



*Excerpted from TSSA Policy 26*

## **TRYOUT POLICY FOR COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

Tennessee State Soccer Association (TSSA) is committed to a tryout process that is open and fair, that does not interfere with the focus of players participating in the State Cup and that is structured so that all member associations offering competitive programs are competing on a level playing field. These are the reasons for the well-established rules regarding the spring tryouts may not begin before the approved and published dates

Member associations who also participate in other youth soccer programs (“Other Programs”, i.e. US Club) cannot use their membership in those Other Programs to evade the TSSA tryout rules. Any tryouts conducted before the posted tryout dates under the banner of those Other Programs intending to roster those teams selected with TSSA will not be permissible.

## **TRYOUT ADVERTISEMENTS**

The following are Generally considered NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Email targeted to specific kids registered to other Associations
- Use of Database for email/mail where there is a reasonable expectation that the database includes names of individuals that are registered with a different TSSA Member Association.
- Social media posts or messaging that targets a specific player or group of players.
- Handouts for PE classes only
- Handouts given to M.S. and/or H.S. soccer coaches for them to give out to their players
- M.S. or H.S. coach that coaches with a TSSA member cannot provide handouts or encourage their school players to tryout with any specific Association

- Direct contact of any kind, at any time (includes enticement or encouragement to change Associations) with any U13 and older player currently registered with another association except during open recruiting period
- Allowing any player who is currently registered to a different association, to participate in team training without contacting the players current coach or Association Director of Coaching.

## **GENERAL STATEMENTS**

A. Associations who knowingly help their staff or other adults affiliated with same association facilitate efforts to intentionally recruit players from other associations will be held accountable for recruiting.

B. Associations, having no prior knowledge, will generally not be held accountable for the actions of the association staff or affiliated adults who chose to knowingly or unknowingly engage in improper recruiting of players from other TSSA Member Associations. This includes but is not limited to individuals that are paid or not paid, serving in an official capacity or not serving in an official capacity.

C. Associations can be held accountable where they have initiated, and/or are aware of unacceptable conduct as it relates to recruiting which could result in a violation of the TSSA Recruiting Policy.

D. Anyone affiliated with a TSSA Member Association that conducts training camps during the seasonal year must receive written permission from the players' coach or Director of Coaching for players affiliated with other TSSA members.

E. Anyone affiliated with a TSSA member Association that conducts private training or operates a public training business: OK for players from other associations to attend but the instructor must not use the opportunity to encourage players to tryout for any particular association especially the one the instructor is affiliated with.

F. Violations of the TSSA Recruiting Policy are not limited to those addressed above.

G. Sanctions for Illegal Recruiting can include but not limited to probation, suspensions, loss of state cup competition, creating education pieces on recruiting and presenting to TSSA peers at the TSSA AGM, and possible fines for Member Associations found guilty of illegal recruiting.

## **RECRUITMENT/COMMITMENT OF PLAYERS FOR COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

A. Permissible recruitment of players is only permitted during Open Recruitment Periods (not before June 3, 2019) and subject to the following restrictions:

1. Players age groups U13 and older, may be recruited from the posted dates (June 3, 2019) through the Commitment Letter Binding Date.
  2. Players who are currently U12 (who will be U13 for the upcoming soccer year) and younger **may NOT be recruited**. There is no acceptable window of time where the recruitment of these players is allowed.
- B. Following the Binding Date, Recruitment of a player who has appropriately executed a Commitment Letter is prohibited.
- C. Prohibited Recruiting is defined as effort to induce a registered player of any team after the Binding Date, who has appropriately executed a Commitment Letter with a TSSA member association, to join a team with another TSSA member association during the current seasonal year or the next seasonal year. Recruiting is any action or statement, made by any team representative, as defined, either verbally or in writing that encourages or entices a player to register with a particular coach, team, association or other programs.
- C. Efforts to induce a player to transfer will include but shall not be limited to the following:
1. A player participating in any type of unauthorized practice or tryout with a team other than the one the player is currently registered. This restriction will not apply for a player who freely chooses to tryout for another team during Open Recruitment Period.
  2. An offer or promise of college scholarships, free uniforms, discounted team fees, and/or negative statements, which could affect the decision of a player regarding choice of teams.
  3. Team representatives include parents and players.
  4. Guest players must have a direct request in writing, phone call, or e-mail to the head coach of the team that the player is currently rostered, or from the director of coaching of the players association. Failure to contact the coach or Director of Coaching can be a violation of recruiting.
- D. A coach of a Division 1, 2, 3, and Soccer Juniors Team(s) that leaves a TSSA Member Association for another TSSA Member Association may not coach players or teams at the new association in the same Age Group(s) and gender as he/she coached at the prior Member Association for the entire following Seasonal Year (i.e. a Coach at ABC Association coaches the 2003-year group girls in the 2017-18 Seasonal Year after which the coach transfers to the XYZ Association for the 2018-19 Seasonal Year. This coach may not coach a 2003 Year Group girls team for the entire Seasonal Year following the change in Member Associations)