

# ASA Travel Player Placement Process

Overview of Philosophy  
& Process



# ASA Travel Player Placement Philosophy

- ASA recognizes that players develop at different rates and at different times and therefore we evaluate players skill level via an objective assessment each spring
- Travel age players benefit from playing on teams of players with similar athletic ability and soccer skill
- ASA has one of the largest programs in the state. Therefore, ASA builds teams based on an “age pure” basis when possible

# History of changes to the Travel Placement Process

ASA is always looking to improve our player and team placement process. The following are some recent improvements:

- In 2005, ASA removed the D1 and D2 coaches from the placement committees, for their age group, in an effort to make the process as fair and objective as possible
- In 2005, ASA board members were removed from any involvement or discussions regarding the final roster decisions for their own child's age group
- In 2006, ECYSA instituted an 8 v 8 format for the U12 Age Group vs. an 11 v 11 format
  - This change has resulted in smaller rosters (e.g., 12 vs. 18 players) but in some cases more teams
  - When players move to U14, which uses an 11 v 11 format, there will be significant changes in both the number of teams as well as placement of players between teams

# Goals of the Travel Player Placement Process

- The primary goals of the travel player placement process are to:
  - Maintain a fair, objective and thorough process for assessing player's skills and abilities each year
  - Place each player on a team with players of similar soccer ability in order to promote individual development
  - Provide players with the opportunity to participate in the game of soccer at the appropriate level for the individual player
  - Assure that evaluation and placement decisions are made with the best interest of the individual player in mind

# Travel Placement Process Components

There are three main components of the ASA Player Placement Process:

- 1. The Player Assessment (previously called “Travel Tryouts”)**
  - This consists of 2 nights of small sided soccer games, skills and technique based drills, as well as scrimmages with qualified, unbiased evaluators assessing each player’s soccer skills and abilities
- 2. Coach Player Evaluations**
  - Each season coaches provide evaluations on each player. The Coach’s evaluations are a critical aspect of the process since coaches know their players best. It is imperative that coaches provide the player evaluations in a timely manner and that they include as much detail as possible on players ability in order to help the placement committees properly assess and place each player
  - Additionally, the placement committee can elect to interview the coach in order to assist with the player placement
- 3. Viewing of Games**
  - Players that require additional information in order to place them properly are viewed in games

# Gathering and Analyzing Information:

A Placement Committee is assigned for each age group that consists of ASA Board members and qualified ASA volunteers

***To assure unbiased and fair player placement, NO Committee member can have a child in the age group being evaluated***

- The Placement Committee is provided with the following information:
  1. The data from the “player assessment” compiled into spreadsheets that “rank” players based on their average tryout score
  2. The coaches evaluations which rank players on each team
- The Placement Committee reviews these two pieces of information to see where the assessment data and coach evaluation does not line up or there appears to be a discrepancy
- When there is a question as to where a player should be placed because they are on the border between two teams or because there is a discrepancy in the data, these players are viewed in games
- Coaches may be consulted for input on their players in order to help make the proper placement. AGC’s may be consulted for the U12 age groups.

# Team Formation

- After thorough and objective analysis of all information related to the players in the age group, teams are built by the Placement Committee
- The committee assesses the team strength for each team in their age group and recommends placement in one of three divisions in the Essex County travel league: Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3, with Division 1 being the most skilled
- Although ASA suggests team placement within ECYSA, we are not guaranteed the placement request and placements can change in the spring season based upon success and/or lack thereof in the fall season.

# Finalizing Travel Player Placement

- A separate ASA Board meeting is held to review all Placement Committee's recommendations on player placement and rosters at least 2 weeks prior to the ECYSA submission deadline
- Each age group Placement Committee presents their recommendations to the Board of Directors.
  - The board discusses and votes on approving the rosters proposed by the Placement Committee (s)
  - Board members do not participate in discussions or decisions regarding their own child's age group
- Once teams are approved by the ASA Board, the Travel Committee communicates the results to the respective coaches and a notification is mailed to the players informing them of which team they are on
- The coaches are then asked to contact each player directly