



# South County Youth Soccer Club Competitive Tryout Approach

## 1. Purpose

South County Youth Soccer Club offers a competitive program which aims to develop successful, competitive teams and successful, competitive players.

The purpose of the tryout process is to provide all players with a fair opportunity to join a team of their age group and skill group peers. This Competitive Tryout policy outlines the guidelines and protocol for competitive tryouts and evaluation.

## 2. Objectives

To form the strongest teams in each age group while encouraging individual player development. To do this we intend to:

- Evaluate players using consistent criteria.
- Group players with similar skills together to form a team, ensuring age-appropriate placements.
- Place teams in an appropriate competitive division where the players will be challenged, experience growth, and build confidence.

## 3. Competitive Team Programming

Our competitive program participates in Super Liga, a Soccer RI Sanctioned club-level season-long tournament. Super Liga consists of gender specific competition based on skill level at Anchor (A-level), Classic (B-level), and Rhody (C-level) divisions. Players will be selected for SCYSC competitive teams aligned to the A/B/C Super Liga divisions based on skill level and age-based groups as numbers permit. All players are encouraged to participate in our SCYSC Recreational Program regardless of competitive selection.

- **Coaching:** Each team is assigned a volunteer Head Coach and volunteer Assistant Coach.
- **Practice Frequency/Duration:** Once/twice a week, 60-90 minutes. Players are encouraged to participate in supplemental programming.
- **Programming:** A full season commitment to competitive soccer typically includes:
  - Fall and Spring league play
  - Weekly outdoor Technical Training during Spring/Fall
  - Weekly team practices during Spring/Fall
  - Winter indoor training opportunities, including Friday Night open play
  - Tournament play (SCYSC Seaside Classic plus one other)
  - All Competitive players may also play Rec at no additional cost
- **Uniforms:** All new competitive players must purchase uniforms.

#### 4. Age Groups and Eligibility:

All current and new players interested in joining a team must attend tryouts. Our objective is to form boys/girls teams per age group starting with U7/U8. The following formats are followed according to age bracket of play:

PLAYING LEVEL	BIRTH YEAR	PLAYING FORMAT
U8	2017-2018	4v4
U9	2016	7v7
U10	2015	7v7
U11	2014	9v9
U12	2013	9v9
U13	2012	11v11
U14	2011	11v11
U15	2010	11v11
U16	2009	11v11
U17 - U19*	2008-2006	11v11

**Team formation:** In general, first consideration is given to skill level and matching abilities. While consideration may be given to keeping existing teams (from prior seasons) together, new players and those demonstrating improvement will be given a fair evaluation. Placement on a prior year team is no guarantee of future team placement. Players will be encouraged to play in their designated age group where possible. If there are enough players, multiple teams will be formed, resulting in A, B, and C teams. Coaches are not to contact players directly to discuss team selection ahead of team assignments. Team assignments will be made by the Competitive Director and/or Competitive Subcommittee. As a guideline, relegation of singular players from one team to a lower-level team will be avoided wherever possible.

**Playing “Up”:** If a player is evaluated and deemed to have the skills necessary to “play up,” the following criteria must be met:

- Parental consent
- Opening is available for the additional player (and will not displace another player within their own age group)
- Approval from the Competitive Director

## 5. Tryout Logistics:

Players wishing to participate on a competitive team must pre-register and attend tryouts on the published dates. Tryouts are organized and supervised by the Competitive Director.

**Attendance:** Players unable to attend a tryout must submit a waiver request in writing to the Competitive Director, no later than 7 days prior to the start of tryouts. Waiver requests must include a reason for not attending the tryout. Players wishing to join a team after tryouts have passed or mid-season must also contact the Competitive Director.

**Evaluations:** SCYSC will use unbiased evaluators to evaluate players with a standard set of criteria. This criteria includes:

- Performance from the on-field evaluations at tryouts.
- Coach evaluations conducted by SCYSC Head and Assistant Coaches from prior seasons (if applicable)
- Previous game and training performances (if available)
- The discretion of the Competitive Program Committee

During tryouts, only registered players and evaluators will be allowed on the field of play. Players will receive numbered bibs to ensure evaluators can accurately identify players and document results. The tryout will feature various skills and game play stations. At the discretion of the Competitive Program Committee, players may be invited to participate in a call-back tryout for further evaluation. These callbacks will be scheduled approximately two weeks following the initial evaluation.

**Team Formation Timelines:** Following tryouts and potential callbacks, the Competitive Program Committee will collaborate with prospective coaches and parents to solidify rosters. This process does take a few weeks, the goal for final team formation is by the end of June.

**Registration:** Registration fee includes two seasons of play (Fall and Spring) in the competitive league Super Liga, local team practices at minimum 1x per week, weekly group technical training in the fall and spring, popular Friday night "open play" in the winter months at WWIS, indoor pre-season spring training in Feb/March at WWIS, opportunity for team to enter in SRI Cup (U11+) or SRI Festival (U8-U10) tournaments, Seaside Classic tournament in July and one additional local tournament reimbursement. Players that receive a competitive placement email will receive a link for registration at that time. Players will be given a deadline by which to register.