3. Appropriate shoes are required. No metal cleats or shoes with a toe cleat are allowed.
4. No team, club, or state specific attire will be permitted.
5. No logos on player's attire will be permitted other than the attire manufacturer's logo.
6. All players must wear approved shin guards.
7. No jewelry (rings, watches, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc.) may be worn during tryouts.
8. Each player must provide their own personal water.
9. Each player must provide their own appropriate size soccer ball.

Tryout Skills Sessions

1. Each tryout will be consistent with the age that is trying out.
2. Tryout sessions will include:
 - a. Dynamic warm up
 - b. Skills activities
 - c. Small-sided games
 - d. Full-sided games (provided there are enough players)
3. Full-sided scrimmages with another age group may be utilized.
4. Goalkeeper-specific sessions may also be utilized. Goalkeepers must also participate in all field skill sessions as well.

Evaluation Process

1. All players are evaluated by a panel of coaches assigned by the SMS Director of Coaching, SMS Travel Vice President or designee.
2. All players are evaluated via the approved SMS Travel Player Evaluation Form.
3. Each player is evaluated against age-appropriate evaluation criteria as selected by the Club.
4. Each player is evaluated on a scale ranging from Definite Travel Player to Not Ready for Travel.
5. Head coaches will submit a pre-tryout evaluation of their current team prior to each year's tryout, and then the team coaching staff will only score new players at tryouts.
6. A team's coaching staff at their tryout can include a tryout facilitator and one evaluator, to evaluate only the new players, since the Head Coach submitted a score for the existing team through a pre-tryout evaluation.
7. Other coaches not affiliated with the team will evaluate all players independently.
8. The Head Coach's or designee's evaluation score will count for 25% of the total tryout score.
9. The evaluation panel's scores will account for the remaining 75% of the tryout score.



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10. The SMS evaluation software program will analyze all player data to calculate the weighted average evaluation score for each player.
 11. All players are rank ordered according to their weighted average evaluation score.
 12. The average evaluation score is used by the selection committee to determine which players are offered roster spots.
 13. The selection committee is made up of the SMS Director of Coaching (or designee), SMS Travel Vice President, and team-specific Head Coach.

Try Out “Up” Process

If a player wishes to try out “up” or one age group above his/her appropriate age group, the following process will be followed:

1. The player must first try out on-age.
2. The player’s on-age evaluation score must rank them in the top players of that age group. Top players are defined as:
 - a. U09 & U10 - top 4 players
 - b. U11 & U12 - top 5 players
 - c. U13 and above - top 7 players
 - d. If the player is within two places on the above criteria after the first tryout, they may be allowed to try out “up” but must reach the stated criteria by the end of the second on-age tryout.
3. The player’s scores will be reviewed by the SMS Director of Coaching, SMS Travel Vice President, or designee.
4. The player will be notified if they will be allowed to try out “up” based on their scores. Once the player is notified of the status of their request to try out up, that decision is final.
5. If deemed eligible, the player may then try out for the next older above age group.
6. The player must then score as follows to be eligible for a roster spot consideration:
 - a. U09 & U10 – top 7 players
 - b. U11 & U12 – top 9 players
 - c. U13 and above – top 11 players
7. If there is a “B” team in an age group, only on-age players are eligible for “B” team consideration. Exceptions to this may be made at the discretion of the Travel Vice President, in order to maintain ample numbers for teams, especially at high school-aged groups.
8. An exception to this process will be made if a returning underage player is ranked by the Head Coach of the “up” team as:
 - a. U09 & U10 – top 7 players
 - b. U11 & U12 – top 9 players
 - c. U13 & above – top 11 players
9. If a player tries out “up” at a supplemental tryout, that player must try out on-age at the next annual tryouts. The scoring criteria above must then be met for that player to continue with the “up” team.
10. Players having completed the Trying Out “Up” process and having been selected / accepted for a travel team roster spot may continue to try out for their rising travel team without re-completing the Trying Out “Up” process again.
11. The total number of players playing “Up” on a team will not exceed the following:
 - a. U09 – U12 Two players



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b. U13 – U19 Three players

Note: At the discretion of the Vice President for Travel, more underage players may be rostered on a team to prevent that team from folding. This includes both premier and classic teams.

12. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (weather cancellations etc.) the schedule of the “on-age” group is after the “up” age group, then the parent/guardian of the player wishing to be considered to play “up” must notify the Vice President of Travel and both “on-age” and “up” coach prior to attending any tryouts. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis.

A/B Team Process (Premier/Classic Teams)

SMS may form two teams and seeks to do so at the “youngest age groups”, playing small-sided games. The “youngest age groups” are U09, U10, U11 and U12, to include both boys and girls teams.

The following must be applicable to allow for two teams to be formed:

1. Ample numbers of children attend publicized tryouts.
2. The SMS Director of Coaching or his/her designee assigns all evaluators for these defined age groups, where we expect the possibility of having both a Premier and Classic team.
3. The SMS Director of Coaching will strive to evaluate all players in age groups/genders where there may be two teams.
4. The selected Head Coach of the age group must be willing to become Age Group Head Coach with responsibility for both premier and classic teams, or a secondary qualified coach must be identified. That Age Group Head Coach will provide direction to Assistant Coaches who may run practices and/or games in his/her absence.
5. Appropriate, qualified Assistant Coaches must be available and committed to each team. These coaches can be identified either before or after the tryout process.
6. All players considered for Classic teams must be on-age (none playing up) or granted exception as previously mentioned to maintain numbers for high school-aged teams.
7. SMS encourages both teams to use United States Youth Soccer (USYS) guest player passes when allowed per league play.

NOTE: No additional teams will be formed outside of publicized annual tryouts.

Selection Process

1. Ranked evaluation scores are reviewed after the last tryout by the designated Head Coach of each specific team, the SMS Director of Coaching and the SMS Travel Vice President.
2. Upon completion of all age group tryouts, the Head Coach is encouraged to make offers to the top players as ranked by all tryout evaluation scores, for the top 80% of the allowable roster size for their age group:
 - a. 10 minimum for a roster of 12 players
 - b. 13 minimum for a roster of 16 players
 - c. 14 minimum for a roster of 18 players
3. The remaining possible roster spots (20%) are at the Head Coach’s discretion upon approval of the selection committee.
4. Up to an additional 4 players above the initially approved players will be identified and approved by the selection committee so the Head Coach may offer roster spots at his/her discretion if any of the initially approved players decline roster spots.
5. The Head Coach should make initial contact with selected players via phone, 1-on-1, or email.
6. Players offered roster spots are given 48 hours to respond to the selection offer or the roster



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spot may be offered to another evaluated player.

7. Selection notifications will be posted on the club website (www.stmaryssoccer.org) following the last tryout.
8. If a player rejects an offer to play on the "A" team, the player's name will return to the eligible pool for any "B" team selection.
9. Offers to any "B" team players will not be made until the "A" team has finalized their roster.
10. If a player trying out "up" one age group rejects an offer from the older team Head Coach, he/she may be offered a roster spot by the "on" age Head Coach, at his/her discretion.
11. A player may be offered a roster spot after the first tryout if the following criteria is met:
 - a. The team did not have a full roster the preceding season or the team's roster is expanding due to age group rules.
 - b. The player's tryout score ranks him/her within the starting set of players. Example: the player ranks in the top 11 for a full-sided team.
 - c. The player was not a rostered player to that team in the previous seasonal year.
 - d. The player offer is approved by the SMS Travel Vice President, SMS Director of Coaching or designee.

Disputes

1. Any dispute as to team selection must go through the SMS Travel Vice President.
2. The SMS Travel Vice President will consult with the SMS Director of Coaching and any additional coaches as he/she sees fit.
3. The SMS Travel Vice President will respond in a timely fashion to all questions, concerns or disputes related to travel team selection.
4. The SMS Travel Vice President will notify the SMS President of any dispute resolutions or waiver requests.
5. If there is a dispute regarding the SMS Travel tryout process, the Rules and Discipline Committee will be asked to make a final ruling.