

Tryouts; The Details Within the Details.

Tryout Details (FAQ) have previously been shared through email updates, the website and linked via Facebook and Twitter.

[Click Here](#) for FAQs

Please follow us on social media to stay up to date with EPSC happenings. These are all linked on our website too.

We thought it may be of interest to share more detail with our members regarding the tryout process.

What will the format on the field look like?

Players should arrive early, check in and warm up themselves so they are ready to go on time. Bring a fully inflated ball (Size 4 11-12U, size 5 13-19U 20019-20 ages) Water. Wear your EPSC grey training shirt, club shorts and socks.

Start-Player Pool Photo and Pinnie Number check in at Field with evaluators for accuracy.

Session 1-Technical work followed by small sided games. The evaluators may also incorporate 1v1 duels here to give maximum warm up touches. In this setting we get a really good look at many of the qualities we are looking for.

Session 2-Full match play such as 9v9 and 11v11. Here we see all of the previous things as well as a better look at decision making, longer range passing and shooting as well as athleticism which will be more noticeable in bigger spaces.

Parents, please respect the process and stay on the check in side of Flying Cloud, Thank You!

How are players evaluated and what are evaluators really looking for?

1-Technique;

This is very high on the list of what we seek in a player, it is very difficult to overcome poor technique even for a super athlete.

Included in this are such things as **but not limited to;**

- Ball control
- Dribbling
- Passing, short medium and long range
- Chipping (the ability to loft a ball accurately)
- Shooting
- Turning with the ball

2-Attitude;

Happy to be there, positive and polite are all good traits.

Negative attitudes are something that can really impact an impression of a player.

Competes hard, doesn't make excuses, asks questions, listens.

Many of these habits fall under **RESPECT**.

3-Game Intelligence;

Decision making is a key factor in a team sport and especially soccer where the game demands a team effort and linking up fluidly with others.

The decisions of the "when, where, why and what" are key to the game. A player may possess great technique but it can be negated if decision making is poor.

The ability to often keep the game simple is impressive to evaluators, completing passes to teammates is something we all look for.

Being a great dribbler is nice but if you always beat 2 players and give the ball away to the 3rd then you really have not accomplished much.

4-Communication;

The ability to talk about the game on the field and even on water breaks is a great strength for players to have. Communication is key in the sport and we often find players are too quiet. If you know it, say it!

5-Mistakes;

Yes, mistakes are ok too! If a player is trying to accomplish something but fails it isn't necessarily a negative.

A ball arrives bouncing and the player attempts to knock it one touch over the opponent because there is space behind but fails to execute

This would be seen as being creative and brave as well as a good decision. Such things are of course situational, there is a time, place and situation to do such a thing.

Mistakes can be ok too!

6-Athleticism;

Yes, it does help BUT not if the attitude is poor, decision making off and technique isn't good!

When all things are fairly equal then yes, it is good to be quick, strong, fast but these are not as valued as one may think.

7-Match Effect

This category is really the complete set of all the above. There are different ways to play the game and have success. By gauging the match effect a player has, we are looking for their positive influence upon the match. When all is said and done, this is the key aspect.

Why is there no testing?

We can see all we need in our format. It is simple but effective.

It really is about playing the game, we are trying out to play the game so we play the game at tryouts.

See this article from our friend, Dr. Tom Turner, for why tests are not ideal for youth soccer tryouts.

http://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org/Assets/mys_assets/pdf/newcoaching/HowToAssessSoccerPlayerswoskilltests.pdf

Though old, it still applies!

Summary;

We are looking for players with a good skill set, positive attitudes toward others, a respect of teammates, opponents, coaches and others involved in the process.

How are the players scored, ranked or rated?

Players are scored on the complete package on a 1-7 scale with 7 high.

1 is only used in rare cases where there is a problem and the player is deemed to not suit competitive soccer.

This scale helps us avoid too many mid-scores and allows for separation. We don't need numbers higher than this as it simply isn't necessary.

We do not break down every aspect of the players performance, this is virtually impossible in a tryout situation and simply not feasible or necessary. Therefore, we do not provide tryout feedback or reports. Player feedback is done by coaches, using the eval reports to you.

We do incorporate the above factors 1-7 and are looking at the players match ability as the key aspect.

How do these scores then relate to placement?

The player scores are inputted to a cloud using our evaluation software.

Evaluators use their mobile device to do this so if you see evaluators “on their phones” this is why!

All players are loaded in to the system and appear on the software so that evaluators simply open the system on their device and can input numbers as well as comments.

For returning players we then add in coach eval scores which are used in the overall score and rank.

Our software automatically figures all scores, averages rankings and contains a comment link that we can read later.

Scores are always live on the cloud. Evaluators are instructed to “refresh” their age group to catch late entries or potential errors or changes to the pinnie numbers.

We use the rankings to help us best place players.

What happens if players are tied in score?

This rarely happens but is possible. Coach evals are a tremendous value to the overall process and one of the first “tie-breakers” we look at is “Commitment” one of the key categories in our coach to club player evals.

When are results known and how do we find out about placement?

We have set a goal to have team rosters formed by the end of the day July 31st with invites going out August 1st.

We will email team placements and invites to accept, directly to the email you provide in the tryout registration system.

We will not post names/rosters until offers have been accepted and that window is closed.

We will post team names and roster count invites such as “EPSC 99B Green (12) The () would represent team offers.

Remember, you must register for tryouts in order to be placed in a team even if you cannot attend tryouts.

We will offer some early roster spots to some players who stand out in order to help make the evaluation process better. By offering early invites and receiving acceptances early we can focus more on the other players. This is not favoritism or unfair, it is practical.

In a tryout pool it is easiest to see the top players and the lower players, it is more challenging to sort the middle 60%!

How do we rank new players compared to returning players?

We only use the evaluator scores for new players, this is put in to the system along with the returning player scores. We are also, with one click, able to review "Tryout Only" rankings of all the player pool thus taking out coach evals if we seek a different view. Coach evals are however included in the returning player final rank.

We have heard that (insert your rumor here)

EPSC runs a professional tryout and our goal is to place players in the best situation for them to develop.

Always refer to the website for all thing's tryouts, if it is NOT there or on our social media outlets, then it is just that, a rumor!

The process may not always be perfect to everyone as total player numbers and team levels dictate part of the process but having said that, we are very confident in our process and overall placements.

We disagree with the placement, we are not happy about it.

Please do not reach out to us in the first 24 hrs. of receiving your placement invite. Not only is it often counter-productive but we are incredibly busy and answering every email, text or call takes away from an accurate and timely process for all.

We understand this process can be stressful for Families, we appreciate that but please appreciate that we are doing our best for you too.

Player placements are not negotiable and cannot be contested.

We hope this article answers some of your tryout questions and concerns.

You can always reach us at Info@EPSoccerClub.com

Thank you,
EPSC Staff

EPSC-The community club that knows you, cares about you and welcomes new members.