

COMPETITIVE

A GUIDE TO TRYOUTS AND PLAYER SELECTION

As ***coaches***, tryouts will always be the most difficult part of the season. We must make decisions that are controversial. please don't lose site of our club goals in favor of your personal growth. However, tryout decisions and player selections are, and must remain, the coaches' decision.

As ***players***, tryouts will always be the most difficult part of the season. Do your best and are prepared for the worst. Louisville Soccer will do everything that we can to help you progress as a player and team member. Just remember that the team is much bigger than you and your own age group. Even if you make the team, you may not be all smiles. Sometime your best friend may have been cut. It is never easy to see a player that may have been involved with a team for many years being passed over for a new player. It is an unfortunate circumstance that sometimes occurs. Of course, if it was you that was not selected for the team that you hoped for, you must deal with the more direct feeling of rejection. Just know that some other coach will need your talents.

As ***parents***, tryouts will always be the most difficult part of the season. They are full of anxious moments and strange feelings. If your child makes the team, you are very happy until you realize that you must also take a child home in your carpool that did not make it. You must deal with the feeling of helplessness. You know beyond a shadow of a doubt that your child was good enough to make the team, but the coach did not see it that way. What can you do? How do you respond to your neighbor whose child did not make the team when you are full of joy because your son or daughter did?

Don't lose sight of the overall club goals and needs while you try to protect your child. As parents, you have a strong temptation to become defensive in order to protect those who are closest to us without giving much thought to the bigger picture. So, like your son or daughter, come to the tryouts optimistic and hopeful but be prepared for the alternative if faced with it. Be ready to be very calm and cool no matter what the outcome. We don't want to be too excited when our next-door neighbor is struggling with not making it and we don't want to show dismay because we aren't happy with a decision, we think is incorrect.

Louisville Soccer goes to great lengths to get the best coaches and soccer educators to work with our club. Please note the two words used above, "educators" and "coaches". The two words are

different. Not all coaches are educators and not all educators are coaches. We try to place our people where they best fit. This holds true for coaches as well as players.

So please understand tryouts are a very difficult process. The decisions that we have to make may not always be clear to everyone and it is impossible to make everyone happy. It takes many different styles and types of players to make a team. The decision to leave one child off a roster in favor of another could be easily reversed the next year by a new or different coach. Even the same coach may see that a player has grown or changed in the last year, so never give up!

The most important thing is to know that Louisville Soccer is trying to do what is best for the majority of the players that come to our tryouts while growing the sport that we all love.

Good luck during what is a very anxious period for all involved!