

EPSC Tryouts; The Details

What will the format on the field look like?

There is no on-site registration due to COVID-19

Players should arrive early, and warm up themselves so they are ready to start on time.
Bring a fully inflated ball (Size #4, 11-12U, size #5, 13-19U 2020-21 ages)
Water. Wear your EPSC grey training shirt if a returning player, 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.

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.

Goalkeepers will work with EPSC Goalkeeper trainer and then enter in to games.
GK trainer gives assessment, evaluators score in match.

Parents, please respect the process and stay off all grass surfaces 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 this is 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

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 such as 3 in a 1-5 scale 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 but we do produce a final score, averages as well as have record of who scored wht and by whom.

Player feedback is done by team 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!

There are no names in the system on site, only pinnie numbers.

All players are loaded in to the system and appear on the software as pinnie numbers 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.

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 30thst with invites going out July 31stst.
- We will update any changes to this.
- 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.

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

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.

Integrity

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 things tryouts, if it is NOT there or on our social media outlets, then it isn't a fact.

The process may not always be perfect to everyone as total player numbers and team levels dictate part of the placement 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 if a general question

Or

Tryout@EPSoccerClub.com with specific tryout questions

Thank you,
EPSC Staff

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