

WCSC Assessment/Tryouts Policy

Overview:

WCSC is moving to a panel model for the upcoming tryouts. The panel will allow for more data points on each player, and aid in the team selections based on the evaluation criteria. The team coaches will be given three lists: the list of players ranked 1, which are selected for the team; the list of players ranked 2, which are the pool from which the team coaches can select for the remaining team positions; and a list of players ranked 3, which will be released. For instance, on a roster of 18 players, the panel would select the first 12 and the team coaches would work with the panel for the remaining spots.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a fair, transparent, and structured approach to the player selection process during tryouts for the soccer club. The policy aims to identify players who exhibit the necessary skills, commitment, and potential to represent the club in various competitive age groups and divisions.

2. Assessment/Tryout Structure:

Tryouts will be organized for all eligible players wishing to participate in the club, with different sessions for various age groups. Each session will be evaluated by a panel of qualified coaches. The tryouts will focus on the following aspects:

- Technical skills (ball control, passing, dribbling, shooting)
- Tactical awareness (positioning, decision-making)
- Physical attributes (speed, strength, endurance)
- Psychological factors (attitude, work ethic, coachability)
- Team dynamics (communication, teamwork)

3. Eligibility:

- Players must be registered with the club before the assessment/tryout session.
- Players should meet the minimum age requirements for their respective age groups.
- Players who fail to attend the scheduled assessment/tryout sessions may not be considered for selection unless prior arrangements are made with the club.

4. Coaching Panel:

The coaching panel will be comprised of a mix of the following individuals based on availability during each assessment/tryout:

- WCSC Qualified Board Members, qualified Talons Coaches, and/or other qualified individuals

The coaching panel will:

- Observe and evaluate each player individually and within team settings.
- Rank players using a 1-2-3 system. Players ranked 1 make the team. Players ranked 2 will form the pool of players to be drawn from by the team coaches. Players ranked 3 will be released.
- Discuss player selections collectively to ensure fairness and consistency in evaluations.
- Provide feedback if requested to players on their performance during the tryouts.

5. Assessment/Tryout Format over two 1-hour Sessions:

- Warm-up
- Drills for individual skill assessments
- Small-sided or full-sided games and tactical drills to evaluate gameplay understanding, adaptability and team dynamics
- Finish with a fitness component

6. Evaluation Criteria:

- **Technical Skills:** Ball control, passing accuracy, dribbling technique, shooting ability, first touch.
- **Tactical Understanding:** Decision-making, positioning, vision, ability to read the game.
- **Physical Fitness:** Speed, stamina, strength, agility, overall fitness levels.
- **Teamwork, Coachability & Communication:** Ability to work with teammates, attitude toward coaches, effective communication on and off the field.

7. Selection Process:

- The coaching panel will meet after each assessment/tryout session to discuss player performances and compile evaluations.
- Players will be ranked based on their performance across all categories.
- The final decision on player selection will be made collectively by the coaching panel and team coaches, with the goal of no bias or favouritism.
- Players will be notified of their selection status via email within a specified timeframe (usually 7-10 days post-assessment/tryout).

8. Player Commitment:

- **Training & Matches:** Players who are selected must commit to attending regular training sessions, matches, and events as part of the team.
- **Code of Conduct:** Players must adhere to the club's code of conduct regarding behaviour, attitude, and teamwork.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Selected players and their families will be informed of any financial obligations, including registration fees, uniforms, and other costs related to participation.

9. Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the club's needs and standards and is aligned with any relevant regulations or best practices.

Approved; January 2, 2025