

Tryout and Team Formation Statement

The River Dell Blackhawks are the travel division of the River Dell Soccer Association serving the youth of Oradell and River Edge, NJ communities.

The primary goal of the Blackhawks is to develop complete, well-rounded soccer players in a competitive soccer environment.

With this in mind, different age groups and competitive flights will require different approaches to team formation

U9 Teams (7v7 - Max Roster Size is 14 players - 60 minute game)

These are developmental teams for the Blackhawks.

Roster Size - These teams do not look to turn players away. Max rosters will be fielded if needed and multiple teams could be created.

Playing Time - even playing time should be used by coaches within the lower flights when possible. A minimum of 20 minutes is required per player.

Tryouts - more informal - to be used to determine which team a player is placed on if multiple or if only one team is able to be filled.

U10 - (7v7 - Max Roster Size is 14 players - 60 minute game)

More competitive Play, but still largely developmental

Roster Size - Again, these teams do not look to turn players away. Max rosters will be fielded if needed and multiple teams could be created.

Playing Time - Playing time should be more based on skill level. Minimum playing time of 20 minutes should be used for all players

Tryouts - More formal - to be used to determine which team a player is placed on if multiple teams within this age group or if only one team is able to be filled based on roster maximums.

U11 and UP - (U11- U12 9v9 - Max Roster Size is 16 players - 70 minute game and U13 -U15 11v11. Max Roster is 18 - 80 minute game)

Competitive play, no longer meeting developmental definition

Roster Size - Teams should ensure they have enough subs

Playing Time - Playing time to be based more on skill level. Minimum playing time of 20 minutes should be used for all players if on D flighted teams or less. A-C flighted teams will not have a minimum playing time.

Tryouts - More formal - to be used to determine which team players should play on if multiple teams within a flight or if we are unable to field 2 teams.

Other concepts

Flight - The NCSA categorizes teams by flight. Higher flighted teams are more competitive. A-C flighted teams are considered high flighted teams. The Blackhawks strive for our teams to develop to be able to earn flight promotions.

Team Restructuring: - Players who develop are able to be promoted within the club while other players could potentially be moved down to be placed on a more appropriate team. This can occur if there are multiple teams within a given age group and the player movements would not impact the viability of the other team. This would be done during the official tryout process and only if there is a flight gap of 2 or more flights.

Spring placement requests outside of tryouts - Will only be done when spots are available and as long as it meets the above requirements for roster size and flights. If the team is C flight or above and the roster is not maxed, the Blackhawks will require tryouts before placement, if D Flight or below, placement can occur per roster size guidelines.

Youngest birth year - The Blackhawks do not field U7 or U8 teams, as a result, we will not look to place players who are younger than the NCSA birth year listed. For example, in the fall 2021 season, the earliest birth year placed will be 2014.

Split age teams - The construction of these teams will only be used when needed. For example u9 or older teams that do not have enough players. If a birth year has enough players, the club will not look at combining birth year teams for competitive purposes creating 2 split teams.