

Solana Beach Soccer Club

Creating Rosters and Club Selection Night

The process described below is for U8 divisions and older when there are enough players to form more than one (1) team in a division. U7/Micro uses a different process. Players are assigned to teams by the U7 Micro Coordinator.

SBSC recognizes there are many ways in which to create teams and that other clubs may use a different method. In our experience, we believe the process outlined below is the best one for our club. Our objective is to create relatively balanced teams so that games among Solana Beach teams are evenly matched.

In order to create teams within each division that are as even as possible, the SBSC uses a “serpentine” procedure based primarily on player ratings from the prior year. During the process, other considerations come in to play as described below. Coaches are invited to participate in the process to ensure that the teams that are created within each division are generally accepted as even by the SBSC Board and coaches. The event typically occurs in late July / early August at “Club Selection Night.”

Total number of players per team (refer to Team Size Policy):

Division	Players on Field	Preferred Max	Approved Max (with Division Coordinator and Head Coach Approval)	League Max
U7	8 (2 games)	12	13	14
U8	7	10-11	12	14
U10	7	10-11	12	14
U12	9	12-13	14	18
U14	11	14-16	16	22
U16	11	15-18	18	22
U19	11	15-18	18	22

Important Notes to Coaches:

- You will typically not receive your final roster until a few days after Club Selection Night.
- Sometimes additional registrations or lower than expected registration will require that players within a division be reassigned after Club Selection Night or that some individual player shifts may be made to maintain balanced teams.
- **Please do not contact players immediately after Club Selection Night. Please wait until you have received your final roster from the Registrar and/or Division Coordinator before contacting your players.**

At Club Selection Night

The Initial Process

The Division Coordinator or an SBSC Board member will run the process for each division. The cards with initial team assignments will be spread out on a table for the coaches to review.

- Important: Coaches have not yet been assigned to a team. Meaning, coaches may not be the coach of the team to which your child has been initially assigned. This will hopefully encourage coaches to review the rosters for all of the teams since they will be randomly assigned to one of them.
- Remind coaches that the team their son/daughter has been assigned to may not be the team they coach (their child will be moved to their team towards the end of the process).
- Coaches will review the initial player team assignments to determine if the teams are relatively “even.” Discussion (including player ratings, age distribution, etc....) among the coaches / Division Coordinator is encouraged. It can be helpful to look at the grade distribution as well as making sure players who played on an all star team the prior year and distributed among the teams.
- If changes (like to a player’s rating) are made for a player, swaps between teams may be necessary to maintain balanced teams.
- No player moves are made without the approval of the Division Coordinator (or Board member).
- The initial process ends after the coaches agree they would be happy coaching any of the teams.

The Next Step

- Head coaches are randomly assigned to one of the teams by drawing a letter/number. Coaches do not select a team.
- Next, move the head coach’s child laterally onto his/her team – trading a player of equal rating (or similar position on the team list) by moving laterally across the columns.
- Move the assistant coach’s child in the same manner.
- Make sure two sponsors are not assigned to a team.
- **Rosters are now complete!** Take a picture (OK for coaches to take pictures). The Division Coordinator will record the information and keep the index cards (in the event the process needs to be done over again).

Last Step

- Sometimes coaches are unable to attend Club Selection Night. We will give these coaches a short window to comment on the rosters created.
- Promptly after Club Selection Night, Division Coordinators will share (email the picture from the event or a spreadsheet with the team rosters) the team rosters with all the coaches.
- Coaches will promptly provide any comments. Although possible, changes could be made based on these comments. The Division Coordinator will inform coaches of any proposed changes.
- The Division Coordinator will create a spreadsheet with the final rosters and send it to the Registrar.
- The Registrar will create the rosters in Sports Engine and will email rosters (with contact information) to coaches and Division Coordinators in each division.

The objective is to create balanced teams. Note, late registrations or players deciding not to play can upset this balance. Once teams have been finalized, no player swaps will be allowed.

Prior to Club Selection Night

Division Coordinators Prepare Information Cards for Each Player

- **Player name**
- **Player rating** [see next page for possible adjustments]. Player ratings range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) and were created by coaches last season based on play from the prior season. For players that are moving up to an older division (for example, from U8 to U10), the ratings are weighted by subtracting 0.5 from the prior year rating. For example, a player that was in U8 last season and was given a rating of 4 would have an adjusted 3.5 rating in U10.
- **Player’s birthday and grade (if known)**
- **“Returning”** is noted if the player is playing in the same division as the prior year.
- **“Coach”** is noted if the player’s parent will be a head coach.
- **“Assistant Coach”** is noted if the player’s parent will be an assistant coach. Note, for Club Selection Night, each team can have a maximum of one assistant coach.
- **“Team Parent”** is noted if the player’s parent has volunteered to serve as a team parent to whichever team their child is assigned.
- **“Sibling”** is noted if the player has a sibling in the same division.
- **“Sponsor”** is noted if the player’s parent has committed (or arranged) to sponsor a team.
- **“All Star”** is noted if the player participated (or was nominated) on an all star team the prior season.
- There will likely be players with no player ratings. Division Coordinators may contact coaches to see if a player rating could be assigned (or a rating could be assigned at Club Selection Night). If not, the players are given a ‘0’ rating. If a rating is assigned, please highlight this fact.
- Can add other information that might be helpful, like noting players who played competitive soccer in the past.
- Can share player ratings with coaches before Club Selection Night to let them review and comment.

Division Coordinators will create teams (1st draft before Club Selection Night) for each division in the following manner:

- Lay out all the cards for a division, starting with the highest rated players at the top.
- Look through the list of players:
 - Are there players with no rating who could be given a rating? (Prior to the meeting SBSC will send an email to coaches with a list of players and ask for comments)
 - Are there players who you think have an incorrect rating?
 - In particular, are there players in the “middle” ratings who could be among the top 5-10 players? Or should be in the bottom quarter?
 - Make a note on cards if a rating has been changed/updated.
 - Start the “serpentine” process as described below:

The Serpentine Process

Create the “serpentine” layout of cards as described below:

For 2 teams in the division:

1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	10
12	11

For 3 teams in the division:

1	2	3
6	5	4
7	8	9
12	11	10
13	14	15
18	17	16

For 4 teams in the division:

1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	18	19	20
24	23	22	21

- If there are more than four (4) teams in a division, follow the same process.
- Note: The process is not over. Swaps will likely be made to deal with coaches, sponsors, and siblings. Swaps will be made by moving players of like ratings or position on the team list.
- **Coaches / Assistant Coaches: Do not assign coaches/assistant coaches to teams. This will be done at Club Selection Night (see below).**
- Siblings: Move siblings onto the same team, trading players laterally with the same player rating (or position on the team list).
- Sponsors: If a team has more than one sponsor, move one (or more if there are three or more sponsors) of the players to another team by swapping the player with a player of equal rating (or position on the team list).
- Check the age/grade distribution to make sure teams are not heavily weighted with older or younger players. Make lateral moves as necessary.
- All Star Players: Make sure the distribution is reasonable.
- Assign a letter or number to each team (e.g., A, B, C.....). You are now ready for Club Selection Night!

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