

Information on Changes to MYS Tryout Process

To Parents and Players interested in the MYS Travel Soccer Program:

Coming this May, the club will be holding tryouts for its Travel Soccer Program. We have made a few changes to our tryouts process this year and wanted to let you know this information and our rationale.

- 1) For each age group, we will hold two (instead of three) tryouts. Each coach will have the prerogative of scheduling a third tryout or inviting select players to an upcoming practice in that age group should they deem necessary.
 - a. Rationale 1: We are getting in line with the norm as most other clubs only hold 2 tryouts.
 - b. Rationale 2: Our coaches have shown that by the third tryout they have a strong idea of their selections, so conducting two tryouts makes more sense.
 - c. Rationale 3: Tryouts require cancelling a lot of our teams' practices. With one fewer tryout, we will be able to give field space and practice time back to our teams allowing our players and coaches more development time than previous years.
- 2) For the U18-U19 age groups, we will not hold tryouts. Instead, coaches may invite outside players to their normal practices to evaluate.
 - a. Rationale 1: By this age there are generally very few changes to rosters, so holding multiple tryout sessions was deemed not necessary.
 - b. Rationale 2: Evaluating players during a practice session will result in fewer cancellations of regular practices and more field time for teams to practice.
- 3) For the U9-12 age group, we will hold "Placement Sessions" for aligning players with a travel soccer team in their age group
 - a. Rationale 1: Tryouts for all ages, but especially the young players can be highly stressful so we hope that calling it "Placement Sessions" it will help relax the players so they can better enjoy the process.
 - b. Rationale 2: It is our goal that current McLean travel soccer players can be kept on a team in the club – although the specific team can change each year based on their development and growth as a soccer player. Thus, it is really a "placement" as opposed to tryout.

We hope these outlined changes enhance the process our players experience when looking to play in the McLean Travel Soccer Program. We strive for the most positive experience and outcome for all of our players and to ease some of the stress that can come at this time of year. If you have any questions, please contact traveladmin@mcleansoccer.org.
