

KENNEBUNK SOCCER CLUB TEAM FORMATION POLICY

Team Formation & Player Rostering:

The primary underlying goal of the Kennebunk Soccer Club during the formation of teams is the maximum development of the soccer player, the athlete, and the person. The KSC board believes that players will develop at a faster rate when they are optimally challenged. Therefore, the Kennebunk Soccer Club strives to field teams which are as “skill-balanced” and as competitive in each age and gender group as possible. Each KSC team will be placed in a competitive division (where applicable per SoccerMaine) so that appropriate challenges for each group can be met. Players will be rostered per the following guidelines:

U9 and U10

As per SoccerMaine and US Youth Soccer guidelines, this age bracket is "non-results oriented". Therefore, assignments will be made in order to produce teams of similar skill level. In the event that the number of registered players allow for the creation of more than 1 team per age group, roster formation will be based on even distribution of the players based on the evaluation scores between the 2 or more teams. The evaluation scores will be used to create teams as close to “balanced” as possible. KSC will follow SoccerMaine guidelines, limiting the roster at this group to 12 players (ideal goal 10 players/team).

Based on the number of players evaluating, and the individual evaluation scores of said players, the KSC Board reserves the right to counsel parents and players to consider additional experience at an alternative soccer program level before pursuing travel soccer. This measure is designed to ensure that all players evaluated will receive the most rewarding experience in soccer, regardless of where they play, allowing for maximum individual development within the game.

KSC intends that at the U-9/U-10 level, the coaching will be geared towards the development of individual (technical) skills, introducing and expanding basic concepts of the game of soccer, and promoting approaches and behaviors which enhance each player's enjoyment of the game and their club experience.

U11

This group also falls under the non-results oriented designation per SoccerMaine and US Youth Soccer. Therefore, assignments will be made in order to create teams of similar skill level. In the event that the number of registered players allow for the creation of more than 1 team, roster formation will be based on even distribution of the players based on the evaluation scores between the 2 or more teams. The evaluation scores will be used to create teams as close to “balanced” as possible. KSC will follow SoccerMaine guidelines, limiting the roster at this group to 14 players (ideal goal 12 players/team).

Players will be assigned and rostered in an equal distribution system based on evaluation scores. In the event that more than 1 team can be created, all positions of the team will be assigned based on the evaluations. The 2 or more teams created will, if possible, be of equal size. The KSC Board reserves the right to counsel parents and players to consider additional experience at an alternative soccer program level before pursuing travel soccer in the setting of significant evaluation score variance. Ensuring each player, regardless of where they play, a rewarding and skill development focused experience in soccer is the primary goal.

Coaching will be geared towards individual (technical) skill development and enhancement, further understanding of soccer concepts, and promoting approaches and behaviors which enhance each player's enjoyment of the game and their club experience.

U12

As per SoccerMaine and US Youth Soccer guidelines, competitive, results oriented play begins at this age bracket. KSC still, however, emphasizes player and team development. All efforts will be made by the KSC Board to field a minimum of 1 Challenge Cup League team. If, in the opinion of the Board and Coach, this is not in the best interests of the players or the team, the team will be designated to the Anthem Cup League to ensure optimal player development. Alternatively, if the level of play, in the opinion of the Board and Coach, warrants, the team may be fielded in the Fall Champion's League.

KSC will follow SoccerMaine guidelines, limiting rosters to a maximum of 14 players. The KSC Board retains the ability, with input from the Coach, to field a team with fewer players if there is significant variation of player evaluation outcomes in order to field the most competitive team possible. The maximum roster limit outlined by SoccerMaine does not serve as a mandate; if there are 14 or more players who evaluate, the team created will be a maximum of 14 players in size based on evaluations.

The ideal team size is 12 players. In this level, there may be "cuts", with players referred to an alternative soccer program for continued growth and development. Alternatively, when appropriate (as determined by coach with KSC board approval), a player may be asked to practice with the KSC team a "training" player while pursuing additional playing opportunities at an alternative soccer program.

Players will be assigned and rostered in a pure "rank order" system. This "rank order" will be calculated utilizing player evaluation scores, coach evaluation scores, and input from the most recent coach (where applicable). In the event that more than 1 team can be created, the first 9 positions of the first team will be assigned based on the evaluations. The remaining positions on the roster will be based on coach preference from a pool of qualified players. The 2 or more teams created will, if possible, be of equal size. The above process will continue until all players have been rostered or referred to an alternative soccer program.

Coaching will be geared towards individual (technical) skill development and enhancement, further understanding of soccer concepts (tactical development), and promoting approaches and behaviors which enhance each player's enjoyment of the game and their club experience. As this level is results oriented, additional focus is placed on match outcome.

U13 & U14

Also a result oriented age group. KSC still, however, emphasizes player and team development. All efforts will be made by the KSC Board to field a minimum of 1 Challenge Cup Team. If, in the opinion of the Board and Coach, this is not in the best interests of the players, the team will be designated to Anthem Cup level to ensure optimal player development. Alternatively, if the level of play, in the opinion of the Board and Coach, warrants, the team may be fielded in the Fall Champion's League.

KSC will follow SoccerMaine guidelines, limiting rosters to <18 players. The KSC Board retains the ability, with input from the Coach, to field a team with fewer players if there is significant variation of player evaluation outcomes in order to field the most competitive team possible. The maximum roster limit outlined by SoccerMaine does not serve as a mandate; if there are 18 or more players who evaluate, the team created will be a maximum of 18 players in size based on evaluations.

Ideal team size is 15 players. At these levels, there may be "cuts", with players referred to an alternative soccer program for continued growth and development. Alternatively, when appropriate (as determined by coach with KSC board approval), a player may be asked to practice with the KSC team as "training" players while pursuing additional playing opportunities at an alternative soccer program.

Players will be assigned and rostered in a pure "rank order" system. In the event that more than 1 team can be created, the first 12 positions of the first team will be assigned based on the evaluations. This "rank order" will be calculated utilizing player evaluation scores, coach evaluation scores, and input from the most recent coach (where applicable). The remaining positions on the roster will be based on coach preference from a pool of qualified players. The 2 or more teams created will, if possible, be of equal size. The above process will continue until all players have been rostered or referred to an alternative soccer program.

Coaching will be geared towards further refinement of individual technical skill, advancement of the tactical aspects of the game, and promoting approaches and behaviors which enhance each player's enjoyment of the game and their club experience. These are results oriented levels, and additional focus will be placed on match outcome as well.

Playing Up:

As a general rule, it is the policy of the KSC Board to formulate teams based that are fully "age appropriate". There are, however, situations, where a player may be

considered for roster assignment with the next age bracket (“playing up”). These include but are not limited to:

- ☒ Skill Based – a player who possesses the required technical skill set to play in an age group above their own may be asked to advance
- ☒ “Grade Appropriate” – a player may be asked to advance to an age group above their own based on being “grade appropriate” for the next age bracket
- ☒ Sibling Request – a player with a sibling in an older age bracket may be considered for advancement

In any of the situations outlined above, the decision to advance a player will be a multifaceted process based on collaborative efforts with input from the most recent Fall Coach (where applicable), consultation with the family (player and parents), validation of the evaluation scores within the “new” division, accepting Coach recommendation, and Board approval. As the evaluation scores within the “new” division are an integral part of the decision process, the player may be asked to evaluate with the “new” age group for which they are being considered.

The KSC Board recognizes that there is no way to allow for all possible variations when creating a Team Formation Policy. As such, the KSC Board reserves the right to utilize its best judgment and discretion when formulating rosters and assigning players in a fashion that maximizes the potential for individual player development. The “intent” of the policy (maximized player and team development across the technical and tactical spectrum), however, will remain the guide post for the actions of the KSC Board with regard to this matter.

The KSC Board will review this "working document" each year and make changes which it believes will best serve its constituents.