



Team Selection / Player Placement

To understand our Player Placement Process, you first must understand it's objective.

The objective of Roaring Fork United's player placement process is to place players on teams that provide the most developmentally appropriate level of play. Long term player development starts by building a structure that requires Coaches and Directors of Coaching to observe, monitor and identify player progress throughout an entire season or year. Traditional tryouts create undue stress for players and parents alike. A year-long evaluation process provides a more accurate and in-depth look of each individual player.

Based on Coach and Director evaluations, Roaring Fork United is able to gain a strong sense of the appropriate level of play for those players already participating in the Club, and on what team individual players should compete in order to maximize player development. This system provides a more accurate placement of most players and has distinct advantages over tryout events.

Here are some reasons why:

- Not all players best display their abilities in a tryout situation. Some player qualities are also less tangible than the more obvious individual skills of some players.
- The tryout situation often groups players together who don't know each other, this can prevent meaningful team play.
- Coaches can be overwhelmed by having to focus on too many players at one time at a tryout event and having to make choices based on observing players for just a few minutes.

Players should be evaluated on what they have done all year, including non-physical qualities like commitment, perseverance, dedication, and leadership. A tryout situation, on its own, does not allow for as meaningful an evaluation of those qualities. For these reasons, Roaring Fork United has determined that the traditional team tryout process is not appropriate for our club.

Which RF United Teams use the Player Placement Process?

Player Placement is utilized in selecting teams for the Advanced League only. Academy, All Valley, and Mountain Region Teams do not use player placement for selection to teams. Selection to these teams is based on practice location, training schedule, coach and teammate requests, and timely registration. While not all requests can be accommodated, requests received before July 15th (fall) and December 31st (spring) will receive priority based on the date of registration. Once team rosters are filled, players will be placed on the next most appropriate team with openings.

What does a player need to do to be evaluated for player placement on an Advanced League Team?

To show interest in being evaluated for an Advanced League team, players can register for Step 1 of the Advanced League registration on www.RoaringForkUnited.org. *This does not have a fee and will identify a player to the coaching staff and Director of Coaching as an interested player for evaluation.* Players currently on Advanced League teams can register to show their interest in continuing to play in Advanced League in the next fall season. While all coaches are asked to evaluate their players, this process will identify players who have interest in playing in Advanced League regardless of their current team placement.

Advanced League registrations use a two-step process to allow for appropriate player placement before families make a financial commitment.

- Step 1 – Register to show interest (no fee). This will indicate to RF United that the player would like to be considered to participate on an Advanced League Team.
 - Directors will make a plan to observe and evaluate the player during training and/or game settings.
 - RF United will use Coach and Director evaluations to make a determination regarding the best placement for each player who has indicated interest in an Advanced League Team.
 - If there is an Advanced League Team that is developmentally appropriate for the player, RF United will place the player on a roster and will trigger an email to the player asking them to accept or decline the nomination.
- Step 2 – Accept or decline a roster spot and complete player registration, including making a payment or setting up a payment plan
 - Roster spots must be accepted in a timely manner; there may be an earlier deadline for accepting a spot as indicated in your nomination email.

Procedures for Advanced League Player Placements

- Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Directors will complete an evaluation for all players that have shown interest. Notes are taken to differentiate players within specific areas of play (technical, tactical, physical, and psychosocial). Players will be ranked by their evaluation.
- No player's spot is guaranteed for multiple years on a roster.
- Coaches and Directors will communicate any potential changes with players and parents regarding potential moves between rosters.
- Players will be notified as soon as possible after the end of each season regarding their recommended placement for the subsequent season.

Advanced League Registration Deadlines

- Once players have indicated interest and been evaluated, players will be placed on a team for the fall and spring season if they are fully register for both seasons by June 9th, unless the Head Coach and/or parents determine that it is not the right fit for the player.
- Priority will go to players committing to both fall and spring seasons. Returning players who registered for a single season in the fall may re-register before December 31st to hold their spot on an Advanced League team.
- If there are available spots on Advanced League Teams after Dec 31st, new players will be nominated to open roster spots.

What is the commitment to play in the Advanced League?

- Once a player accepts their roster spot on an Advanced League team, it will be a yearlong commitment with the exception of High School players (who only play club during one season). This includes summer tournaments, fall and spring league season, fall or winter tournaments, futsal training or league and spring tournaments.
- While the Club understands some players play multiple sports or have limited availability during certain seasons, we will work to build a player pool to support year-round play. This plan will be determined once teams are set.
- If a player shows exceptional progress during a season, coaches and their age group Director may discuss moving a player to a more competitive roster.
 - Any recommended move will be discussed with the player and parents before the move is finalized.
- If a player does not show the level of commitment or skill expected for their placement, coaches and the age group Director may recommend a transfer to a less competitive roster.
- Winter training, summer leagues, camps, game video, and tournament play may be used as additional evaluation opportunities for new players to the Club interested in Advanced League selection.
- Unless a player is highly skilled compared to age group peers, and physically and mentally mature, the club will keep players within their age bracket.

What are the options if a player is not selected for the team that they desire?

Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) allows for players, within the same club, to guest play on any team within a two-year age group. Players may guest play up in age group, but may not play below their chronological birth year. With the Club Pass Rule, players on any RF united roster may be invited to play on another RF United team when players are needed, as determined by game day roster needs or player potential. Coaches adding Club Pass players to their roster must inform the Club registrar the Wednesday of that week. This is called the Club Pass.