

9.0 ASSA Competitive Team Formation

9.1 Tryouts

Formation of all ASSA competitive teams, except for 19U teams that are allowed to be formed under the 19U Section below, shall be accomplished through the registration of selected players by the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at annual tryouts to be held pursuant to this section.

No player may be registered to any new competitive team/club who has an outstanding financial obligation or commitment to another competitive team/club, as determined by the current competitive team/club in the current seasonal year. Outstanding financial obligations or commitments shall result in the player being considered to be in bad standing. It will be each competitive team/club's responsibility to notify the player(s)/parent(s)/legal guardian(s) that a financial obligation or commitment is outstanding and that the player's status will be reflected as being in bad standing until such time as the financial obligation or commitment has been resolved to the satisfaction of the competitive team/club seeking such redress.

Players that are receiving a scholarship from the competitive team/club are responsible for repaying the training fees only for the current year's written agreement between the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)/player(s) and the competitive team/club, as well as any other competitive team/club fees that have been identified within the agreement and/or contemporaneously agreed upon in writing with said agreement.

Registration of a player requires the submission to the club or team official of the following:

- 1) A completed USYS Membership form signed by any player 18 years old or older, or by any younger player's parent or legal guardian; and,
- 2) Payment of the club's registration fee (or documentation of a club registration fee scholarship). This includes all methods of on-line registration approved by the club.

The Arkansas Classic Committee (ACC), with assistance of the ASSA's Director of Coaching (DOC), shall determine the Annual Tryout Structure. **The "Signing Period" for players will begin on the Saturday following completion of the State Championship Tournament.**

Eligible players ("Free Agents") to sign during the Signing Period include:

- 1) Any player currently registered with the club for the previous year,
- 2) Any player from another club whose team has finished their seasonal and tournament year, including participation in any US Youth Regional or National competitions,
- 3) Any player not currently registered with an ASSA competitive team; or,
- 4) Any player who has been released by their club for the previous year by mutual agreement of the player and the club.

Notwithstanding the above, the following limitations also apply with respect to the timing of the signing of certain players:

- 1) Any player that is participating in a US Youth Regional or National event may NOT sign with another club until completion of the USYS competition. This includes President's Cup and USYS National Championship play. However, the player MAY re-sign with the current club on the Saturday following completion of the State Championship Tournament; and,
- 2) Teams that continue into USYS Regional and National play may not sign players from another club until their team has completed their Regional and/or National competition.

PLEASE NOTE: A player participating in a USYS Youth Regional or National event may tryout for another club prior to completion of the player's USYS competition; HOWEVER, the player may not actually sign with another club until that player's USYS competition has finished. A player may sign with only one (1) competitive team/club during any time of the seasonal year so it is imperative that the player delay signing with another club until the USYS competition is over, otherwise the player and/or team could be declared ineligible for the USYS competition or forfeit games in which that player improperly participated due to double rostering.

9.2 Registration

Registration of players, coaches, and teams will be handled in accordance with the ASSA Registration Policies and will remain in place until the completion of the last USYS event for which that team is eligible.

All players are deemed "Free Agents" for the purpose of recruiting AFTER the last USYS event for their current team (i.e., President's Cup, State Championship, Regionals, etc.). Once a team has completed the USYS competition and the player has completed his/her USYS competitions for the current season (i.e. the "Signing Period"), team officials may make unsolicited contact with players, their parent(s), and/or legal guardian(s), including phone calls, in-home visits, emails, etc. to Free Agents; however, all contact must cease once a player has registered with another team or the player, the player's parent(s), or the player's legal guardian(s) request that such contact ceases. It will be considered illegal recruiting for any team official, or any registered players or their parent(s)/legal guardian(s), to attempt to recruit a player after a player has registered to another ASSA competitive team.

Prior to the start of the Signing Period, no players shall be directly contacted by any team official (including players, players' parent(s), and players' legal guardian(s)) regarding tryouts for team formation except by public notices. Direct contact shall include contacts in person or by telephone, fax, e-mail or mail. This provision is not intended to prohibit a head coach from discussing tryouts with their own players/parents/legal guardians who are already registered with that team.

The only way a player may receive direct contact outside the above referenced parameters is with the prior consent of the team coach or director of the club for which the player is currently registered.

No player may be selected or registered for an ASSA competitive team for the upcoming year by any coach or club prior to the start of the above described Signing Period.

Up to two (2) 10U age players may register and be rostered to play on an ASSA competitive team. Any other player that does not qualify under USYS guidelines for an 11U or older age group will not be allowed to register for any ASSA competitive team without prior approval from the ACC. 10U age players and younger may not club pass onto an older competitive team.

All ASSA competitive teams shall be formed as follows:

- 1) Team formation will consist of the number of players on the field plus two:
 - A) 11U and 12U 9v9 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 16 players.
 - B) 13U through 19U 11v11 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 13 and a maximum of 22 players (with only 18 being allowed on each game day roster).

- 2) Players may be freely registered and added to a team roster after the Registration Deadline and proper registration of an ASSA competitive team, so long as the player has not already registered with another competitive team for the current seasonal soccer year.

9.3 Special 19U Team Formation

Recognizing the special needs and challenges of forming 19U teams (often primarily comprised of players attending college and not able to participate in the Competitive League), ASSA clubs may form 19U ASSA competitive teams, at any time after January 1 until one (1) week prior to the roster freeze date set by ASSA State Championship rules for participation in the Arkansas State Championship of each seasonal year. Clubs may form 19U teams comprised of 19U (or younger) players not already registered on an ASSA competitive team as of the date of such player's registration with the 19U team. In order for teams formed through the special 19U team formation period to be registered with ASSA, the team's club must register the players and team through GotSoccer prior to the established deadline.