

## Ames Soccer Club (ASC) U5 – U10 Team Formation Policy

### Preamble

This policy reflects the Club's desire to form teams in a fashion that respects the children's best interest and complies with Iowa Soccer Association (ISA) policies. The goals are that where possible players will be kept on the same team from season-to-season and that players will be put together based on elementary school attended. Obviously, as the players get older and roster sizes increase there will be need to join teams together.

The Team Formation Committee will be responsible for the formation of teams. The Team Formation Committee will consist of the Age Group Commissioners, Registrar and Director of Coaching. If the Team Formation Committee and all parties involved cannot find an acceptable solution, they should consult with the President who will make a decision that respects the player's best interest.

The President is the final authority in the matter of making team assignments.

### I. Registration Timeline

#### Fall Season

- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Coaches sent updated list of players registered from previous season. Coaches to contact and remind players not signed up.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – Registration Deadline
- After July 15<sup>th</sup> – players added according to spaces available and subject to a late registration fee.

#### Spring Season

- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Coaches sent updated list of players registered from previous season. Coaches to contact and remind players not signed up.
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Registration Deadline
- After February 1st – players added according to spaces available and subject to a late registration fee.

### II. Roster Size

Age Group	Max. Size	Target Size
U5-U6	6	4-5
U7-U8	8	6-7
U9-U10	10	8-9

### III. Playing Up

Any player wishing to play up must make a formal request to the ASC Director of Coaching who will evaluate the player to determine the viability of such a request. The Director of Coaching's decision will be final. Players *will* generally be allowed to "play up" without evaluation by the Director of Coaching if that placement keeps them with their grademates, i.e., players with August and September birthdays who are among the youngest kids in their class generally will play as grade-appropriate.

### IV. Team Formation Priorities

This section of the policy is meant to ensure that athletes who play on a continuing basis will most likely stay with the same team. It is also meant to ensure that teams are formed originally in compliance with ISA recreational team policies and that schoolmates are generally placed together. It is understood that certain mathematical circumstances may arise that will mean judgment calls will have to be made. However, the following will be used as guidelines in putting together teams, in listed order of priority:

- Returning athletes who register on time will be placed on teams that they played on in the previous season. (Note that this is Spring to Fall or Fall to Spring)
- Athletes who register on time that need to be placed on new teams or as new players to existing teams will be placed by their elementary schools as much as possible.
- Athletes who have skipped a season or more have lower priority than directly returning athletes, but may be placed over new players onto a school-based team with limited roster spots available.
- U6-U7 transition exception: The transition from U6 to U7 teams is the most difficult because of (a) the large percentage change in team size, and (b) the frequent changes of schools until 1<sup>st</sup> grade. While efforts will be made to keep teams together, a higher priority will be given to re-setting teams such that they are based on school attendance in the Fall U7 season. This will lead to more stable teams throughout the U7-U10 years.

#### **V. Team Placement Requests**

In compliance with ISA regulations, the club cannot specifically honor requests that children play on a particular team or with a particular coach. However, if parents are dissatisfied with their child's current team (for example, because of specific personality conflicts) then they may petition the Team Formation Committee to be moved from that team. This option will be made available on registration forms. The final decision on whether to move the player, and if so, to which team to move the player, will be made by the Team Formation Committee.

#### **VI. Late Placement**

The respective age group commissioner will place players who register after the team formation meeting onto teams. The age group commissioner will follow the steps as outlined previously in the policy.

#### **VII. Skipping seasons**

The club knows that some families choose to participate in soccer only in fall or only in spring. Effort will be made to place athletes who skip a season back on their last team, but continuously registering players will have higher priority (see section IV).

#### **VIII. Home-Schooled Children**

Efforts will be made to place home-schooled children as if they attended the public school indicated by their home addresses.

#### **IX. Age specific Guidelines**

As possible, in all age groups, single-year age groups will be maintained. As necessary, combined U5/U6, U7/U8, and U9/U10 teams may be made.

##### U5 - U6 Age Group

Teams will be formed using the following guidelines:

- Maintaining same team rosters from previous year (U6 age group only)
- School the player will attend in grades 1-4. (Preschool or kindergarten attendance will not be considered as a high priority in placing teams.)
- Balancing volunteer coaches
- Balancing team roster sizes
- Target team size = 5; maximum roster = 6.

Teams will be designated by team names from the Spanish La Liga. \*

##### U7 - U8 Age Group

Teams will be formed using the following guidelines:

- a. Maintaining same team rosters from previous season
- b. Elementary school attended
- c. Balancing volunteer coaches
- d. Balancing team roster sizes
- e. Target team size = 6-7; maximum roster = 8.

Teams will be designated by team names from the English Premier League (EPL). \*

#### U9 - U10 age Group

Teams will be formed using the following guidelines:

- a. Maintaining same team rosters from previous season
- b. Elementary School attended
- c. Balancing volunteer coaches
- d. Balancing team roster sizes
- e. Target team size 8-9; maximum roster = 10.

Teams will be designated team names from the Major League Soccer (MLS). \*

\* Each age group will be designated with team names according to professional teams from that particular league. This concept will help create more of a soccer culture so that players, parents, and coaches become familiar with professional teams and leagues. Having assigned team names will help parents remember their child's team assignment. The club may solicit companies to sponsor a particular age group with their name prominently displayed on all printed materials and on the club website.