



Rec Program Team Formation

Revision 3.0

Last Updated: 3/31/15
Mike Stewart, Rec VP

Pleasanton Rage employs two types of Recreational team formation processes:

- 1.) **Manual** – Teams formed by a member of the Recreational Committee
- 2.) **Draft** – Teams are formed by coaches using a hybrid draft process

All Recreational teams are allowed up to 3 coaches (1 Head, 2 Assistants).

These coaches

- a) must complete background checks
- b) receive a volunteer reimbursement toward registration fees
- c) are given exclusive approval to coach at practice
- d) are the only non-players allowed on the team sideline during games

MANUAL PROCESS

This process applies to all divisions not using the Draft process.

Process

Each team is allowed up to 4 player requests. These requests include players directly associated with (typically the daughters of) the coach(es) if registered in the age group.

A representative of Rage (member of the Rage Recreational Committee or Pleasanton Rage Staff or Age Group Coordinator) populates teams with the remaining players based primarily on school and neighborhood alignment. The ability to maintain this alignment can be affected by the availability of volunteer coaches from within a given regional area. Reciprocated 'carpool / friend' requests noted within the registration form are also considered where allowing the request would not create a known significant competitive imbalance within the age group.

Rationale

The manual team formation process has been designed to provide the following benefits for the greater good of the Rage membership:

- 1.) Players are given the opportunity to play under the direction of various coaches during their time in youth soccer. The diversity of strengths, perspectives, and approaches of different coaches provide players with the greatest opportunity for both personal and soccer skills development.
- 2.) Players are introduced to a variety of peers in their community within the unique framework of a sports team. This expands their social network and enhances athletic and social growth by providing a chance to work toward a common goal with teammates of varied abilities, backgrounds, and personalities.
- 3.) Competitive balance within the age group divisions is improved. A reasonably well balanced division promotes a more positive soccer experience for players, coaches, and parents. Players and teams that are appropriately challenged have a far more positive and rewarding experience. Players do not grow or otherwise benefit from regularly dominating opponents, and being consistently outplayed can be demoralizing,

resulting in a loss of interest in the sport and activity.

DRAFT PROCESS

This process currently applies to Flight and U16 and U19 Rec divisions only.

Process

Each team is formed by the coaches in a hybrid draft. Coaches are allowed to 'seed' their team by requesting a select number of players prior to the start of the draft. This number is dependent on the age group. Any seed players that are requested by more than one team remain in the draft pool and those coaches may request replacements. Remaining players are selected within the draft. Draft order is determined by registration order if all coaches are identified or otherwise by random draw. The draft sequence is as follows:

Round 1 and 2 – Serpentine format (forward and backward) wherein the last team to select in the 1st round is the first to select in the 2nd round.

Round 3 and beyond – Circular format (forward) starting with team 2 and incrementing the start point by one in each subsequent round.

Any unselected players or late registrants are assigned to teams by a member of the Rage Recreational Committee or Pleasanton Rage Staff.

Rationale

The draft process, while more time consuming, provides coaches with opportunity to participate in the formation of the teams based on a balance of social and performance criteria within a fair and equitable process. This process is only available for Flight, where coaches can view and assess players during evaluation play (Flight Evaluation Days) and in our two oldest age groups where the majority of players are already rated based on ability and known by the coaches.

AGE GROUP EXCEPTIONS

Play Up (*in an older age group*)

Rage Staff assessment / approval required.

To be considered if

- Players are from the same immediate family < OR >
- Logistics hardship – childcare, carpool requirement, etc < OR >
- Most same year classmates are the age group above

Play Down (*in a younger age group*)

Rage Staff assessment / approval required.

To be considered only for players with a qualifying condition such as diagnosed physical, mental, or emotional disability

< end >