

2016/2017 Pipeline Annual Tryouts

Please read and/or print out the below IMPORTANT details about tryouts. The information below details not only what to wear and bring to tryouts, but also outlines the process during and after tryouts conclude.

When to arriv

Arrive 20 minutes early to your first tryout session. When you arrive, there will be tables set up for **MANDATORY CHECK-IN** and same day registration. **Everyone** has to check in. If you do not check in on the first tryout day, we will not know your son or daughter is in attendance. Without this step, they will not be on the coaches' lists. On subsequent days, 10 minutes early is fine but that also means dressed and ready to play.

What to bring?

- Shin guards (required)
- soccer cleats (non-metal) or turf shoes
- water (extra!)
- a ball (inflated properly)

What to wear?

- Wear a **WHITE** shirt (as plain as possible) plus whatever else is weather appropriate. Please wear black (or dark) shorts and socks if possible.
- Do **NOT** wear anything with the logo of another youth team or youth club. Pipeline players should **NOT** wear jerseys with Pipeline.

Can my son/daughter play up in age?

Yes, but this is up to the discretion of the club's Director of Coaching in conjunction with the coaching staff. **DO NOT** have your child attend a tryout of an older age group. Such decisions are made after tryouts. A player will not be allowed to play up in age unless he/she is able to start and play most of the game on the older team. Further, playing on the younger team must be a hindrance to the player's development. A player's development is the priority of this club (not loyalties to teams or pursuit of winning). A player in our organization will play up if it benefits the player's development. That is always our priority.

How many tryouts should my son/daughter attend?

The more tryouts attended, the greater the opportunity a players has to exhibit his or her skills. We encourage you to attend all of the tryouts in your respective age group and you must attend at least one of the tryouts to be considered for placement on a team. We have a limited number of tryouts because we have found that when players are spread out over many sessions it is very difficult to fairly make selections.

What are coaches looking for in a player?

At all ages, coaches are looking for: attitude, athleticism, competitive drive, technical skill, pace of play, and tactical understanding. A player's position is not a factor at the youngest ages. Those players will play all over the field at teams to aid in learning. At the older age groups, players do increasingly play specific roles/positions on teams and coaches will be taking into account teams positional needs to some extent.

When/how do I find out if I made a team?

- After the last tryout, staff will inform parents by email or phone about a player's status on a team. This will happen within 1-3 days. Parents will be given information as to commitment level and costs of a team at that time. A deadline will be placed on players making decisions. This is necessary to be fair to all players who tried out for the team.
- - To reserve a spot in an age group, a per player fee is required when accepting an offer of a spot. This will be your first payment towards club fees. This early payment is necessary to be fair to the players who do not make certain teams or a team at all. If a player initially accepts, then changes his/her mind, we then have to call back another player after already turning a player down. That is not fair to the players and we need to avoid that situation as much as possible.

What does it cost to play on the team?

There is A LOT of misinformation out there about club soccer, so please take us as the source about our fees and not what others tell you. Costs vary drastically by team, age, level of play, and a team's goals. Of course have our Youth Development Academy which is just \$125 per season. For the club teams your son or daughter is trying out for, the total costs last year (2015-2016) ranged from \$88 a month to \$184 a month. These fees included everything but the uniform. Uniforms are bought very 2-3 years only. Why such a large range from the lowest to the highest fees? While all of our teams are professionally coached by non-parent licensed coaches, the oldest and highest level teams are often playing in tournaments all over the country as they are in the final stages of being recruited by collegiate programs. That increases costs for those teams.

How do I try out for the Baltimore Armour USSDA teams?

The Baltimore Armour US Soccer Development Academy is our program for boys who will be 13 to 18 during the calendar year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31). *A similar program for girls is now being set up with US Soccer and will be rolled out within a few months.* This is the highest level of youth soccer for boys in the country. With very few exceptions, the boys cannot play High School soccer as this is a year round program that conflicts with HS Soccer. Because of this restriction, some players might opt not to play for the Baltimore Armour program even if capable of doing so skill-wise. Players will be chosen for further evaluation by Baltimore Armour coaches and the Board of Governance directly. Players interested in Baltimore Armour should attend our tryouts. If chosen for the top team in his respective age group, the opportunity to play for our USSDA program can be discussed with the player and is parents/guardians.

Who makes the selections at tryouts? Who are the coaches?

The head coach of the "Black" team in an age group oversees the tryout for an age group. He or she chooses players for the "Black" team first. When that is complete, he or she assists any other coaches in the age group in picking the other teams. All coaches for an age group will be at tryouts helping one another assess all players throughout. Coach designations for teams and their coaching resumes will be posted online before tryouts in the staff area.

How many teams in an age group will you have? What are team names and designations?

In the younger age groups (U12 and below), we will field 2-4 teams in an age group. We will not field more than that. How many we field is based on player interest and the if the level of play warrants the formation of the teams. At U13 and above, we will field 1-3 teams in an age group. Our teams are designated Black, Red, Gold or White for their team names. Black being the strongest. Regardless of team level, all teams get the same level of training, facilities, and commitment from the club so that the only difference is the level of play (i.e., certain leagues or divisions) they play at so that it is developmentally appropriate for their progress as players. Our goal is not to have the most club teams, but to have the best run and best coached team for the enjoyment and development of the players.

My son/daughter was selected for the "Red" team, how will this experience differ from the "Black" team?

We value all our teams, we do not slight them in any way. All teams will be treated equally in terms of training resources. They have the same level of coaching and field access as any other team. This means that a player on any team in an age group has the same chance to develop to his or her potential as a player on another team. Further, a player may be moved up or down over time if that is better for the player's development. This happens regularly, even on the best teams. Our goal is development of every player in the club.

My daughter/son is also trying out for another club, or will soon, what do I do?

We know this can be a difficulty, but this is not something we can work around. We schedule our tryouts based on field availability and hold them before kids go away on summer vacations. Each year, we announce our tryout dates well before anyone else announces theirs as a help to families. It would be unfair to other players at tryouts to wait for a decision while a player tries out for another team or plays teams/clubs against one another. Our hope is to get dedicated players and supportive families who believe in the Pipeline model of player development, our coaches, and the Pipeline approach to youth club soccer as a whole.