

Massac Soccer Booster Association (MSBA) Recreational Team Formation Policy

2019 Version

INTENT: This policy intent is to adhere to and follow the key principle that recreational team formation is performed via a random selection process. This in comparison to teams classified as competitive, which can be formed primarily via selective-type of process. Any reference within this policy with the word "selection" or "draft" refers strictly to team formation proceedings and procedures and should not be construed as departing from the a random-type selection process that this policy seeks to adheres to.

1. Who conducts the draft:

A pre-appointed committee consisting of individuals selected by the acting Recreational Director (or in his absence chosen by the MSBA President). This person can either serve or choose to appoint a specially designated appointee who shall chair this committee and ensure the teams are formed under these policies. This person shall also serve as the final authority on any disputes or interpretations concerning the following of these policies during the particular draft process. The selection of the other committee individuals should include the basic criteria that all individuals act as (a) strict neutral administrators with no favoritism within this process and (b) understand and adhere to the policies and procedures contained within this document.

2. Pre-approval of Coaches:

All coaches must have final approval through the MSBA Board. The preference is to have or make best-effort attempts to determine as many as possible the head coaching selections prior to the team formation process. The Recreational league and MSBA members reserve the right to select, recruit, and at times subjectively determine which coaches that are deemed to serve the best overall interest of the program. All new coaching candidates must pass a criminal background check administered via MSBA procedures. This will also include those existing coaches whose previous background checks have expired per MSBA procedures. The Recreational League and MSBA reserves the right to deny any person to coach or serve in any capacity as they procedural determine or deem.

Head & Assistant Coaches must be approved through the background check process, MSBA evaluation methods, and review/sign documentation concerning conduct and safety requirements and expectations.

3. Age-Division Leagues:

The recreational league will be divided into appropriate age-based divisions. These age divisions can be subject to change from year-to-year based on the actual numbers of registrants for any particular age or other determined factors. The age-divisions use two different formats. For the grade level league divisions shall be based on the child's grade level as of on August 1 of that soccer year. If using Under-x age divisions then this shall be determined by the Association Board considering both USYouth Soccer guidelines and available compatibility with possible competitors.

For Junior High players, they are divided into players based on the grade level at school during that soccer year. In cases where a player is eligible to play within two leagues (i.e. Junior High Division & U12/5th-6th grade), a decision will be made by MSBA on proper placement of this child.

Soccer year is defined starting in August 1 for the fall season and ending with following spring play.

Generally the age-divisions for the recreational league should follow the basic format:

- * Junior High Division (7th-8th Grades)
- * 5th-6th grade or Under-12 Division
- * 3rd-4th grade or Under-10 Division
- * 1st-2nd grade or Under-8 Division
- * PreK-K or Under-6 Division

4. Teams formed within each Age-Division League:

Based on registration numbers for each age group and an evaluation of the maximum number of players on the field for that particular age-division per the rules, this will determine the number of teams to be formed within each division. It is expected particularly in the case of the older age divisions that possibly one team will exist within that league. In addition, special recreational team formations may be considered on a case-by-case basis for all-male teams, all-female teams, or players consisting that are interested in travel/tourney games.

5. Retention of Players:

A player who returns from the previous soccer season and who is again playing within that same age-division, shall be returned to that same team grouping. This same team group may consist of any other returning players from the previous soccer year and possibly a returning coach. The exception to the retention of a player to a same grouping, can be where the parents make a special request to be placed within the general draft process rather than be returned to the same team.

The term "previous soccer season" is defined as the fall season previous to the spring or vice-versa, where it is the previous spring season to the fall. A returning player, for purposes of the team formation policies, is not defined as one that had skipped the previous spring season for a fall registration or skipped the fall season for a spring registration.

6. Graduating, New, or Non-Returning Players:

All players shall be placed into the general draft pool with the following exceptions where players will be pre-placed upon a team prior to the random draft process:

- * Head Coach's children within that particular division.
- * One Assistant Coach's children within that particular division. (Note several exceptions to this can exist, see Assistant Coach Policy, Item 7)
- * Siblings of the same residence. Brothers & sisters that are NOT of the same residence will require special approval from the board and may be denied.
- * Returning Players as defined in Item 5.
- * Special exceptions. For extreme circumstances, the board can determine to allow pre-placement of a child to a team for other special situations. This shall generally NOT be allowed but for the most special of circumstances such as an example of a medical situation or special needs child. Special requests for particular coaches, placement with friends on the team, or for travel arrangements will generally be declined but for possibly the most rare cases.
- * Requests to no longer return to the previous season's team when eligible to return. Parents by special request may ask to no longer return to the same player group. This player will be placed in the general draft but will be specially designated so not to be picked or returned back to that same team in the team formation process. Parents may not request to be placed off of team and get to choose the team or coach of their own selection, they can only ask not to return to that same team.

All special requests must be presented in person to the Board for vote and approval. The Board reserves the right to deny any special requests without submitting a reason or reply.

7. Assistant Coach Policy:

Each team may have only one rostered assistant coach for the purposes of team formation. However the coach may have additional non-rostered assistant coaches as authorized by the MSBA and which is recognized by the Head Coach of that team. The official rostered assistant coach should be identified by the Head Coach to the Registrar for proper rostering of these individuals. Any assistant coaches must be approved through MSBA processes as outlined in Item 2.

Only one assistant coach's children may be pre-selected to a particular team within the draft process.

The exception to this policy is in the case of alternating assistant coaches in subsequent years for the intentional or unintentional purposes of stacking a team. This can occur where a returning Head Coach, with the children of a previously selected assistant still on the team, in the next season attempts to select yet another assistant coach's children for pre-selection. This pre-selection of this children for this team will be denied if it was determined that this selection is or can be construed to be circumventing the random processes and attempting to stack a team. The recreational league and/or MSBA Board shall evaluate such circumstances and determine actions on a case-by-case basis in such situations.

8. Players without a Returning Coach:

The returning player group stays together regardless of the status of the previous coach. If the returning player group does not have a coach, a new coach will be randomly selected from a pre-determined and approved coaching candidates and will then inherit this group.

9. Registrations after the Deadline:

Generally no registrations will be accepted after the announced deadline or team formations with only the following possible exceptions:

- * Clerical or administrative error from the MSBA during the registration/team formation process.
- * Special case exceptions allowed by MSBA Board in cases where additional player numbers may be needed for a particular age-group(s).

10. Team Uniform & Color Selections:

All registered teams with MSBA must adhere to approved uniforms and uniform policies. In most cases, MSBA will select, administer, & distribute uniforms for recreational teams. No team may select or purchase their own uniforms unless specifically approved through MSBA.

11. Recreational Team Formation Process:

- * Based on actual registration numbers for that particular season, there should be a determination of age-group formats, number of players on the field, and average number of players per team. This evaluation should consider the best format for the league, however extensive efforts should be made to keep a standard age-groupings and player numbers on the field format from season to season.
- * After the age-groups, number of teams, and the average number for each team is determined, blank rosters for each team should be develop. Those returning player groups along with a possible returning Head Coach of that group should be placed together on a single roster.
- * From each age-group, the pre-approved Head Coaches without an assigned team, will have their name along with their Assistant's name and any children that will be associated with these coaches for this particular age-group, written down on equal slips of paper. Each roster without a Head Coach will have a person randomly selected from the pre-approved coaching candidates. The Head & Assistant Coach along with the associated children will then be added to this particular roster.
- * Any other pre-selected players (such as siblings being associated with an already returning player) or any other granted special exceptions (special needs children) will also be placed upon appropriate rosters at this point.
- * All other players shall be consider open draw players. For each age-group, an Excel spreadsheet shall be constructed listing an assigned player number, player name, sex, and age. These players are then separated into sub-groupings in the following format: 1st grouping within age-group: Any open draw females, 2nd grouping: Open draw males who are younger age for that particular age division, and a 3rd grouping: Open draw males who are at the older age for that particular age division. In cases where siblings are playing within the same age-group and both (or more) are open draw players, then these players shall be paired together and share only ONE player number. If one of the siblings is a female then both will be placed within the 1st sub-grouping within the open female group. If both players are in the open male group then the highest grade of the two will determine placement as a pair into the younger or older sub-grouping. Each player's assigned number on the spreadsheet is written on individual pieces of paper and the three sub-groups are placed into separate hats for the random drawing.
- * Each team's returning and pre-selected players is counted and compared to the calculated average roster size for that age-division. The number of player to be added via the open draw is then determined by subtracting: [AVG ROSTER SIZE ROUNDING UP TO THE NEXT HIGHEST INTERGER] - [# OF PLAYERS ON ROSTER PRIOR TO OPEN DRAW]. This number is then written on each paper roster representing the maximum number of open draw players that roster can receive.

- * In order to keep teams in equal numbers of players, during the open draw selection and placement to each roster, this open draw number is decremented accordingly as players are added. Anytime when this open draw number reaches zero for a particular roster, this indicates that the team has reached full roster status and can no longer receive any further open draw players.
- * Each roster of that age-group is then assessed for the number of females returning to each team. Special denotations then should be made for cases of existing rosters with one or no females on a team. A determination is then made as to how many females each team should get in order to avoid the following: (a) cases where only one single female is placed on a team by herself or (b) a team without at least two female players. In cases of a low number of open draw females which may not normally remedy situations as described above, then a special selection process is then allowed where the teams needing additional female players based on resolving the situation as described are first randomly drawn from the female group until all rosters have at least two females. If this situation does not apply or enough open draw females exist that the situation will be avoided then the proceed with the normal selection process as described below.
- * Prior to the any random selections from the open draw players to fill rosters, the team formation committee will without bias and with considered overall fairness to all teams, will evaluate those teams in a particular age-group that may be considered competitively stronger to weaker based on the pre-placement of players already on each team. Considering possible competitive imbalances between teams that may exist, the open draft players are reviewed and those of the considered weaker teams may then have a considered stronger-skilled open draft player selected to that team as part of fulfilling their draft needs. This selection shall be performed without any bias and shall be attempted to be limited in nature with the only intention to better competitively balance the teams in this age-group. The intention of the team formations is to utilize random draws as much as possible with exception of the case to try to better balance the teams.
- * **REMEMBER TO KEEP TRACK OF THE OPEN DRAW NEEDED NUMBER AFTER EACH SELECTION. THE SELECTIONS STOP FOR THAT TEAM ANYTIME THE MAXIMUM ROSTER SIZE IS REACHED INDICATED BY THE OPEN DRAW DECREMENTING TO ZERO.** Going in order of the rosters with the highest number of needed open draw players to the highest number, an open draw female player is then randomly selected for each team in turn and rotating in this roster placement until all the female sub-group has been placed on a team. In a continuation of this same roster order wherever team is the next in line after the female selections, the youngest grade level open draw male players are then randomly chosen and placed upon a team roster until all players are on a team. In the same fashion, after all younger age-level players are selected then the random selection process continues for the older grade level sub-group. This continues until all players registered are placed upon a roster.
- * This process is then repeated for the other age-groups in the same fashion.
- * After completion of the team formation process, the Registrar (or his appointee) then takes the information for these team/player selections and creates the official roster on an Excel spreadsheet. This roster shall include all team coaches & player contact information. After completion, the Registrar then signs the team roster as official. This document is then used for the (a) League Documents, (b) Roster to be distributed to the Coaches, and (c) Rosters to be distributed to IYSA.