



# **2026-27 TRYOUTS GUIDE**

## Per Iowa Soccer Member Rules, member clubs may begin **forming teams based upon ability/talent at the 11U age group.**

- These teams are classified as “select” teams due to the way in which they are formed – “selected” based upon an evaluation.
- To make an ability-based determination, many Iowa Soccer member clubs offer a process known as “tryouts” during the month of May and June. Tryouts provide the opportunity to observe and evaluate any player who has registered for a club’s tryout. Players may be current club members, or they may be interested in trying out at multiple clubs.
- Following the completion of tryouts, Iowa Soccer member clubs make “bid” determinations. A bid is an offer to join the club on an assigned team that is appropriate to the player’s ability. And if a club has determined there is not an appropriate team for the ability of the player, a bid is not offered.
- Being well-informed about a club, and by extension the experience your child will have, is vital in aligning your child to an experience that is the best fit. To that end, Iowa Soccer offers this resource to help parents/caregivers research and make informed decisions.





## Club Research

# Before registering for a tryout **research:**

### Club Profile & Philosophy

- Are you seeking a community-based club, or are you willing to go outside your community?
- How much travel is involved to play league games? Tournaments?
- What is club's philosophy on: player development? Playing time?
- What coaching standards does the club have?
- What is the club's player assessment criteria?

### Club fees

- What is included in the fees, and what is not (are there additional expenses such as uniforms, travel, entry fees, etc...?)
- Does the club offer financial assistance?
- Once your complete financial commitment to the club is understood, is it within your family's budget?

### Training and competitions commitment

- When, how often, and where does your child's age group train?
- What is the annual game and travel calendar/commitment?



# Tryouts



Your child is allowed to participate in multiple clubs' tryouts.

## > Register

Once you've narrowed down interest in club(s), make sure to register for the tryout with the club(s).

## > Attend & Observe

As a parent/caregiver, you may attend the tryout. Observe how organized the club is, is it sharing information and communicating well, did your child enjoy the tryout, players, coach(es).

## > Assess

Is the coach going to be a good fit for your child? How long does the coach stay with the age group? What experience does the coach have with this age group/gender?

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## > Follow the Rules

- There are rules governing the member club tryout process and you are expected to honor them.

## > Allowed

- Tryout at multiple clubs
- Attend and observe
- To NOT feel pressured or feel fear from any club as you explore options
- Call a club or coach to gather general information about the club and/or tryout process

## > Not Allowed

- Speaking to other players or parents to influence their decisions. Give them space.
- Before bid day, cannot ask club about the team your child will be placed on.
- Call/contact other parents in an effort to recruit them, whether on your behalf or as a proxy for the coach/club.

# Coach/Club: Rules

## ALLOWED

- Attend tryouts hosted by their own club.
- Respond to inquiries from parents/caregivers asking about general club information
- After tryout concludes, may send ONE informational email that contains only information pertinent to details about the club and the upcoming bid day.
  - Pertinent = age group and number of projected number of teams; schedule of events; practice schedule; team coach assignments; process of bid day; etc...

## NOT ALLOWED

- Attend tryouts hosted by another club
- Contact players or parents/caregivers with intent to influence their decision-making process
- Contact players who are registered with another member club at any time - with the only exception being if the player participated in a tryout from that coach's club.



# Tryouts & Bids Timeline



11U-15U

## 2026 Tryouts

- Allowed to be conducted between May 26 and June 10

## Bid Day

- June 11, 2026
- Between 8:00am to 8:00pm

## BIDS

- Starting at 8:00am Central Daylight Time on the designated date, a club may call or email the family to offer the player a "bid" on a team.
- Between 8:00am to 8:00pm on this date, the parent/caregiver should accept or decline the club's offer.
- If your child has participated in a tryout at more than one club, it is possible to receive bids from multiple clubs.



16U-19U

## 2026 Tryouts

- Allowed to be conducted between May 27 and June 23

## Bid Day

- June 24, 2026
- Between 8:00am to 8:00pm

