



Nebraska State Soccer Team Formation Policy

At no time shall a player be offered pay or incentive for participation that would violate the Ted Stevens Act.

Affiliated members will have a documented and published team formation policy consistent with the following guidelines: At the time of formation of a team, the Affiliate Member must declare if the team will be registered on a yearly registration (soccer year) or seasonal registration (fall season or a spring season) basis.

- a) Teams may register on a yearly or seasonal basis. Once a player registers to the Affiliate Member, they are committed for that upcoming soccer year, except for the reason explained below in Player Participation. If Affiliate Member collects fees for the year, they will need to refund any fees for programs that have not started if the player leaves the team or transfers to another Affiliate Member.
- b) Players will not participate with any team from another Affiliate Member until they are registered and/or transferred to that team or have permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.
- c) Affiliate Members cannot invite or contact non-members for any activities without permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.
- d) 8U and younger teams must be formed on a random basis using school district, zip codes, friend request, or any similar basis.
- e) 9U and older teams can be formed place players by ability as long as there is not a tryout where players are evaluated and then cut, and the Affiliate Member makes a good faith effort to place all players that register. Ideally, Affiliate Members would evaluate players during the previous season of play or during a camp or academy setting.
- f) Penalty: Any Affiliate Member holding a team formation event and does not follow the team formation policy will be subject to up to a \$1,000 fine and/or suspension, up to two years' probation and will not be allowed to advertise their team formation events for a minimum of one year with Nebraska State Soccer. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

Player Participation in Team Formation Events

Players do not need permission from their current Affiliate Member to participate in a Team Formation Event with another Affiliate Member during team formation.

Affiliate Members not holding team formation events may register players prior the Team Formation commencement date when the Affiliate Member Organization has an earlier registration, but no earlier than May 1 of each year. Any player rostered to a non-tryout team may still explore opportunities with other Affiliate Members for the following seasonal year during the Team Formation Period for the respective age group under the provisions of these rules and may opt to play for a tryout team without a transfer during that time period.

Penalty: Any Affiliate Member or any of their members that violate this section will be subject to up to a \$500 fine and/or suspension, and up to one-year probation. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

Team Formation Events

A team formation event is any activity, other than a sanctioned game, whose intent is to form a team for the upcoming soccer year or offer players a spot with Affiliate member.

Affiliate members who plan to form teams by tryout must follow this policy.

Players do not need permission from their current Affiliate Member to participate in a Team Formation Event with another Affiliate Member during this period.

Starts on the date(s) set by the Board of Directors and will end for a player once they register with a member. Date will be set no later than the AGM. Affiliate Members may only schedule Team Formation Events or hold open training sessions after the dates set by the board. Sanctioned games are not a Team Formation Event.

Affiliate Members may contact their current players and parent/legal guardians anytime. Prior to, or during, the commencement of team formation for the age group, coaches cannot contact any player or parent/legal guardian of any other Affiliate Member, by any means (e.g., verbally, electronically) unless the player and their parent/legal guardian has first initiated contact or that player has shown interest in that club by attending the club's team formation event.

Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject suspension and probation. If a parent/legal guardian violates this section, the player of the parent/legal guardian will also be subject to the same suspension. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

Offers & Acceptance

Offers can be made any time after the start of team formation for the team's perspective age group. All registrations will only be considered valid once they are in writing. Offers can only be made to players who have registered for a club's tryouts. Once a player has accepted a written offer and signed the offer, they are committed to that club for the new season.

Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject to up to one-year suspension of the individual, up to \$1,000 fine to the club and/or individual. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

Player Commitment

A player is considered committed for an entire seasonal year to an Affiliate member the moment the player (or for a player less than 18 years of age, the player's parent/legal guardian or guardian) personally or electronically signs the Affiliate Member's registration form and submits a portion of, or the full amount of the fees required by the Affiliate Member. If the player qualifies for a scholarship, once they sign the registration and give written acceptance of the scholarship, they are considered registered.

A committed player may not play for another member organization unless they have permission from their registered member organization or are granted a release from the Affiliate member.

Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section (e.g., player going to another Affiliate Member practice without permission) will be subject to minimum of a 3-month suspension and up to two years' probation. This can apply to both the player and parent/legal guardian, and the coach/club. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

Member organizations, clubs or teams shall provide players and the parents or guardians of players with information regarding the restrictions on changing affiliates, clubs, or team's registration during the seasonal year. This information shall be clearly indicated on the registration or commitment form or an attached document.