

NWI Lions United Tryout FAQ's

New Players New players will be assessed against existing players to see where they fit in. Multiple coaches will view new players to ensure that we do not miss anything and that we make as fair an assessment as possible in such a short amount of time.

Player Movement One of the most challenging aspects of the tryout process for everyone, is the movement of players both up and down to ensure the teams are balanced with similar level playing abilities.

For the coach, it is very easy to move a player up a level and congratulate them on the achievement. It is however, very difficult to move a player down, even though it will be for the best, long term for the players development. If this happens, please consider the benefit of being the top player and earning the majority of playing time on the lower level team vs being the 17th/18th player on the higher level team, and spending a year with limited playing time and the frustrations that come along with that situation.

Parents Attending Tryouts If you as a parent are anxious about the process for your child, you'll serve your child better by staying further away from the fields. If you are anxious one of our best recommendations is to register your child, tell him/her to "have fun" and "work hard", and smile while they head to the fields. Then run some errands or find a nice place to read. If your child sees no anxiety in you, he or she will have less anxiety too.

Q. Will NWI Lions United be using birth year registration for 18/19 season?

A. Our teams will be formed based on the US Soccer birth year mandate. Our goal is to provide the appropriate platform of competition for each player and we will approach each age group/team/gender in a way that best suits the club, teams, and individual players for development and success.

Q. Can my child play up an age group?

A. We recommend all players tryout in their birth year at tryouts unless they talk to one of our DOC's first about playing up.

Q. If I miss tryouts is there any way I can still make a team?

A. Yes. Current players simply need to register and notify the relevant coach of their intention to play next season, but will be out of town. Team email offers will still be sent out to those players after tryouts. New players need to notify Mike Rance or Graeme Langford as soon as possible to set up a supplemental evaluation.

Q. When will we find out tryout results?

A. We will begin making team offers as soon as possible on the day of tryouts and all players will receive an email by end of the week stating that they have a spot on X team and to accept by email. Players who do not make a team will also receive an email in the same time

period. Our goal is always to find a place for players to play at NWI Lions United and that any player wanting to commit to our program has the opportunity to play at an appropriate level for that player. There are many variables every year and our staff is prepared, and experienced at improvising to make the tryouts process run smoothly.

Please note that some players will get offers before others. This happens! We can only call/email so many people at the same time, and in order to form multiple teams, we have to start with the highest level team first because of the knock on effects that can cause serious issues. For example, if we have 3 teams in an age group and offer 16 spots right away to each team, what happens if 2 players from each team decide not to accept? We now have to move 2-4 players up from each team to the next highest level and we are now telling people they are playing on a different team to the one they were originally offered. We also then get left with a team that only has 12 players and that is now not enough to form a fully rostered team! This is the reason why we have to form teams from the highest level first.

Q. What is the process for accepting my spot?

A. After you receive email with your team offer, reply with I accept/decline my place. To complete the process you must sign up to an online payment plan and make the first payment. All paperwork can be uploaded here also. We offer varied payment plans to ease the burden of fees as well. Your place is not confirmed until payment and all paperwork is uploaded.

Q. Is there a process for appealing a players position on a team if they don't like their placement?

A. No- the tryout process is handled 100% by our coaching staff, free from any outside influences or club politics. Our coaching staff select players to play on teams where they believe it will be best for that players development over the next 12 months. We fully understand that this might not always be in line with what the player or parents think. This is a common occurrence and we understand that these differences will happen. Soccer is after all a game of opinions at all levels of play! There is however, no process for any appeals on team placement.

Q. Can my child's team assignment change during the season?

A. For the majority of players this wont be necessary for, our staff do a good job at placing players in the right group, however this is not an exact science. During the year we are constantly evaluating the players and if we feel your child would be better suited to another group, higher or lower, we will discuss that option with you.

Q. How long is the commitment?

A. For non high school players the commitment is from the moment you commit to the end of the following spring season. For high school players you will commit now but you are not eligible to play until after your high school season has finished.