

Recruiting & Tryouts

Updated for Spring '26

Youth League Commissioners

Regions 1-5: Creighton Atkin // catkin@uysa.org

SU-IRL: Frank Hoyt // fhoyt@uysa.org



What is Recruiting?

Trying to convince a player to change teams during the Seasonal Year at any point **AFTER** they have registered to a team in UYSA's online registration system.

Recruiting is allowed at all during the Seasonal Year.

Could also be a try-out violation.

UYSA Policy 6312

5. Definitions

6. Penalties



Penalties

- a. A Team or Organizational Member may be placed on *Probation* or *Bad Standing* by the League Commissioner for violating the Tryout or Recruitment policies. Any or all the following sanctions may be levied against the Team or OM as applicable:
 - (1) An OM in Bad Standing shall not be allowed to vote in the AGM;
 - (2) An OM may lose the privilege of utilizing C-Pass players;
 - (3) Players desiring to transfer from a Team or OM in Bad Standing would be allowed to transfer regardless of other policy restrictions on transfers;
 - (4) Teams would be allowed to leave the OM that is in Bad Standing at the end of the season and would retain their alignment spot;
 - (5) Teams and OMs in Bad Standing may be stripped of all alignment spots; and
 - (6) All teams in an OM in Bad Standing would be ineligible for recommendation to and/or participation in any US Youth League, UYSA State Cup, and UYSA President's Cup.



What is a Tryout?

UYSA Policy 6316

A tryout may be considered to be any event *regardless* of the name, and not limited to: **open session, ID camp, meet and greet, open or training session.**

A Tryout is considered to be **any event** where a single player or group of players performs or participates in any soccer skills or trainings, or where a player(s) is tested, evaluated, examined, auditioned for, or anything like unto it to ascertain their potential, abilities, effectiveness, value, function, quality, etc., in any environment **where skills may be seen by coaches or staff and evaluated in any manner.**



So – can we do any clinics?

UYSA Policy 6316

A tryout may be considered to be any event **regardless** of the name, and not limited to: **open session, ID camp, meet and greet, open or training session.**

State Office interpretation:

The key issue is **WHAT Seasonal Year** the clinic, meet & greet, training session, ID camp, etc.. is intended to support? Events that take place *after* the Tryout date for a Seasonal Year with the intent of helping to fill teams and identify players for that same Seasonal Year would be allowed.

Clinics that take place later in the Seasonal Year where the players would likely be for the next Seasonal Year could be considered an early tryout.

- ❖ Summer clinics to help identify players for that Seasonal Year – no problem.
- ❖ Spring clinics which are too late to identify players for the current Seasonal Year – likely a violation of the Tryout policy.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, CHECK WITH THE OFFICE.



Advertising Tryouts

- a. As used in this section, advertisements include, but are not limited to, promotions through television, radio, newspapers, flyers, direct mailings, email, or online postings.
- b. Any advertisement must disclose the following information:
 - 1) Name of the Organizational Member or independent team conducting the tryouts; and
 - 2) The Organizational Member's affiliation with UYSA.
- c. Advertisements must not be misleading as to participation costs, coach qualifications, or level of play.



When can we hold a tryout?

26-27 Seasonal Year

- **SU-IRL (Southern Utah only – all ages)**
 - On the next Monday *after* Memorial Day after Spring League play
 - **June 1, 2026**
- **X League - Regions 1-5 (9U through 12U)**
 - 3rd Monday in May
 - **May 18, 2026**
- **Premier, SLC or IRL – Regions 1-5 (13U through 19U)**
 - The Tuesday after Memorial Day
 - **May 26, 2026**
- Note that these are the dates that tryouts can begin – there is no deadline by which tryouts close.
- Remember, you cannot do a tryout for a player who is already registered to another UYSA team for that Seasonal Year.



Tryout Violations

- Hiding a tryout in the guise of a training session.
- Communicating with a player outside of your club prior to the 2nd Saturday in May (3rd Sun in May for SU-IRL)
- Offering a spot to a non-current player **PRIOR** to the opening of try-outs for that age group
 - SU-IRL: June 2nd
 - Regions 1-5: 9U to 12U May 19th, 13U to 19U May 27th
- While a team may offer a spot to a currently rostered (not club passed) player after the 2nd weekend in May (3rd weekend in May SU-IRL) – a team may NOT require a player to accept until the registration date for the age group, which cannot be less than 48 hours after the opening of tryouts for the applicable age group



Typical / Likely Penalties

- **Early Tryouts** – players not allowed to play with that coach, team, club and/or teammates for the Seasonal Year.
 - Possible individual discipline on the violating coach
- **Early notice (prior to 2nd week of May) of leaving a club/team to go to another** - players not allowed to play with that coach, team, and/or club for the Seasonal Year.
 - Possible individual discipline on the violating coach
- **Improper Player ID camps** - discipline as outlined as penalties from the earlier slide.



Offers

An offer (which must be written (could be text or email)) must include the following:

- 1) The date of the offer;
- 2) The name, age group, anticipated coach and anticipated level of the Team for whom the offer is made (notice of the level of Team made is not necessary for X-league teams);
- 3) Anticipated costs to play on the team including uniform, league, tournament and travel costs; and
- 4) The time period in which the player has to register in response to the offer. The time must be at least 48 hours and cannot be prior to when registration opens for the age group. (i.e.
 - 9U-12U in the North: registration opens 12:01am May 21st,
 - 13U-19U in the North: registration opens at 12:01am May 29th,
 - SU-IRL opens 12:01am June 4th.)



Outside Trainings

- Although these meet the definition of tryouts, these are opportunities for players to get additional training if certain steps are taken:
 - Player/ parent **MUST** notify **current** coach in WRITING (may be via text or email as well)
 - Coaches/Clubs - CYA for an outside of club player coming to a training

Best Practice could be:

Ask player's name

Ask player where they are currently playing

Ask to see copy of the text or email notification

If in doubt – let them watch- but not participate



Outside Training Criteria

- MUST be parent/player initiated
- Team cannot invite outside OM players to training sessions (“Team” includes players, coaches, admins, parents, etc.)
- Training coach MUST provide a written evaluation to the player at the end of each session (could be via text or e-mail to the parent.)
- May not have more than 3 players from outside the OM at a training session
 - To be very clear – More than 3 and it will be seen by UYSA as an improper try-out.

Again – Don't try to hide a try-out



Coaches are “employees” or 1099 Independent Contractors of a Club

- Other teams or Clubs may recruit coaches at any time
 - It happens and is allowed.
- However, a violation occurs if the coach who is coaching for team or Club recruits the team’s current players to go to his new team or Club prior to the 2nd Saturday in May (3rd Sun in SU-IRL).
 - This is NOT allowed. This is the most common violation we see.
 - Likely penalties – players not allowed to go to new team AND coach either placed on probation or suspended.



When in Doubt?

Contact us! We are always happy to give advice to avoid possible violations.

We can be reached at our office (801-307-5150) or by email

- Creighton Atkin // catkin@uysa.org; Regions 1-5
- Frank Hoyt // fhoyt@uysa.org; SU-IRL

