

# COACH AND PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

*LAMAR SOCCER CLUB*

## COACH SELECTION

The decisions made by Lamar Soccer Club (LSC) regarding coaches are a direct reflection of what we believe is in the best interest of the players of LSC. Each team has different coaching requirements depending on their age, level, and ability.

## NOTIFICATION

In early summer (if not sooner), LSC will notify all LSC members and current coaches via email and the LSC website to submit a coach's application (or team/coach intent form) to the Board of Directors (BoD) if they have an interest in coaching for the following year. At times, the same may be required between the fall and spring season, and LSC will pursue as necessary.

## COMPLETE APPLICATION

Complete the coaching application form (new coaches) or the coach and team plan form (returning coaches).

If a returning coach decides that he/she would like to coach the same team for another year, and if that coach has a clean record and is in good standing with LSC for that year, then they should be invited back to coach that team again. We are not in the habit of firing volunteer coaches.

## SELECTION GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

We make every effort to accommodate all coaching requests but are unable to satisfy every request noting each team can only have one head coach. We take into account:

- Completed coach's application
- License & Certification Level(s)
- Referee Level
- Administrative Abilities
- Reputation
- Past Experience
- Playing Experience
- Availability

## COACH SELECTION COMMITTEE

The coaches for LSC teams shall be selected by a committee headed up by the LSC President (President) who shall maintain managerial responsibilities for all LSC personnel whether volunteer or paid. This committee shall be composed of the President, Director of Training (DoT), General Manager(s) (GMs) of the group where the coach shall be placed, and up to two other LSC Members selected by the President with approval of the BoD.

# PLAYER SELECTION

## COMPETITIVE (DIV I & SUPER II) & ACADEMY / RECREATIONAL PLUS (DIV IV) PLAYERS

Teams will be formed in a single age group wherever possible.

### *EVALUATIONS*

Select team evaluations are at the discretion of the coach, GMs, and Soccer Operations Manager (SOM). Evaluations for these teams should be open to anyone wanting to play at this higher level where a team is available for their play. These will be held separately from general club evaluations, although a coach is welcome to attend the general club evaluations to see if any players might be able to make the select team.

Players who have played for a STYSA sanctioned team during the past year are not required to register with LSC in order to attend select evaluations. However, players who have not played in the past year must register for insurance purposes. A player must be registered with LSC in order to accept a spot on a select team.

All players within an age division are encouraged to attend the select team evaluations. Coaches are forbidden from advising players not to attend select team evaluations. All players should be encouraged by their current coach to play at their level of ability. No player should be held back at a lower level of play for selfish reasons.

### *PLAYER DRAFT SELECTION PROCESS*

Select team coaches will determine the number of players to be selected for the team and shall select the players for the team with the input of the SOM, DoT, and any other appropriate people.

Occasionally, there are exceptional younger players who would benefit themselves and a team by playing a team above their official soccer age group. When this is the case, the select coach will petition the board, through the GM, to add the player to his team. The President, Vice President, and GM will be responsible for notifying the player and the parents of other LSC select team opportunities. The board will then approve or disapprove the application to move the player up. There is no limit on younger players with select teams except as dictated by rules of play for the groups being played in.

## COMPETITIVE (DIV II) & RECREATIONAL (DIV III & DIV IV) PLAYERS

### *EVALUATIONS*

Player evaluations will be held per gender, division, and/or age at a date and time established by the SOM in cooperation with the respective coaches, DoT, and GMs.

The SOM or their designate will be responsible for organizing and holding player evaluations. Coaches will be asked to assist in the evaluation process as needed.

Players who have played for a STYSA sanctioned team (thereby being covered by STYSA insurance) during the past year are not required to register with the LSC in order to attend evaluations. However, players who have not played in the past year must register for insurance purposes. Players cannot be placed on a team until they are registered with LSC.

All players are encouraged to attend evaluations. Coaches are forbidden from advising players not to attend evaluations. All players should be encouraged by their current coach to play at their level of ability and attend all evaluations. No player should be held back at a lower level of play for selfish reasons.

All coaches and/or assistant coaches are urged to attend evaluations and team assignment meetings for their respective division(s).

#### *PLAYER DRAFT SELECTION PROCESS*

Team drafts/selections per grouping as determined by the GMs and Registrar will be held on a date, time, and location established by the GMs and Registrar.

A player who is not registered with the LSC at the time of the player draft will not be drafted or assigned to a team.

All coaches and/or assistant coaches are urged to attend the draft proceedings and be prepared to select players for their teams. Should a coach, assistant coach, or his designate not be in attendance at the draft, a team of players will be assigned by the GM after all other coaches have made their selections.

The quantity of players per team will be determined based upon the number of registered players per division. When possible, the number of players per team should be minimized by expanding the number of teams per division. The maximum number of players per team will not exceed that allowed by the governing body's play rules.

Teams will be formed by single age group wherever possible.

Returning coaches may "freeze" or protect from the draft up to half (half) rounded up plus one (1) of their team roster (ie, a team with 15 players the previous season can keep 9 (7.5 up to 8 plus 1) from the previous season's registered team provided they are registered with the club at the time of the draft. The returning coach must obtain concurrence from the player's parents to protect him/her in the draft. However, should a higher play level coach choose a "protected" player for his team, the existing coach should encourage that player to move up to the higher level of play.

No player will be traded or swapped between teams once he/she has been drafted without the approval of the LSC BoD. A coach may not add to his roster a player who registers late in the season without the majority (>50%) approval of the LSC BoD. Any player recruiting by any persons for LSC is done for the club and not for any individual team with the exception of players recruited for specific competitive (Div I & Div II (Super 2)) or academy teams.

Players requesting to move up to a team in the next age of play from their official soccer age level may petition the club, through the GM, to move up one age bracket. The President, SOM, and GM for that group will then approve or disapprove the application to move the player up. No player will be allowed to move up two levels of play or more from their established age group without approval from a majority (>50%) of the entire LSC BoD. It is the opinion of most established soccer groups and professionals that a player should only play at a higher age level if they are in the top seven (7) players of the next higher age group.

The highest bracketing and/or division teams shall have first selection of the players in the pool for the draft and may also look at protected players in the lower play-level teams. Players should be encouraged to play at the highest level for which they are selected and recommended.

In the event there is only one recreational team in an age group, players will be guaranteed a roster spot on the same team if:

- the player was registered to the team roster in the prior season
- the player is in good standing
- the player registered prior to the registration cost increase date or date specified on the registration website should the cost be flat during the registration period.

Once the cost increases, all registered players whether returning or not shall be rostered in the order in which they register.

Once a roster is full, players may be offered a training player registration at the coaches' and club's discretion.

Each year several inquiries are made as to why certain teams remain together while others are dismantled or "reorganized". This is the result of the aforementioned selection process which generally results with the higher ranked players remaining on the same team with little to moderate player changes. With that said, it is not unusual for the top tiered teams to drop and/or add 1 to 4 players. Most of the team "reorganization" occurs in the lower tiered teams which are selected based upon the evaluation criteria. Above all, ultimate consideration is given to the intended division, and thus talent level, for the team during the upcoming season. Thus, although 2 players may be friends and have played together for years, the team selection process, including the evaluations from coaches, GMs and other club personnel may dictate that the players be separated due to a difference in skill level.

LSC does everything in its power to create an enjoyable and educational experience for its players. We are hopeful that the parents and players understand the amount of time, effort and energy exerted by its directors and their designates in being as objective as possible with regard to team selection.

## TOURNAMENT TEAMS & PLAYERS

No tournament team shall be formed in any age group during any season unless there is a regular league team with a complete roster in the age group for the particular tournament team being formed. Any regular league team players may be invited to join a tournament team as long as it does not interfere with their primary registered teams' schedule at the discretion of the coach of the tournament team. Players from outside the club's registered players may be invited to join a tournament team if there are not enough otherwise registered players from within the club at the appropriate age and skill level to fill out the tournament team roster.