

# 2026-2027 COURAGE TRYOUTS

## COURAGE SELECT & CLASSIC

### Tryouts & Discovery Sessions Cheat Sheet

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#### *What is the difference between tryouts & Discovery Sessions?*

**Discovery Sessions** will begin in February and run through March. Discovery Sessions will take place during Courage Select training sessions. These will include current players in the Select teams and allow players interested in the Select program to be a part of the training environment. **Tryouts** will occur in April 6-10 and will include teams from the Select & Classic Program. Tryouts are for players who are unsure of what level they want to play or would fit. Players should plan to attend at least 2 of the Discovery Sessions or Tryouts. You must register prior to [Discovery/Tryouts by clicking here](#).

Allowing both Select & Classic teams to host a combined tryout allows players to be evaluated by the staff and decide which program may be the best fit for them. It will also expand a player's opportunity to make a team as it allows a wider player pool and more teams to see a player. Classic and Select teams may also hold additional "tryout sessions" after formal tryouts are completed. Teams will be able to invite players to "tryout" for a specific team.

#### *How/when will I find out if I made the team?*

Offers to join any of the Courage Competitive teams can come at any time once Discovery Sessions begin. Players may be given a verbal offer on the field during a session and formal Playmetrics offers will come later in the process. For Select teams, players from the ECNL-RL team will receive offers first followed by NCSL teams. For Classic teams you may receive an offer from more than one team and will be asked to choose which team. Players will receive 72 hours to accept or decline positions. Accepting means paying the initial fee for their program unless otherwise arranged with Courage Staff. For fee and policy information visit [pwsi.org/policies](http://pwsi.org/policies).

#### Programs PW Courage offers -

#### *What is the Select Program?*

The Courage Select program is the top of the PW Courage Pyramid. The teams in the Select program are coached by professional coaches within the club structure following a club curriculum. The Select teams are tiered U15-U19 as ECNL-Regional League, Elite, & Premier; U13-14 are tiered as Regional League (RL), NCSL-Red, and NCSL-White; U11-U12 are tiered as Pre-ECNL (VDA), NCSL-Red, NCSL-White, NCSL-Black; U9-U10 teams are tiered Nike, Swoosh, & Tiempo. The Courage Select teams

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participate in club chosen events, 5-9 per year depending on age groups. These events can range from local events to events up and down the East Coast. Players from the Select program are also provided opportunities to train with and be identified by VDA throughout the year. For more information on the [Select Program Click Here](#).

### ***What is the Classic Program?***

The Courage Classic program is the bridge between the Recreational and Select programs. These teams compete in NCSL and are coached by volunteers. The teams are independent and are provided with 1 tournament per year (Icebreaker) . The Classic teams will participate in the tryouts with the Select teams and players can request that they only be considered by Classic teams if that is the appropriate level and commitment for families. For more information on the [Classic Program Click Here](#).

### **Help me understand the leagues?**

PW Courage participates in 2 leagues currently with its Select & Classic teams called VPSL, a member of the ECNL-RL (Select Only), & NCSL (Select & Classic). We are also a founding member of the [Virginia Development Academy \(VDA\)](#) which adds the ECNL - National League as a possibility for Developmental Players (DP) and players who are promoted to the program.

**ECNL via VDA** - National league program broken into conferences - VDA participates in the Mid-Atlantic Conference for league play and qualification to Champions League postseason play. Players from VDA partner clubs and beyond make up the VDA teams. For more information visit [vdasoccer.org](#).

**VPSL - ECNL Regional League** - this is the Regional program for the ECNL. Broken up into state or regional leagues throughout the US these teams are the top of the PW Courage program. The U15-19 ECNL-RL teams will play a Fall season that (if qualified) will lead to a state final 4 and qualification for ECNL-RL Regional & National Tournaments. The U11-14 teams will play a Fall & Spring season that will also provide opportunities to qualify for the VPSL playoffs. U13-U14 teams can qualify for Regional & National tournaments. This can also include U13-U19 VPSL State Cup with qualification directly to the National Cup for Champions & Finalists, U11-U12 have State Cup only no qualification to regional or national events.

**NCSL** - The NCSL provides a competitive, tiered, local league for the Elite, Premier, NCSL-Red, NCSL-White, and NCSL-Black, U9-U10 Select, and Classic teams to participate in. They are given opportunities to play a Fall and Spring Season - some High School aged teams will not play in the Spring due to high school commitments. The teams play for promotion and relegation in the NCSL including the ability to qualify for USYS Regionals through the league championship series. This program provides an appropriate level of competition for all teams and travel is around Northern Virginia, Maryland, and DC.