

Freeport Area Soccer Association

Team Formation Rules

The Executive Board will create and assign teams based on the following Team Formation Rules. Players will be assigned to the following age groups using the players birth year and following the US Soccer / PA West Age Matrix.

All information below can be modified, removed or additional information added, by the Executive Board, before, on or after registration due date as determined necessary to ensure clarity, fairness and equity for all FASA individuals and teams in the team formation process.

Under 6 (U6) and Under 8 (U8) Age Groups

1. Parents may request a player to “move up” an age group if they are in the last year of their current age group and have played at least one season in the current age group for Freeport Area Soccer Association.

The parent / guardian of the player must submit the request to the Age Group Commissioner and/or Registrar of FASA before the registration due date. The player must have the approval of their previous coach and the Age Group Commissioner.

Requests to move up will be honored just as long as the optimal number of players are met for the players requested age group and their current age group.

2. Siblings living at the same address will be placed on the same team unless parents request the players to play on separate teams.
3. A parent of a player may request an “age adjustment” due to a physical and/or mental disability. The request must be made prior to the registration due date and must be made to the President and/or Registrar for FASA. A request needs to be submitted for each season.

The parent / guardian of the player must submit formal documentation from a medical professional (i.e. MD, DO, PA, NP, etc.) related to the player’s diagnosis. Additional information may be requested by the Executive Board for approval of request. If approved the player shall be considered a year younger than their actual birth year.

The player will be assessed during the season by the Executive Board. If found they are skillful and/or experienced enough they will be assigned to the older age group for the remainder of the season.

4. Teams will be formed each season with car pool requests first. The request allows players the opportunity to play on the same team with a friend and to lighten the burden on parents for car pooling purposes. This policy can not be used to keep teams together. They may not request a particular coach or the coach’s son / daughter.

FASA will honor as many requests as possible, as long as the following criteria is met. After requests are honored each team will be reviewed to ensure parity. Special consideration will be paid to gender, age and experience. This would result in teams with equal, or as close to equal numbers of males, females and birth years. Very experienced or skilled players should not all be on the same team. Ultimately there should be no team as a whole more skilled or “stronger”.

Registrations submitted after the due date will try to have their request honored but there is no guarantee.

5. After the requests have been placed on a team, the rest of the players will be placed on teams to ensure as much parity as possible. Special consideration will be paid to gender, age and experience.

Players will be rotated between teams each season. Groups of players will not be kept together on the same team from season to season.

6. For the U6 age group a minimum of 6 and no more than 8 players per team is considered optimal. For the U8 age group a minimum of 8 and no more than 10 players per team is considered optimal. This will only be differentiated from with the Executive Board's approval.
7. The season will consist of a minimum of eight games, played primarily on Saturday. Coaches will be strongly encouraged to make up any cancelled game. Games can be made up on a weeknight or after the season ends if necessary.

Under 10 (U10) Age Group

1. Parents may request a player to "move up" an age group if they are in the last year of their current age group and have played at least one season in the current age group for Freeport Area Soccer Association.

The parent / guardian of the player must submit the request to the Director of Coaching and/or Registrar of FASA before the registration due date. The player must have the approval of their previous coach, Age Group Commissioner, or Director of Coaching.

Requests to move up will be honored just as long as the optimal number of players are met for the players requested age group and their current age group. Players choosing to "move up" are not eligible to play on the competitive team, if one should exist.

2. Siblings living at the same address will be placed on the same team unless parents request the players to play on separate teams.
 - a. In the event siblings would need to be separated the Executive Board will give the option to the parent(s) to separate players, with one on a "competitive" team and the other on the less competitive team, or all siblings playing on the "second" team.
3. There will be no requests for players, coaches and/or for carpools.
4. Teams will be assigned to either the Inter Community League ("ICL"), played primarily on Saturday, or Travel League, played primarily on Sunday. Assignment to a particular league will be based on availability and by direction from the PA West District President.

FASA may participate in one or both leagues in any given season and may change season to season based on the discretion of the Executive Board.

5. Teams will primarily be formed by parity, with no one team stronger than the other. In the event the Executive Board should decide to make a "competitive team", teams will be constructed with the following considerations.
 - a. Players must have participated in FASA during the previous season to be considered
 - b. Players must have completed in most recent the "Player Evaluations", if held

- c. Players must be able to attend at least 50% of all FASA practices and 75% of all FASA games. Unable to meet criteria will result in being placed on “second” team for the current or future seasons.
- 6. The number of games, not including tournament games, are at the discretion of the PA West..
- 7. The optimal number will be approximately 10 to 12 players per team. The number of players assigned to each team will be determined after the registration due date.

If after the due date and optimal numbers have been met, additional players will not be immediately accepted. If interested in playing, parents / guardians should email the Registrar. Late registrants will be considered by the Executive Board in the order at which they are received by the Registrar.

Under 12 (U12), Under 14 (U14) and “Middle School” Age Groups

- 1. Parents may request a player to “move up” an age group if they are in the last year of their current age group and have played at least one season in the current age group for Freeport Area Soccer Association.

The parent / guardian of the player must submit the request to the Director of Coaching and/or Registrar of FASA before the registration due date. The player must have the approval of their previous coach, or Director of Coaching.

Requests to move up will be honored just as long as the optimal number of players are met for the players requested age group and their current age group. Players choosing to “move up” are not eligible to play on the competitive team, if one should exist.

- 2. Siblings living at the same address will be placed on the same team unless parents request the players to play on separate teams.
 - a. In the event siblings would need to be separated the Executive Board will give the option to the parent(s) to separate players, with one on a “competitive” team and the other on the less competitive team, or all siblings playing on the “second” team.
- 3. There will be no requests for players, coaches and/or for carpools.
- 4. Teams will be assigned to the Travel League, primarily played on Sunday. The Executive Board will assign teams to a given section based on availability and by direction from the PA West District.
- 5. Teams will primarily be formed by parity, with no one team stronger than the other. In the event the Executive Board should decide to make a “competitive team”, teams will be constructed with the following considerations.
 - a. Players must have participated in FASA during the previous season to be considered
 - b. Players must have completed in most recent the “Player Evaluations”, if held
 - c. Players must be able to attend at least 50% of all FASA practices and 75% of all FASA games. Unable to meet criteria will result in being placed on “second” team for the current or future seasons.
- 6. The number of games, not including tournament games, are at the discretion of the PA West.
- 7. The optimal number for U12 teams will be approximately 12 to 13 players per team, with the maximum roster per team being 16. The optimal number for U14 / “Middle School” teams will be

approximately 14 or 15 per team, with the maximum roster per team being 18. The number of players assigned to each team will be determined after the registration due date.

If after the due date and optimal numbers have been met, additional players will not be immediately accepted. If interested in playing, parents / guardians should email the Registrar. Late registrants will be considered by the Executive Board in the order at which they are received by the Registrar.

Under 16 (U16) & Older, “Junior Varsity” and “Varsity” Age Groups

Due to the unique nature of these upper age brackets coaches are having difficulty finding players to fill teams, and are forced to recruit from outside our area to fill teams; FASA is instituting the following rules and guidelines that allow players and coach's flexibility but maintain fairness and equality for everyone.

1. Parents may request a player to “move up” an age group if they are in the last year of their current age group and have played at least one season in the current age group for Freeport Area Soccer Association.

The parent / guardian of the player must submit the request to the Director of Coaching and/or Registrar of FASA before the registration due date.

Requests to move up will be honored just as long as the optimal number of players are met for the players requested age group and their current age group.

In the event that there are multiple teams in that age group, players will be permitted to request a particular coach or team.

2. Siblings living at the same address will be placed on the same team unless parents request the players to play on separate teams.
3. Teams will be assigned to the Travel League, primarily played on Sunday. The Board of Directors will assign teams to a given section based on availability and by direction from the PA West.
4. The number of games, not including tournament games, are at the discretion of the PA West.
5. The optimal number will be approximately 14 to 16 players per team, with the minimal roster size being 14 and the maximum roster size being 20.

If after the due date and optimal numbers have been met, additional players will not be immediately accepted. If interested in playing, parents / guardians should email the Registrar. Late registrants will be considered by the Executive Board in the order at which they are received by the Registrar.

Player Evaluations

If it is recommended by the Director of Coaching that “Player Evaluations” are needed to help in the creation of the teams then the following will apply.

1. Notification will be given to affected players by email, website and/or social media.

2. Evaluators will be former coaches and former members of FASA. In the event current coaches / members of FASA need to be used, they may not evaluate the age group / gender of their children.
3. Player Evaluations will be held at Freeport Community Park, on two different days over two different weeks. (i.e. Tuesday the first week and then Thursday the second week).
 - a. Evaluations will be 45 - 90 minutes in length.
 - b. Players who arrive late will not be allowed to participate in that given day's evaluations.
 - c. Players will be evaluated for various aspects of the game through different drills as assigned by the Director of Coaching.
 - d. A blended score from all individuals evaluating will be used in determining the player's overall score, which will be used to "rank" the player within their age group.
 - e. Should a player attend both evaluations the higher overall rank will be used for the particular player.
4. Each player will be assigned a jersey, with a unique color / number for evaluation.
 - a. No Cup/Classic Shirts or Uniforms will be allowed to be worn during evaluations.
5. Players will participate in evaluations for the age division in which they are currently assigned based on optimal roster size and registration numbers.

Players who requested to "move up" will be notified as to which age group they should participate in. Participation in a particular age group is not a guarantee that the player will or will not be moved up.

6. If any player does not attend at least one evaluation, and the teams are not parity they will be placed on the "second" team. Unless, they have a doctor's excuse or a valid medical condition.
7. Whether a player attends evaluations or not the Executive Board may request coach's input / assessment for player(s) to help assist in the creation of teams.
8. Other than in extreme circumstances, and with the approval of the Executive Board after a player participates in an evaluation they are no longer eligible for a refund of registration fees.

Identifying FASA "Move-Up" Players

In some situations to ensure optimal roster size, after late registrants from the current age group are considered, some players may be asked by the Director of Coaching to move up an age group. When doing so the following options will be followed:

1. Second year players, currently registered
2. Second year players, on the waitlist, due to signing up after registration due date
3. Players who previously played but did not register for the current season
4. If a boys team, then the girls at the same age division, or second year players from the lower age group.

If exhausting all options still does not result in optimal numbers it will be the decision of the Executive Board to determine what is the best course of action, including additional options not listed, to achieve an "optimal" roster for the season.

“Club Passing” Players

Even with optimal numbers met FASA recognizes that not all players will be able to make all games, therefore leaving teams shorthanded. In this event, FASA recommends club passing for Travel League or borrowing for ICL league games to help ensure enough players for the game.

Coaches need to follow PA West procedure as outlined by District President and/or Age Group Commissioner when using players from another team. As per PA West Playing Rules teams may only club pass from other teams in their organization. Additionally, boys teams may club pass girls, but girls teams may not clubpass boys, unless the league they are playing in is co-ed.

When club passing players it is not the goal to get to the optimal roster size as defined for each age group. Rather club-passing players should be done to ensure the team has one to two subs for the game. Coaches should try and use players from the same age group. If necessary coaches may then borrow players from the next youngest age group.

Coaches should not be club passing the same players each week. In the event a coach needs to club players multiple weeks in a row they should be in contact with the Director of Coaching to determine a long term solution.

Players offering to help other teams may do so as long as it does not put their current team at a disadvantage. Players should not leave their current team early or intentionally arrive late due to helping out other teams. Players who are club passed, ideally should not start games and should not play more than average player on the team. Players who are club-passed are not required to play more than 50% as per FASA rules. Additionally, if the player’s original team plays after, coaches should be aware and limit playing time to not put other coaches / teams at a disadvantage.

Tournament Teams

Teams created for tournaments (i.e. Plum, Edinboro, etc.) will be at the discretion of the coaches for the particular gender / age group. Players from all current FASA rosters for that particular gender / age group must be asked to participate first before “outside” or younger players can be added. In the event “outside” players are added to the tournament rosters the Executive Board may require a fee to be paid to cover costs for registration / insurance.

Non-FASA Teams

FASA understands the importance of youth sports in an individual's development. Because of this FASA will allow non-Freeport teams to participate under the “FASA” at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Non-FASA teams must be made up of a majority of players not from the Freeport School District or must attend a school other than one affiliated with the Freeport School District. Non-FASA teams are responsible for determining the appropriate league and section and the creation of teams.

FASA and non-FASA teams may choose to “club pass” players with one another as long as both coaches have agreed and approved to do so.