

Governor Mifflin Soccer Club

Evaluation Document

What is the purpose of evaluations? GMSC recognizes that there are various types of players within the club and that we have a responsibility to serve them all. The only way this can be done is through evaluations and the creation of various competitive level teams. We feel it is our responsibility to attempt to place players onto a team and into a competitive level that will challenge them, give them the ability to be successful, and provide them with a fun and safe environment to both learn and enjoy the game of soccer.

Who needs to evaluate? Starting this year all age groups (U9 and above) will be evaluated regardless of the number of players in the age group. Even if the numbers only support the creation of one team in the fall, the spring season may require GMSC to combine age groups and knowing who the higher skilled players are within these age groups would help to assure that players are moved appropriately.

Who are the evaluators? The evaluators are members of experienced soccer programs and have extensive experience with soccer skills, principals, rules, evaluation procedure and more. These players have had experience in tournaments, and consist of players who have played at various competitive levels throughout their lives. Many of these players also coach at various clubs and or school districts throughout the county and hold various levels of coaching, soccer education and player certification.

How are players scored? Players are not given individual scores. Players are ranked against one another so that the above average and below average players are identified. Players will be randomly assigned to play with a group of players in a 3 v 3 or 4 v 4 setting on a U8 size field. These groups will play for 5 to 10 minutes at a time. Evaluators will select the top 2 or 3 players and bottom 2 or 3 players during each game. They will then be reshuffled so that they play with and against different players each time. Evaluators may reassign players to another field if they have already seen that player several times. The goal is for players to receive 20 or more rankings over the course of evaluations.

What are the evaluators looking for? Evaluators are not looking to see how fast a player is, how far they can kick a ball, or how many goals they score during evaluations. Evaluators are looking to see what a players overall skill level is relative to the others in the age group. Do they have good awareness of space on the field? Do they have good control of the ball? Can they correctly receive a pass? Can they accurately pass the ball? Do they have control of the ball when they posses it? Do they make quick decisions when they posses the ball? Can they regain possession of the ball once it is lost? Once they regain possession, do they simply kick the ball forward, or do they attempt to pass the ball with a purpose? Do they run with the ball when they have space to do so and distribute the ball when they are under pressure?

How are teams created and what type of input do the coaches have? Players who are clearly identified as being an above average player are placed on the highest competitive level team. Players who are identified as being a below average player are placed on a lower level competitive level team. Players who are not able to be grouped into one of those two categories based on their ranking are placed into a pool of players who the coach of the highest competitive level team is then allowed to select from. The size of this pool will depend on how balanced the level of talent is within that age group. The more balanced the talent is within the age group, the more difficult it will be for the evaluators to identify who the clear top and bottom players are and therefore the more input the coach will have in team selection. The more diverse the talent, the easier it will be to identify the top and bottom players and therefore less coach input is needed. We recognize that there are aspects of playing the game that cannot be captured during evaluations and GMSC feels that drawing a line and saying that player A is better than player B when they may have ranked near identically is not fair to the players nor the coaches. It is our hope that allowing coaches to give this input will create more competitive teams, and reward those players who may be similarly talented yet harder working, more focused when on the field. We feel that characteristics such as heart, desire, focus, positive attitude, attendance at practice and tournaments are things that only the coach can know, and should enter into the selection equation when players rank similarly.

Does my child have to attend evaluations? If you do not want your child on the highest competitive level team, it is not necessary to attend evaluations as they will be placed on a lower level team automatically. Otherwise it is mandatory that they attend evaluations. No player will be placed on the highest competitive level team without attending evaluations. Additionally, a player or group of players not attending evaluations is not guaranteed to be placed on a prior season team configuration. The only exception is in the event of illness which will require a doctor's excuse.

Does my child need to attend both nights of evaluations? GMSC strongly recommends that your child attend both nights. The purpose of having evaluations on two nights is not so that you are able to make one night, but to allow for your child to be seen more. Evaluations can be very stressful for players. Players often do better the second night once they relax and begin to play rather than worrying about making a mistake. Players who clearly show that they are one of the dominate players in their age group may be asked to not attend the second night of evaluations. This will be done discretely on the weekend following the first week of evaluations. The only purpose for doing so is to remove these players from the pool which will allow the evaluators to focus on ranking the remaining players.

What if I want my child to play up an age group? Playing up is only allowed in the event that a player has demonstrated a clear need to do so in order to challenge them. GMSC's official policy for playing up is that in order to do so, a player must rank in the top half of the top team in the age group they are attempting to play up to. Example, a U9 player wants to play U10. There are 12 players on the U10's highest competitive level team. In order to be eligible to play up, that U9 player must rank in the top 6 of all U10 players, otherwise they are not eligible to play on the U10 team. It is critical that all players wishing to play up also evaluate in their appropriate age group. If they do not meet the top half of the top team criteria and do not evaluate in their appropriate age group, they can only be placed on a lower level team in their appropriate age group. Historically this rule has only been applied when an age group was evaluated i.e. there were more than one team. Being that all age groups will be evaluated, this will apply to all teams. The only exception to this rule will be in the event where it is necessary to have players play up to form a team. No player will be allowed to play up unless there is a roster spot available within that age group.

What if my daughter wants to play on a boy's team? The same criteria previously mentioned for playing up are used in this situation.

After evaluations, can I ask that my child be moved to a lower competitive level team? No. If your child attends evaluations and is placed on the highest competitive level team your child can not be moved at your request. That is the only team your child is eligible to play on.

If I'm not happy with what team my child made, can I ask for a refund? No. GMSC, Inc. will not refund any registration fee for players who have attended evaluations. Nor, does GMSC, Inc. offer any refund at any other time.