

Solana Beach Soccer Club

Post Season Player Selection Process and Tournament Guidelines

Introduction / Summary of the Process:

Each season, the Solana Beach Soccer Club (“SBSC”) sponsors league participation in post season tournaments. The SBSC understands schedules (coaches and players) can be challenging in December. As a result, the SBSC will give each post season team the choice of which tournament(s) in which to participate and SBSC will pay the registration fee for one tournament in each division (two tournaments in divisions with two all-star teams). The club will provide details about tournament options.

Note that the all-star tournaments are for Boys/Girls U8, U10, U12 and U14 (sorry U7/micro).

These are recreational team tournaments, but it is a competitive tournament environment. Every goal scored by your team counts, and every game counts. In the end, there is only one winner in each division. It is fundamentally different from the regular season, recreational games.

- One coach will need to be listed as the official head coach. All coaches MUST be Risk Managed and Licensed.
- **All coaches (head and assistant(s)) that will be involved should carefully review the detailed tournament rules on the tournament web sites which will have the most accurate and up to date information. Please contact the All-Star Coordinator with any questions.**

SBSC Objectives for Post Season Play:

- Players gaining experience playing in a competitive tournament environment
- Players gaining experience playing against some of the strongest recreational players in the area
- Provide all members of each team a reasonable amount of playing time throughout the tournament.
- As always, HAVE FUN!

Creating Teams: Each year there is significant discussion regarding:

- The number of players on the 11 v 11, 9 vs 9, and 7 v 7 teams;
- The fairest way to select the team members; and
- The proper balance between playing all players equally and playing strictly to win.
- The post season tournaments have a birth year cut off vs the school year cut off SBSC uses. As a result, some players in a division may not be eligible to play on a post season team in the regular season division. There may be opportunities for players to move up a division and play on a team.

Summary of the Process:

- (a) Recruit coaches to coach and decide who the head and assistant coaches will be
- (b) Teams choose a tournament(s)
- (c) Deciding which players will be asked to be on the all-star team (process described in detail below), create the final roster, and send roster to the Registrar and All-Star Coordinator.
- (d) Set up practice days / times

- (e) Collection of player and coach pictures
- (f) Collection of parent commitment pledge
- (g) Collection of player waivers
- (h) Record uniform numbers for each player
- (i) Administrative (SBSC will.....)
 - a. Collect \$25/player all-star fee
 - b. Register teams
 - c. Create roster – Online / Spreadsheet Filled Out
 - d. Create All Star “season” in Affinity. Add players to all-star teams
 - e. Create Player Cards
 - f. Create Coach Cards
 - g. Distribute to Player Waivers to coaches
 - h. Distribute Uniforms (**players get to keep all-star uniforms**)

Detailed Process:

1. The SBSC All Star Coordinator will begin the process to get commitments from coaches to be a post season coach around the middle of October. Each team will have one Head Coach. Divisions in which no coach can make a commitment will not have a team playing in the post season.
2. Teams will choose a tournament(s) and inform the All-Star Coordinator and Registrar.
3. The SBSC’s Registrar or All-Star Coordinator will register the teams and work with the SBSC’s Treasurer to ensure the entry fees are paid.
 - a. Rosters do not need to be finalized at this time.
 - b. Typically, teams (not rosters) must be registered no later than the first half of November.
4. **Player / Family Commitment:** it is important that players commit to attend practices and to both days of a tournament. SBSC asks families to sign an agreement acknowledging they understand and take seriously the commitment to the team. SBSC will also charge each family \$25 per player to cover a portion of the cost for uniforms and registration fees.
5. Coaches in each division will finalize rosters per the SBSC guidelines described below. **ONLY THE COACH WHO ACCEPTS THE ROLE OF OFFICIAL HEAD COACH OF THE ALL-STAR TEAM SHOULD CONTACT THE PLAYERS.** Regular season coaches and assistant all-star coaches should NOT notify the players. All players need to hear a consistent message, and this should only come from the Head Coach.
 - a. Registrar will create the “official” roster that will include player IDs. Tournaments are moving to an online process, which can eliminate the need to create this information in a spreadsheet.
 - b. Uniform numbers can be filled in later
 - c. Registrar will email (or register players online) roster to the tournament director with a copy to each coach.
 - d. Ideally, rosters will be set the first half of November to give teams a chance to start practicing before Thanksgiving.
6. Working through the SBSC’s Field Coordinator or All-Star Coordinator, coaches pick practice times.
7. **Player and Coach Cards:** Registrar will confirm that players and coaches have uploaded pictures into the online all-star registration system.

- a. If players or coaches do not have pictures in the system, the coach will arrange to have pictures emailed to the All Star Coordinator and Registrar. The pictures will then be uploaded into the system.
 - b. Registrar will print out and distribute player/coach cards.
8. Player Waivers: The SBSC will email player waivers to each coach for families to sign. Coaches will need to collect these with original signatures.
9. SBSC's Uniform Coordinator will work with All Star Coordinator to distribute uniforms to the teams. Note – Players may keep their all-star uniforms.
10. When available, SBSC will add links to the game schedules for each post season tournament.

Selecting Players (All Star Tournaments):

The Solana Beach Soccer Board has chosen to have teams participate in all-star tournaments to provide players with the experience of playing at a higher (more competitive) level. To this end, participation in All-Stars is limited to a manageable number of players per team so that each player has the opportunity to participate at a significant level as outlined below. Note that despite the generally wonderful experience, all-star tournaments can be stressful for players, coaches, and parents. **The key to success is communication with the parents and players and management of their expectations as well as your expectations as the coaches.**

Guidelines and Setting Expectations:

- **Playing Time:** SBSC believes that each and every player has the right to a significant amount of playing time. The SBSC understands all-star coaches need some flexibility with tactics. Each player will have the following amount of playing time:
 - Across the guaranteed games in the tournament (typically 3-4 games), each player shall play at least 40% of the time across the games combined. This means that if you play certain players heavily in the first game(s), you will have to play them minimal amounts of times in the remaining game(s).
 - The best idea is to try and meet the minimum in each game.
- **Field Positions:** In the younger divisions, during the regular season, coaches are encouraged to provide players time at more than one position to develop a range of skills. During the tournaments, players may be asked to play primarily one position throughout the tournament. For younger divisions, this might be significant change from the regular season and should be explained to players and parents up front before they commit to joining the team.
- **Competition:** Every goal scored and goal against is counted, and every game counts. In the end, there is only one winner for each division. It is fundamentally different than the regular season, recreational games, and coaches and parents need to prepare their players (especially the younger players) for these changes.
- **Code of Conduct:** The SBSC Code of Conduct applies at all times during the tournament. Please let parents know that there is no change in this area during the tournament.

Team Selection Process (All Star Teams):

Coaches will finalize player ratings prior to player selection. Overall ratings for each division will be shared with all of the coaches.

If the process used to select teams at the beginning of the season was performed properly, the skill level on each regular season team within a division should be reasonably equitable. Despite the everyone's best efforts, this is not always the case. As a result, SBSC has determined that for each division, each regular

season team will have the right to (1) nominate a minimum number of players (number depends the division and on how many teams there are) who will be selected to be on the team (meaning, nominated players will be on the team unless they are unable to play) and (2) nominate a maximum number of players to be added to the “wild card” pool. The all-star coaches will select the balance of the team from the pool of wild card players. Should a nominated player not be able to participate, the all-star coach will be able to choose an additional player from the wild card pool. This process is designed to take into account that teams that looked balanced on paper at the start of the regular season, may not be as balanced on the field halfway into the season. A coach who wishes to choose a player who was not nominated will need to seek SBSC Board approval. **The final roster is subject to review by the SBSC Board.**

Since this is a competitive environment, regular season coaches should nominate their “strongest” players (see player ratings). A “strong” player will display a range of qualities at practice and on the field – not just skills with the ball. The player will need to be prepared to work as part of a team, to listen carefully to their coaches and focus during the few practices the team will have before the tournament, and to understand and play their specific position. We encourage regular season coaches from a given division to meet to go over the player ratings, discuss their nominations, and work to create a team with strength in all areas of the field (e.g., making sure the team has a strong goalie). All players that commit to participate need to understand that they **MUST** be available the weekend of the tournament. If they are no-shows that weekend (yes, this has happened), they have taken a space that could have been filled by another player.

Please use the tables below to determine the recommended number of players on the team by division and the total number of players each team can nominate to the team and the wild card pool. Note, in divisions with more than 4 teams, the SBSC may sponsor more than one all-star team. In that case, the number of players contributed by each team would double. Subject to SBSC Board approval, a team may exceed the maximum number of players.

Regular season coaches should provide their nominations to the all-star coaches for their division by October 31st and be available to discuss the nominations. All-Star coaches should work with the regular season coaches on their nominations so that strong, well-balanced teams are created.

Divisions U8 and U10 (7 v 7 format)

# of Teams in Division During Regular Season	Max Number of Players Nominated by Each Team	Max Number of Wild Card Picks by Each Team	Wild Card Pool (Total)	Maximum Number of Players on Team
2	4	2	4	10-11
3	3	1	3	10-11
4	2	1	4	10-11
5 (b)	1 (a)	2	10	10-11
6+ (b)	1	1	6+	10-11

(a) Coaches may also decide to choose 2 players from each team.

(b) Consider fielding two all star teams

Divisions U8 and U10 (7 v 7 format) ** 2 All Star Teams **

# of Teams in Division During Regular Season	Max Number of Players Nominated by Each Team	Max Number of Wild Card Picks by Each Team	Wild Card Pool (Total)	Maximum Number of Players on Team
5	3	2	10	10-11
6+	2	2	12+	10-11

Division U12 (9 v 9 format)

# of Teams In Division During Regular Season	Min Number of Players Nominated by Each Team	Max Number of Wild Card Picks by Each Team	Wild Card Pool (Total)	Maximum Number of Players on the Team
2	5	2	4	12-13
3	3	2	6	12-13
4	2	2	8	12-13
5 (a)	2	1	5	12-13
6 (a)	1	2	12	12-13

(a) Consider fielding two all star teams

Division U12 (9 v 9 format) ** Two All Star Teams **

# of Teams In Division During Regular Season	Min Number of Players Nominated by Each Team	Max Number of Wild Card Picks by Each Team	Wild Card Pool (Total)	Maximum Number of Players on the Team
5	4	2	10	12-13
6+	3	2	12	12-13

Division U14 (11 v 11 format)

# of Teams In Division During Regular Season	Min Number of Players Nominated by Each Team	Max Number of Wild Card Picks by Each Team	Wild Card Pool (Total)	Maximum Number of Players on the Team
2	6	3	6	16
3	4	2	6	16
4	3	2	8	16
5 (a)	2	2	10	16
6 (a)	2	1	6	16

(a) Consider fielding two teams.

All Star Practices:

The SBSC recognizes that teams need sufficient practice time to better compete in the tournaments. Unfortunately, SBSC has limited field space, particularly when Daylight Savings Time ends the first week of November. All-Star Teams may begin practicing the 1st week of November, subject to field availability. The Practice Field Coordinator and/or All-Star Coordinator will let all-star coaches know what practices days/times are available. All assignments must be made through, and approved by, the Practice Field Coordinator and/or All-Star Coordinator. The Practice Field Coordinator and/or All-Star Coordinator will make sure each team is allotted one practice day per week before assigning teams second practice days.

Questions

Questions and requests for additional information: Contact All Star Coordinator
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