

Recruiting Policy

Recruitment of player(s) actively playing for another team is prohibited, except as specifically provided in this rule. A player is actively playing for another team if the player appears on an official team roster certified by an authorized representative of Vermont Soccer Association for the current Soccer Year, ***OR*** has signed a contract ***OR*** paid a deposit for the upcoming seasonal Soccer Year. ***In addition, the Player's name must appear on a Club's official registration form for the season associated with the current roster. This Club document must contain the Player's name, be dated, and signed by the Parent(s) or legal guardians of the player.*** The current Soccer Year begins September 1 of each calendar year (the "Soccer Year"). Recruitment will be allowed between July 1 and October 1 of each year. These dates will adjust each year according to the Region I Championship finals.

Club Tryouts cannot be held before July 15, 2021. Clubs found in violation of this tryout date will be fined a minimum of \$3,000.00

This policy refers to all Divisions in leagues throughout Vermont. In addition, this rule is not intended to eliminate Dual Rostering, if leagues allow dual rostering. However, the VSA Player Recruitment Policy applies to those Clubs interested in approaching players about dual rostering.

No adult registered with Vermont Soccer Association as a volunteer (administrator, coach, trainer or booster) shall recruit players already actively playing for another team for participation in their program during the Soccer Year.

No person may encourage players within their program to recruit players actively playing for another team during the Soccer Year.

This rule does not prohibit the publication of open tryouts. For example, a club may place ads in newspapers or announce tryouts on their website or Facebook page.

Recruitment includes, **but is not limited to**, the following activity:

1. Communicating with a player or parent on the subject of that player's participation in a club or a team.
2. Inducing, soliciting, or otherwise using current players, or their parents, to persuade players from another team to transfer.
3. Providing incentives to players such as reductions in fees, trips, uniforms, and other equipment, other than financial aid with respect to Club fees in cases of financial need or hardship.

4. Using a position of authority to persuade a player to transfer from one team to another. This shall include adults involved with the State ODP program, adults involved with clinics and soccer camps, and adults involved with High School programs or other programs such as indoor soccer.

SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO COACHES

1. All Vermont Soccer Association rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by coach, manager, and all team representatives. Compliance with these rules shall be the responsibility of the coach. Violations of this rule may be regarded as violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct and subject sanctions by the Vermont Soccer Association Discipline Committee.
2. Any direct contact with a player or parent with the intent to recruit must begin with an inquiry as to the player's current status, with any other team.
3. Continuing any contact with a player or parent after learning that the player is actively playing for another team is prohibited.
4. Discussing a club or program with a player from another team (after being contacted first) without notifying the player's parents is prohibited.
5. At all times when discussing the advantages of his/her Club, program or organization, the coach has an obligation to be truthful, forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.
6. No coach may make a statement, at any time, to a prospective athlete which cannot be verified as true or promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play.
7. Once an authorized direct contact with a player has been made, no further contact with that player may be made without the express consent of the player's parent or legal guardian.

PENALTIES

Any person found in violation of the VSA Policy on Player Recruitment shall be subjected to a minimum suspension of three months from all club, VSA, and US Youth Soccer activities. Further sanctions may be imposed by the Vermont Soccer Association Discipline Committee.

Any club found in violation of the VSA Policy on tryout dates will be fined a minimum of \$3000 for the first offense. Further financial sanctions may be imposed by the Vermont Soccer Association Discipline Committee.