



# Northwestern Soccer

## Tryout and Selection Policy

<http://www.nyaatigers.org/soccer>

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Northwestern Soccer travel team tryout and selection process is to ensure that all players receive a fair opportunity to join a team of their peers possessing similar game skills.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS**

Tryouts are open to all U9 and older girls and boys. U9 through U12 teams play with 8 players on a “mid” sized field, nominally 150’ wide by 210’ long. These team rosters typically carry about 12 players with a maximum of 14. U13 and older play with 11 players on a “full” size field, nominally 210’ wide by 300’ long. These team rosters typically carry between 14 and 18 players with a maximum of 22.

#### **ROSTER SIZE**

The coach of each team will determine the number of players that they will carry on their roster.

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Participants living outside the Northwestern School District are welcome to participate in tryouts. These participants will be considered Associate NYAA members and will be considered for a team roster spot on a case by case basis. All considerations will conform to general NYAA Policies regarding Associate Membership. In addition to the NYAA Associate Member policies, Northwestern Soccer adds the following restrictions:

- 1) A small sided team may roster a maximum of 4 associate members
- 2) A full sized team may roster a maximum of 6 associate members

\* The maximum limits listed above may be waived but only if approved by both the Travel Coordinator AND the Soccer Director.

#### **THE TRYOUT PROCESS**

The tryout process is held once a year during the spring.

The tryout process consists of a minimum of two individual tryout sessions (weather and field permitting) for each age and gender. The results of these tryouts will determine the teams for the following soccer year (fall and spring seasons).

Participants are required to make at least one of the tryout sessions and are strongly encouraged to make both.

In the event an eligible player is identified, but unable to participate in the tryout process, the coach of the team may allow the player to be considered for a roster slot. This will be at the coach’s discretion.

#### **LOGISTICS**

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Northwestern Soccer will make reasonable efforts to publicize the tryout schedules to the general public using some combination of the Northwestern Soccer website, social media, mass e-mails, and local publications.

Each tryout session will last 1 - 2 hours. Players will be run through a series of drills, game situations, and small sided team play – all of which will be determined by the coach running that particular tryout session.

Northwestern Soccer views the use of independent evaluators as a best practice, but not a requirement, for the tryout process. Independent evaluators consist of third party trainers, coaches, and club members (all external to that particular team). No individual may fill the role of “independent evaluator” if their child is in consideration for that particular team.

## **TRYOUT DAY**

Parents must fill out the Tryout Registration Form and hand it in prior to tryouts. Participants should wear a shirt with a number on the back to allow for unique identification during the evaluation process. Current travel players must **NOT** wear their uniform jerseys. Players must wear appropriate workout clothes including spikes and shin guards.

Each tryout session will be different and the format will be determined by the coach running that tryout. The required skills and drills performed will be different at each age level.

## **TEAM SELECTION**

The number of teams formed at each age group will be determined by the number of volunteer coaches and qualified participants which enable Northwestern Soccer to enter the most competitive teams possible into the appropriate league(s). Teams will be formed based on skill level and there is no guarantee that a second or third team will be selected.

If multiple teams are to be formed for an age category, the soccer director and/or travel coordinator will determine the best team format, that is whether or not to build equal strength teams or graded teams.

Northwestern Soccer’s Recreation program offers competitive soccer for those who would like to work on their skills and try out again the following year, or for those who cannot or do not wish to commit to the year-round demands of Travel soccer. For more information on our Rec program please visit [www.nyaatigers.org/soccer](http://www.nyaatigers.org/soccer).

Participant results will be tallied by the coach of that particular team after the tryout sessions. Player selection will be determined through a combination of tryout results, and trainer/coach recommendations. Having previously played for a team does not guarantee a spot for the next season. The criteria used for judging a player’s ability is at the discretion of the teams coaching staff.

The head coach of the team will notify participants of their acceptance or rejection after the selections are made. This can be any time after the tryouts have been completed but no more than 2 weeks after the spring soccer season.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Northwestern Soccer Travel Program. We are a 100% volunteer organization and do our best to be fair, consistent, a balanced in this selection process. You may direct any questions, concerns, or comments to the Northwestern Travel Coordinator, Soccer Director, or the NYAA Board of Directors. Their contact information can be found on the NYAA website.

Northwestern Soccer is operated under the Northwestern Youth Athletic Association (NYAA). All NYAA by-laws also apply to the Northwestern Soccer program.

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