



Russell Soccer Club

Representative Program Placement & Assessment Process

IMPORTANT UPDATE- Canada Soccer has introduced new [Grassroots Standards](#) (2026). In response, the Russell Soccer Club has adjusted its Representative program assessment process to ensure alignment with these national guidelines.

These updated standards are designed to elevate the player experience by emphasizing age-appropriate development, increased ball contact, and an environment that supports learning, confidence, and enjoyment. With this brings changes to game formats, field dimensions, team structures, and player groupings. These adjustments reflect the new national standards and are being adopted across Canada to provide all young players with a consistent, high-quality development pathway.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement these improvements and work to provide the best possible soccer experience for our players. Additional details will be shared with each age group before the season begins.

COMPETITIVE ASSESSMENTS (U8 - U13)

All players registering for the Representative Raiders program (U8 - U13) will participate in competitive assessments. These sessions provide a fair and consistent evaluation of all players before placing them within their age group's *player pool*. Following the assessments, players will be placed onto balanced teams in either our representative program or our recreational program to ensure they have the opportunity to continue to play in a developmentally appropriate environment.

Multiple sessions are scheduled so every player has an equal chance to demonstrate their abilities. Assessments will focus on technical skills, decision-making, physical literacy, and overall attitude/effort. Our goal is to support each player's growth and love for soccer through a transparent and player-first process.

COMPETITIVE ASSESSMENTS (U14+)

All players registering for the Representative Raiders program (U14+) will participate in competitive assessments. These sessions provide a fair and consistent evaluation of all players before placing them on teams. At these levels, teams are formed based on performance, commitment, and positional needs to ensure players are placed where they can best contribute and continue their development.

Multiple sessions are scheduled so every player has an equal chance to demonstrate their abilities. The assessments include technical and tactical exercises and small-sided games. Evaluations are completed by multiple RSC coaches to ensure fairness and transparency. Players will be notified following the final session; all participants will receive guidance on the most appropriate development pathway moving forward.

EVALUATION FORMAT

Each session will consist of two components: evaluating the players' individual skills (eg. dribbling, passing, shooting, etc) and assessing these skills under pressure against opposition in a small-sided game..

- The Club will assign assessor(s) for each age group. More than one assessor may attend the assessments for their own age group.
- Players may be considered for the next age group with the approval of the Club Head Coach. In order to move to a higher age group, the player must rank in the top 5 spots in the higher age group that they are a candidate for.
- If an age group has more players than the roster allows for, the evaluation scores will be used to form the base of the team.
From U9 to U10, the first 7 players will be chosen by the Club and the team head coach will choose his remaining squad. Any players not chosen for the Rep program will be given the opportunity to play Russell house league and be used as a Rep call up as needed.
- From U11 to U12, the first 9 players will be chosen by the Club and the team head coach will choose his remaining squad. Any players not chosen for the Rep program will be given the opportunity to play Russell house league and be used as a Rep call up as needed
- Any player not selected for a specific team in the Representative program will be automatically offered an opportunity to continue their development in the Recreational Program and may be added to the Rep *player pool* (U9-U13) or considered as a Rep *call-up* (U14+) as needed throughout the season.

TEAM ROSTER SIZES

Roster sizes shall be established within the following ranges:

- U8-U9: 8 to 12 players
- U10-U11: 10 to 14 players
- U12-U13: 14 to 18 players
- U14+: 16 to 20 players

Players who wish to be considered for a team must complete the online registration (\$25/player).