

GSSA TEAM FORMATION POLICY

YOUTH RECREATIONAL

Approved: July 14, 2025

I. ADHERENCE TO NTSSA BYLAWS FOR TEAM FORMATION

1. GSSA follows the North Texas State Soccer Association Bylaws and Rules, specifically NTSSA Chapter 4.7 Recreational Team Formation Rules.
2. Age group Commissioners are responsible for the development of the team rosters. Commissioners will follow the process in accordance with the Recreational Team Formation Rules.

II. GSSA TEAM FORMATION POLICIES

1. In order to form a team roster, each player must be completely registered and in the system.
2. Age groups are designated by the year of birth of the player.
3. Players will be placed in priority based on registration timestamp and their player status with the following priority order:
 - a. Returning Same Team
 - b. Open Draw
 - c. New Player
4. Players who register during the wait list period of registration may lose their priority status as designated above and may be considered a “new player” for team formation purposes
5. Returning players are automatically placed on their previous team if there are enough players to form that team. Returning players may return to their team for one calendar year as long as there is roster availability and the team still exists.
6. Any returning player can request “Open Draw” and will be placed on a different team.

7. Players skipping more than one season are placed in the “Open Draw” pool.
8. Players from the Open Draw pool are placed based on “Public School District Elementary Zone”: Due to factors such as different numbers of players from each school, players from different schools may be placed on the same team. Additionally, to help make the team formation process unbiased and maintain fairness across all team rosters, there will be a degree of randomness and therefore a player may be on a different team than his/her neighbor, even if they are of the same age. This team formation process promotes objectivity and allows a timely completion.
9. Academy Players: playing in recreational teams: Academy players may select to play recreational soccer only up to U10 age category with the following exceptions.
 - a. Each team may have no more than four Academy players on their rosters; a former Academy player will be considered an “Academy Player” if they were still an active Academy player the previous season).
10. Buddy Requests: In order to promote soccer participation, all players may make a “buddy request.” There are “No Guarantees” for this request.
 - a. Buddy requests from returning players who are inviting a friend who was not registered with any Member Association during the last 2 seasons will be given priority.
 - b. Coaches are prohibited from guaranteeing roster spots to new players.
 - c. Buddy requests have a higher likelihood of being granted if on a territorial basis around the nearest elementary school to their home or relative of family.
 - d. Only one buddy may be requested.
 - e. Linking requests between multiple player registrations WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. Buddy requests between two players may be considered.
 - f. Abuse of the buddy request may result in placement denied or registration invalidated.
11. Play Up Requests: Play up requests are based on availability at the older age groups after all players at their age group have been placed. A player may request to play up one age group only. The request will be approved if the player playing us is returning to their team, but may not be approved if the player requests an open draw to another team. A play up request IS NOT GUARANTEED to be approved.

- a. Exception: A younger sibling may request to play up two age groups to play with an older sibling. The request will only be honored if there is space on the roster and it does not disrupt the team forming process.

12. Play down Requests: A player may request to play down in age group but must have each of the following:

- A letter of request from the parent or guardian.
- Must present a Doctor's recommendation letter.
- GSSA board approval.
- NTSSA approval.

:

13. Once the rosters become final, players will not be changed to another team for any reason. The only changes that will be made to the rosters are to add/drop players. Adding players must follow the age commissioner's team formation rule process.

14. Request to be an Assistant Coach may be considered on an existing team up to two assists following the NMCSL limit of three volunteers on a side during games for U9 and above only. There is a limit of 2 volunteers on a side during games for U8 and below. The placement of an Assistant Coach's player will comply with the team's existing territorial basis around the nearest elementary school to their home.

15. A team not formed of players assigned as defined above is considered a select/competitive team and will need to request entry into the GSSA designated competitive program through the written request and decision by the GSSA Board.

16. New players may be added after the beginning of the season at the discretion and approval of the Age Group Commissioner and President if there is available roster space.

17. If a player is registered with incorrect data, that may affect the player's team formation priority and placement. GSSA is not responsible for discovering registration errors.