

# Team Placement/ Player Selection

CC United Competitive (traveling) teams play in leagues administered by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA)

With the goal of placing a team in an environment that is conducive to their ability the MYSA provides us with differing levels of play at different age groups. MYSA also recognizes the importance of development over results as standings are not recorded until the U11 age group. This document identifies age groups and playing levels that are available to our Kids' Club (listed highest to lowest) and the logic behind how we place teams.

U9/U10: Maroon and Gold

U11: Classic 2/ Classic 3

U12/U13: Classic 1/ Classic 2/ Classic 3

U14 – U19: Premier/ Classic 1/ Classic 2/ Classic 3

*CC United strives to create/earn 3 levels of play at the U12 age group, in preparation of when 11v11 begins at U13*

## **The Process**

The process of team placement at CC United starts at the U9 level where we typically strive to create two equal Maroon teams and as many equally divided Gold teams as possible. Every year the U9 age group is evaluated during tryouts, as the age group differs in development, to see if we can accommodate this structure. When we arrive at U10 after a season of competition and player evaluation we reevaluate the age group to either maintain, add or reduce the amount of Maroon teams. We then keep a balance between creating top level teams and maintaining healthy competition at the Gold level. At U11 a new league structure kicks in, and Maroon teams now become classic 2 and the Gold teams become classic 3. We then let MYSA's league structure with promotion and relegation take care of the rest.

MYSA's league structure contains promotion and relegation for the Competitive teams at the U12 and older age groups. If a team finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> place in their league or achieves 75% or more of their total available points for the season, then promotion will occur for that team, and that team slot within the age group will be moved up to a higher level of play. If a team finishes the season and does not achieve 25% of their total points, and if there is a league below, relegation will occur and that team slot within the age group will be moved down. Anything in the middle will mean that the team slot will remain at its level of play.

Please note that MYSA allows club Directors of Coaching to place teams in whatever league they deem appropriate up to the U13 age group (Known as "Self Selection"). At CC United we have deliberately chosen not to make use of this option as we believe that all age groups should

earn league placements for the following season. This means that if an age group has a team that gets promoted then it has done so through training and this success creates opportunity for player placement at a higher level for all.

While player movement between teams will occur, teams returning to MYSA's league structure at U12 and above will resume league play at the levels earned from the previous summer. All additional teams will be classified as new teams and will start play at the Classic 3 level.

## Fall Season

Fall is the first season in the new "Soccer Year". Players at CC United return to their teams and continue with their league status from Summer into Fall. This means that if their team earned enough points to stay, earned enough to get promoted or didn't earn enough so they were relegated they will return to that level in the fall. As Fall Competitive soccer is shorter and notably less intense, standings do not carry through for team placement for the following summer season.

One of the exceptions in fall team placement is the boys' side of the program. Many of the boys play football and we typically pick up a few baseball players. Each fall the boy's age groups are evaluated to see what team placement suits the level of players signed up to play.

One other exception is a dominating U9 Gold team with a strong returning roster as they move to U10. As promotion does not occur at U9-U10 the club may choose to play the team at the Maroon level for the fall.

## Player Selection

All player selection is done through the evaluation process

<http://files.leagueathletics.com/Images/Club/2237/Evaluation%20Criteria%20for%20Summer%202011.pdf>

Taking into consideration the knowledge gained from the process of team placement, the club then strives through player selection to create/earn levels of play to support the age groups ability. If the age group develops early and does not have the league placement slots to accommodate their ability (and if we have multiple teams at one specific level) at U12 and above we will strengthen one team to earn promotion. This will not be done at the expense of the other team's development, as they will be divided up equally with the goal of them remaining as competitive as possible. The goal of player selection is to create different levels of play by the time we reach the U13 age level. U13 is an important age-group as that is when at the teams first play full 11v11 soccer.

Occasionally this is a big problem area for parents to come to terms with, as all want their child to be placed on the team that is strengthened, as they can see a dominant season with plenty of result-based success. In this scenario for the aspiring soccer player it is deemed better for a

number of the stronger players to be placed on the equally divided teams as they will shine through the evaluation process by being one of the strongest players on an equally divided team instead of a battling (potentially average/low) player on a strengthened team. Their development will be increased as being a dominant player will lead to key playing roles. In this situation attitude and positivity from the player and all who surround them is a must and will be linked with what happens next.

**“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty”**

**-Sir Winston Churchill**

Players that are on a team that earns promotion are not guaranteed to move up the following season. They must earn their place through the player evaluation system. This makes any success achieved by a team something to be celebrated by the age group

Affecting player selection is the amount of players required to play a game at each age level. Competitive age groups have different amounts of players with the younger ones carrying less. Here are the numbers required to play a game at each age group and the roster sizes we look to carry (Number of registered players permitting)

U9/U10: 6v6 with an ideal roster of 9 players

U11/U12: 8v8 with an ideal roster of 10-11 players

U13-U19: 11v11 with an ideal roster of 14-16 players

***At CC United the higher level teams will carry a smaller roster to enable play up opportunities***

All player selection for returning players is determined after all the data from the evaluation procedure has been collected. New players who did not make the tryouts will be placed on a club-needs basis at the lowest level of play available with the exception of players who physically moved into our area after tryouts (see evaluation procedure). Ideally all players (if they work hard) will have the chance to earn opportunities to play occasional games on a higher level team.

## Fall Season

Players at CC United make teams for Summer and Fall of each calendar year. Player movement based on the evaluation procedure is considered for summer placement the following year with the exceptions of filling up fall rosters and newly formed U9 teams.

Note: Some players make the top team based on the evaluation process don't play in the fall season occasionally creating the following situation; A player that makes a high level Fall team may be moved down to a lower level team the following Summer if another player tried out and were ranked higher in the evaluation process, but did not play in the Fall.

The Fall Competitive season is only available for players in the U8-U14 age groups (U8's are eligible to play U9) as player numbers are too low at U15+ due to High School Soccer. As previously mentioned the Fall season is the first in the "Soccer Year" which runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> the following calendar year. Therefore a U9 Summer team will be a U10 Fall team, a U10 Summer team a U11 Fall team, etc. See *birth year guidelines*

<http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/leagues/birthyear.cfm>

As we move up in roster sizes or split former U8 and U9 players transitioning from Summer to Fall season some player movement does occur. Here is how each age group is put together

#### U9's –U10

As we have summer U9 teams that are split with U8 and U9 age level players the true summer U9's will move up to U10 and the former U8's will remain at U9 for the fall and following summer season. All player placements on these new U9 teams in the fall and following summer will be done through the evaluation process. The players that move up to U10 will play with their summer team mates and maintain the same level of play. If there are not enough players to form a team, we may either combine two teams of the same level or for the Maroon teams look to the evaluation process to fill (or temporary fill) spaces at this higher level.

#### U10's to U11's

At U11 as we move into MYSA's league structure (see the process above) players will return to the team that they played U10 with in the summer. At U11 as we move into larger fields and larger roster sizes some player movement likely will be needed and will be done (or temporary done) by the evaluation process

#### U12's to U13's

At U13 players will return to the team that they played with in the summer at U12. As we move into 11v11 and larger fields and roster sizes some player movement likely will be needed and will be done by utilizing the evaluation process