



# Player Placement Guidelines

The goal of the placement process is to maintain a fair, objective and thorough process for assessing a player's abilities and skills in order to place each player on a team that will best match and challenge their current level of play.

Players in U12-U19 age divisions will be placed on teams in accordance with the USYSA and WSA birth year matrix. If player numbers are large enough to roster more than one team, the SCSA, under the direction of the Board of Directors and its Coaches/Assessment Committee, will hold a skills assessment for players U12 and up to place individual players on a team that will allow the greatest opportunity for development & skill growth.

## Assessed skills and attributes:

- **Passing**
- **Dribbling**
- **First Touch/Ball Control**
- **Shooting/Finishing**
- **Defending**
- **Shielding**
- **Speed**
- **Strength**
- **Aggressiveness and Endurance**
- **Communication**
- **Field Awareness**
- **Attitude**

## Assessment Scoring:

- Assessment scores are compiled and ranked by the Assessment Committee. The final rankings are reviewed by the

Assessment Chair with the Board of Directors to determine team assignments and if any secondary assessments will be needed. This process is taken very seriously, and frequently takes many hours of discussion or additional assessments for final player placement.

## **Primary Assessment Policies:**

- Players must attend the assessments for their age group (and also for the older group if they ask to play up an age division) to be considered for placement. We will make every effort to avoid scheduling conflicts like spring break, holidays, etc. and will do our best to make alternative assessments available based on those conflicts. A secondary assessment may be scheduled and completed to include players who are unable to attend the first due to injury, illness, or other scheduling conflict.
- Players not attending assessments will be given an “incomplete” assessment and will be rostered on the lowest skilled team until additional assessment (assessment or practice session) can occur. Teams will be rostered and include enough additional space at each skill level to account for players who missed the initial assessments or who need an additional assessment to identify separation from similarly assessed players or “bubble players”. Roster levels are not guaranteed based on past playing level, for players with parents as coaches, or for any other subjective circumstances.
- Parents will not be permitted on assessment grounds during their child’s assessment times unless they are formally invited as a coach assessor, or they are a board member involved with the assessment committee. Parents may watch from a distant location like the field’s bleachers but may not interact with the players, coaches, assessors or board members while the assessments are taking place. Assessors must be focused on the action of the players and need to work quickly to set and reset games before the event, between age groups, and

between each period. Distractions must be kept to an absolute minimum. Parents should drop kids from outside of the assessment areas and stay outside of the assessment area until the session is completed.

- Parents and Parent Coaches with children playing will not evaluate or influence the evaluations of their child. A parent coach may have input on other players in the age group or where a “bubble” (similar player rating of multiple players) situation might occur. Post assessment, coaches may be contacted by the board’s Assessment Chair to involve that coach further in the evaluation process, but ONLY if it does not involve the child of that coach. Independent assessors will lead our Assessment Trainings and be used as the club’s evaluators at every opportunity.
- The evaluation process may include drills that rank ball skills and game situation components. The drills will be scored by independent assessors from our Assessment Committee, prospective coaches and board members who do not have a connection to the assessed group. Over two-three sessions, each player will be given an average score based on the evaluation criteria. The assessors will also rank each player in a game situation. Once all of the scores are tallied, the teams will be divided by skill level and the coaches will then be assigned.
- Players wishing to be assessed as a goalkeeper need to make that clear through written communication with the Board or with the Assessment Committee members prior to the first evaluation.

## **Secondary Assessments:**

- Secondary Assessments will be used when deemed necessary. This may include multiple players having similar scores in the initial assessment rounds or where it cannot yet be identified which players should play at which skill level (referred to as

“bubble” players). This situation may be alleviated by having a secondary assessment and include players who also missed the initial assessments due to injury, illness, or other family based circumstance. The SCSA board will strive to create a Secondary Assessment that can be available to all players. The Secondary Assessment may include the same or similar assessment games and drills when possible.

## **Assessment Appeals:**

- Any parent, coach or player may appeal their assessment and/ or placement for any reason. In the event an appeal should be made, the individual will need to file a formal appeal (a formal document will be made available after the appeal is communicated verbally or in writing). The appeal must be made with the Assessment Chair. The appeal will be presented to both the Assessment Committee and the SCSA board for review and action. A follow up response can include appeal denial, player monitoring at practices and/or in games, and/or a Secondary Assessment of equally assessed players. A formal appeal will be followed by a formal process and response.

## **Playing Up:**

- A parent of a player may request that their player participate in an older age group's player evaluation. The request must be addressed to the board, in writing or via email, prior to the skills assessment dates. Participation in the skills assessment does not guarantee that player a position on the older age group's roster. The player must compete in both their age group's assessment and also the desired age group's assessments. Typically, a player must rank as one of the strongest players in the upper age division to be considered for a move.
- Playing up within SCSA will be allowed upon the recommendation of the SCSA coaching and assessment committee.

## **The Assessment Chair:**

- The Assessment Chair is the SCSA Board Member who is identified to perform all of the functions of the club's assessments. This individual builds the Assessment Committee, manages the scoring of the assessments, and is the board liaison for anything related to assessments. This individual will manage outreach to coaches for assessment feedback, parent questions or appeals, secondary assessments, and players who wish to play up. ALL flow of information between the assessments and roster decisions must go through the Assessment Chair.

## **The Assessment Committee:**

- The Assessment Committee members are all volunteers. The club has invited evaluators who have extensive coaching experience and/or playing experience – this includes soccer club coaches (past and/or present), college and high school coaches (past and/or present), college players (past and/or present), and licensed referees. Again - parents will not be allowed to evaluate, score, or coerce the scoring of their children.

The assessment guidelines can and will change in the future based on club growth and club reorganization, the inclusion of player development programs and/or hired positions.