



Try-Out Procedures

All policies and issues not expressly addressed in this Tryout Procedures may be addressed and resolved at the discretion of Idaho Juniors FC's President, Vice President and Board of Directors.

This policy is effective May 2021

Club Division Team Tryout Procedures

There are three (3) types of tryout procedures. Each type has different goals and requirements:

- U-8 to U-10
- U-11 and U-12
- U-13 and above Teams

There are four (4) main steps in the tryout process:

- Pre-Tryout Information Gathering
- Tryout Evaluation Process
- Coach/Manager and Team Selection
- Team Offers

Tryout Procedure Philosophy

The purpose of the Idaho Juniors FC team tryout process is to form teams with players who have similar soccer ability and commitment level.

To accomplish this, the "Club" will have annually conducted and advertised tryouts for all returning and new teams, thus allowing the youth residing within and outside the Treasure Valley (Idaho) have an opportunity to compete for a position on a competitive traveling soccer team. All tryouts must be open, fair, transparent, and without bias. The goal being to form teams based on age and gender with players who have similar skills, athleticism, ability, determination and commitment for the expected competitive level of the team.

Please note that the following procedures are for ALL TEAMS. These procedures define the process of how competitive travel teams will be formed.

Tryouts are open to all players that are age eligible and fall between the dates for that given age group. Tryouts will be conducted for ages 8 through 14 in the first two weeks of June.

The following procedures will be applied to tryouts for ALL teams:

- Tryouts will be coordinated by the Idaho Juniors FC Club President and Vice President, along with the Head Coaches for each age group.
- Specific tryout activities will be issued by the Club President and Vice President and are to be followed by all age groups at their tryouts.
- Advanced online registration for tryouts must be done at idahojuniorsfc.com. If a player does not register online for the tryout, in-person registration may occur at the time of the tryout. Registration for tryouts is free of charge.



- All tryouts take place at Hope Lutheran Church in Eagle, ID. Directions can be found on Google if needed.
- All tryouts will be held for two days. Players are required to attend one tryout day, but may be asked to come back the second day for further evaluation. Should a child become ill, suffer an injury or have a family emergency, please contact the Club President or Vice President. If a player is sick or injured, a doctor's note will be required to excuse them from tryouts. (See exceptions below).
- Parents must stay at tryouts, but away from the designated tryout area - parents may not drop a child off and leave the tryout area.
- There should be no cheering or individual coaching during a tryout.
- All players must wear shin guards and cleats and bring a ball and water.
- **What to wear:** If you are currently part of the Club, you can wear your Club provided Grey training shirt and black shorts. If you are not, we recommend black shorts and a neutral shirt, i.e. - a white or black shirt without any design on the front.
- Just because a player played on the first, or second team the year before, does not mean that's where they will play during the upcoming year.
- A sequential number will be provided to every potential candidate at the start of the try out for that given age bracket. This number will be used as the identifying character for that player throughout the selection process. Although coaching staff may know some players, this is the fairest method, leveling the playing field for ALL players.
- The tryout format will consist of individual skills, technique trainings, small-sided and in some cases, full-sided games.
- All teams must conduct an open tryout each year.
- A returning player will not be allowed to tryout if he or she has:
 - not completed the tryout registration form
 - any outstanding debts to the Club.

Ratings

For new teams, a rating system will be utilized that is scored and ranked by Club Coaching Staff. This will account for 100% of the ascending rank for that new incoming age bracket. The Club President and Vice President will collect the ratings from the Coaching Staff's evaluation at the end of each age's tryout session and they along with the Coaching Staff will make team determinations.

Exceptions

If a player cannot make both tryouts with their age group and a valid excuse is approved to the Club President and Vice President, they may be allowed to attend one tryout with their appropriate age group during the first week of practices. This must be approved in advance. The player, at a minimum, must participate in at least one week of practices to be considered for a competitive team, although attending both tryouts is highly recommended and encouraged. The only exception to the above rules will be injury or illness.



A player who is injured or sick and cannot participate in one or both Competitive Soccer tryouts must produce a doctor's note, noting the nature of their injury, and inability to participate. If excused, please see below for the method that will be used to determine their status on a particular Competitive Travel Team. If a player misses both tryouts due to an excused injury or illness, the player's rating will be assigned as follows:

- If player was a first team player the previous season, they can be considered for a first team as a Coach's pick. But this decision is at the sole discretion of the Club President, Vice President, and Head Coach.
- If player was not a first team player the previous season, they cannot be considered for the first team.

If a player was not formally excused because of injury, sickness, religious observance or an extenuating circumstance and did not participate in at least one tryout, that player will not be able to participate in the upcoming competitive travel season if not selected by the Head Coach of their appropriate age group.

Club Team Player Selection Process

The Idaho Juniors FC has historically used ratings to determine a competitive travel team.

Players will be rated and selected based on a combination of:

1. Try-Out Ratings conducted by Club President, Vice President, and Club Coaching Staff.
2. Pre-Tryout Ratings submitted by the Head Coach, and assistant Coaches, to be used as a reference and data point to support or dispute any major discrepancies of the tryout ratings.

In the small-sided age groups (U8-U11), minimum 10 and up to 14 players would be selected to play for that age brackets first team.

Selection

In each age group for small-sided play, the top 11 rated players will be selected for the top team. The following system will be used to assess players:

- Coaching Staff will be present at both days of tryouts to place their ratings.
 - Ratings will be comprised from either club coaches with adequate experience, the Club President or the Club Vice President.
 - ONLY the Club Coaches and players may be present on the field during tryout.
 - Rating forms will be distributed by the Club President and Vice President and will be collected at the end of each day of the tryout. Ratings will then be compiled by the Club President, and Vice President and kept in a secure location.
- Pre-tryout ratings will be collected for all current Idaho Juniors FC competitive travel players upon request between the Coaching Staff.
 - Head coaches and assistant coaches of current teams will be asked, prior to tryouts, to rate all players based on a season's worth of performance.
 - This will be a forced ranking style rating from 1-4 in each given player skill category, etc.
 - These ratings will take into consideration skills, performance, attitude, attendance at training, sportsmanship and other factors.



- Pre-tryout ratings will not be used for incoming U8 players or players who did not participate in the Idaho Juniors FC competitive travel program in the previous year.
- Players not subject to pre-tryout ratings will be rated 100% based on try-out ratings.
- Goalkeeper candidates will be assessed at tryouts.
 - Goalkeeper tryouts will be held during field tryouts.
 - Players interested in playing keeper will be asked to participate in keeper-related drills.
 - Should a player try out for keeper and make the team, the coach has the right to play him/her at that position at least 50% of the time.
 - Separate ratings for goalkeepers shall be made by the evaluators and will not be factored into the player's field tryout rating.
 - Full-time goal keepers are welcome on full-sided teams. However, full-time goal keepers are discouraged at the small-sided age levels (U-8 to U-11). Therefore, small-sided tryouts will not attempt to isolate and assess full-time goal keepers.

The 'Make up' of a First Team will consist of the following:

- Small-sided teams: Between 10 and 14 players from the top-ranked players.
- Full-sided teams: Between 15 and 20 players from the top-ranked players.

The player selection process will adhere to the following procedure:

- Players will be notified of the results by the following day after tryouts conclude.
- Head coaches **must** contact all players who tried out and notify them via phone call and an acceptance letter by email, whether they made a competitive travel team or not. The Head Coach is responsible for contacting those current players who tried out and did not make their team.
- When making offers to players, it is important that the coach/manager provides the parents with an indication of his/her plans for the team in the upcoming year and how the team will function including playing time, leagues, tournaments, cost, etc.
- Once parents have been notified, players have 24 hours to accept or decline a position. If after 24 hours the position has not been accepted or declined, the coach may select another player.
- No specific information regarding player ratings should **ever** be shared with parents or other members of the community, due to the sensitive nature of such information.
- Once finalized, all coaches/managers must submit their rosters for the next year to the Club President, Vice President, and Club Secretary as a last step in the process.

Playing Up

Players are permitted to try out for the age group above their designated age group under the following circumstances:

- There will be no trying out up for the U8-10 age group.
- For small-sided teams, players trying up must rate in the top 3 players during the try-out process of their own age (including coach's pre-tryout rating, where applicable).
- For full-sided teams, players trying up have to rate in the top 5 players during the try-out process of their own age (including coach's pre-tryout rating, where applicable).



- The Club President, and Vice President must be notified at least 7 days in advance of the tryout if a player will be trying out up.
- No younger players can be moved up and brought onto a team midseason or between the fall and spring seasons without the specific approval of the Club President and Vice President.

Coaches Selection

Idaho Juniors FC is committed to providing the best coaching possible for all teams at all levels. Coaches will be selected using the following procedure:

- All applicants must submit an application to the Club President and Club Secretary by end of the last day of the Try Out process. The application will be available at idahojuniorsfc.com, click on forms then open Idaho Juniors FC coach application.
- Failure to submit the application by the deadline will disqualify the application. An exception to this rule can be made only with the majority approval of the Board of Directors.
- Existing team coaches will be reviewed on a yearly basis through practice/game coaching observations by the Club President, Vice President and/or Board members, as well as other observations and feedback, etc. Idaho Juniors FC reserves the right to replace coaches based on the recommendations of the Club President, or Vice President with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- All volunteer parent team managers and/or volunteer coaches for the upcoming year are chosen after the players for a team are selected.

Coaches will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Child Skill Level
 - The child of the First team coaching candidate must rank in the top players for small-sided play and full-sided play. Special circumstances may warrant exceptions to this rule and require the approval of the Club President and Vice president.
- Coaching History
 - The candidate's history as a coach is taken into account. This history may be ascertained via direct observation or through other measures. The coach's history in the Club will also be considered.
- Coaching Experience
 - Coaching candidates with significant playing/coaching experience may have an advantage over less-experienced candidates.
- Dedicated Time
 - Coaches who have given significant volunteer hours to coaching, league administration and other club activities may have an advantage over those who have not volunteered their time.
- Coaching License
 - A minimum of an "F" license and Grassroots Licenses for their Age Group are required, as is the Idaho Juniors FC background check that must be done by all Idaho Juniors FC coaches and trainers. Higher-level licenses are encouraged and valued.



- Parent Feedback
 - Parent feedback regarding active coaches in the Club is a determinant in coaching selection.
- If there is more than one candidate for a specific age group, he/she will be interviewed by a Coaches Selection Committee, which will make a candidate recommendation to the Club President, Vice President, and Board of Directors who can then recommend the coach's appointment.
- The Head Coach will recommend up to 2 Assistant Coaches, if possible, for their age group. The Club President and Vice President will use the above-mentioned guidelines to approve or reject those recommendation. Assistant Coaches may be subject to Board of Directors approval.

Any changes made to the procedures laid out in this manual must have the approval of the Club President, Vice President, and approval of the Board.