



Dracut Soccer Association

Single Year Team Proposal

April 23rd 2017

Overview and Scope

DSA proposes to modify the current two-tryout per year and resulting team changes to a single tryout at the beginning of the new season with fixed teams for the Fall and Spring season. This will result in several benefits for players and DSA including cost savings, no team changes purely to accommodate numbers, continuity for players and coaches from season to season and removes a significant workload for BOD members. This proposal outlines the current system, the proposed new system and suggested operating guidelines suitable for DSA. These guidelines are not intended to be exhaustive, but to provide an outline for further development.

Current System

The current system has two tryouts ahead of the Fall and Spring seasons. The tryout in May/June is considered to be the main tryout and involves all current players and new players moving from recreation soccer to travel soccer. This tryout typically runs for 2 or 3 sessions for each age group and is conducted by external evaluators. Ratings for each player are collected and in parallel, coaches are selected by the DSA travel sub-committee. This sets the teams for the upcoming Fall season. During the Fall season registration is re-opened and a second tryout is conducted, usually a single session for each age group in November, with existing and new players and new teams are created. The general aim of this tryout is to keep teams unchanged wherever possible and not to move players from one team to a lower team.

Proposed New System

The proposed new system removes the November tryout with teams being fixed after the May/June tryout for both the Fall and Spring seasons. The current November tryout is a significant expense and workload for BOD members where the aim is to leave teams unchanged if at all possible. This means that the tryout itself serves no purpose.

1. Registration

The current two registration approach would kept intact and allows returning players to sign up for their current team. The second registration period during the Fall would have a cut-off date beyond which any players not returning would lose their current place on their team. New players would be allowed to sign-up during the Fall registration period, but would not be guaranteed a spot on a team. DSA's Sportsmanager administration system can be used to manage registration in the same way it is done today. Coaches will also be notified of non-returning players for confirmation before the open rosters spots are offered to new signup players.

2. Tryouts

The tryout conducted in May/June for the following Fall/Spring season will remain the same as currently conducted with 2 or 3 sessions per age group carried out by a group of external evaluators with team placements being decided by the travel sub committee and any other appointees as directed by the DSA President and based on player ratings, previous coach inputs and any other relevant information.

3. New Player Placement Signing Up during the Fall Registration

If teams have open rosters spots as a result of players not returning from Fall to Spring these open spots will be available for new players that sign up during the Fall registration period. Placement of such players will be based on their previous DSA record and past team history, or if not available, any relevant soccer experience i.e another town or club participation etc. The team placement will be by majority vote of the travel sub-committee members. The minimum make-up of the voting committee would be the Travel Director, Travel Commissioners (2), Rec director and DSA VP and/or DSA President. A majority vote will be needed to place a player.

4. Movement of Existing Players from Fall to Spring

In order to address *grossly* misplaced players, i.e players that are significantly stronger than their teammates or significantly weaker than their teammates, the coach, or members of the travel subcommittee, can propose a player to be evaluated. This will be reviewed by the commissioner and the travel head director and the evaluation will consist of player observation and coach feedback. The player to be observed will need to be proposed no later than the middle of the Fall season in order to allow a sufficient number of games/practice sessions for observation and evaluation. Movement between teams will still follow the same rules as outlined in previously.

5. Comparison Between Current Approach and Proposed New Approach

There are many positive aspects to the new approach as well some potential differences that can be viewed as pros and cons. These are listed below and are open for discussion. The major challenge that a single tryout brings is placing players that join mid-season. However, in general this is not a significant number of players and can be handled per the approach outlined earlier. Moving to single year teams will also mean that players get a greater experience of youth soccer in the non-competitive Fall season and the more dynamic and competitive Spring seasons.

Pros:

- Eliminates need for November tryouts which means that DSA saves money.
- Players and coaches know where they are for the whole year.
- DSA know how many players and teams there are for the whole year.
- Players will no longer have weeks of unnecessary stress worrying about whether they will be moved off their current team between fall and spring.
- Eliminates the need to move players between fall and spring for purely number based reasons.
- Easier for coaches to build a team since they know they will stay together for both seasons.
- Allows the BOD members to focus on other, more beneficial club related activities.
- Doesn't change the current two registration approach so no financial impact to DSA families.

Cons:

- Players who prefer to play only the spring may not be able to do so – this affects only a handful of players and these players can still sign up mid-season, but there is a risk that there may not be a team spot.
- A player who has been seriously misplaced is not moved via a tryout, but via observation and evaluation by the DSA travel sub committee.

Summary

This proposal removes the current Fall tryout for teams going into the Spring and replaces it with a single year single team approach where teams are fixed for both the Fall and Spring seasons. This has multiple benefits to the teams and to DSA including team stability, unnecessary workload for DSA volunteers running a Fall tryout and cost savings.