



# ***HYSA Division II Policy***

## **I. PROGRAM PURPOSE**

The purpose of the HYSA Division II (D2) program is to create a developmental opportunity for all-star recreational players resulting in a higher level of instruction and a more competitive level of play and to develop organizational coaches who are trained to coach at these higher levels of competition.

## **II. PARTICIPATION CRITERIA**

- A. Players who participate in the HYSA Division II program must be primarily-rostered on a Division III (Recreational) team.
- B. There are no age variance requirements for a D2 pool or team.

## **III. PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

- A. The HYSA Division II program shall be composed of developmental player pools made up of secondarily-rostered recreation players.
- B. Each pool shall be organized within age and gender (e.g., U10 boys).
- C. Each pool shall consist of up to but no more than 30 players.
- D. Multiple pools may be formed within any age/gender in order to accommodate a level of interest among players that exceeds 30.

## **IV. POOL SELECTION**

According to MSA Division II guidelines, D2 teams may be formed in any manner, including tryouts, at any time between August 1 and March 1. Thus, in order to form a D2 developmental pool at any age/gender, the following procedures will be followed:

- A. The HYSA Division II Committee (D2C, composed of President, Recreational Commissioner(s), Division II Commissioner, and Technical Director) shall send an email to all eligible players' parents and coaches informing them of the club's intent to form a D2 program for this age/gender.
- B. All parents and coaches interested in providing support to the D2 program shall be identified and formed into an informal steering group.
- C. Since D2 pools may not be formed until after Division I (Select) teams are rostered or August 1, whichever comes first, all eligible and interested players shall be invited to attend 3 preliminary training sessions that will conclude no earlier than August 1.
- D. The D2C and steering group shall evaluate players at all 3 of these sessions using an established objective means of assessment for the purpose of identifying as many players as possible who could benefit from involvement in this developmental pool and eliminating players from the pool only in very rare circumstances due to lack of ability.

## V. COACH SELECTION

- A. Any candidate for a D2 coaching staff position in HYSA must meet the following minimal criteria:
1. S/he must have (or be willing to get) the appropriate MSA license for the age group they desire to coach.
  2. S/he must currently be a D3/Recreational coach in HYSA.
  3. S/he must show proficiency in the 4 coaching-based criteria – a) technical, b) tactical, c) physical fitness, d) psychology.
- B. Two equal factors will be simultaneously weighed in selecting a coach and coaching staff for D2 teams:
1. The parents and/or coaches who have been involved with these players for several years may desire to continue formal involvement by playing some role on the coaching staff of the team.
  2. The club may desire to provide the best possible coaching staff for the development of these players.
- C. Therefore, keeping both of these factors (see letter B above) and the minimal criteria (see letter A above) in mind, the D2C, especially the Technical Director, will identify and secure the best possible volunteer (i.e., not paid) coaches for this/these team(s). Any individual interested in becoming a D2 coach must do the following things:
1. Fill out a D2 Coach Application Form (found on the HYSA website under “Forms/Resources”).
  2. Attend all 3 preliminary training sessions in order to assist the Technical Director and be trained by him.
  3. Be evaluated and approved by the Technical Director.
- D. Each D2 developmental pool should have a staff of coaches designated in order to support the number of teams that may emerge out of the pool for any given competitive event.
1. For instance, if there are 40 players in 2 pools of U10 boys, there should be at least 4 coaches identified who could serve as head coaches for up to 4 teams.
  2. Ideally, assistant coaches would also be designated in support of the head coaching staff.
  3. Individuals designated as head coaches may be (but do not have to be) rank ordered. In other words, John Doe may be designated as first head coach so that, if only 1 team is rostered out of the pool for any given event, John will be the coach of that team, etc.
  4. Any head coach designate may also serve as an assistant coach when they are not head coaching.

## **VI. POOL REGISTRATION**

- A. After the 3 preliminary training sessions are completed and pool players and coaching staff have been identified and notified, the D2C shall register this pool(s) with the MSA office as early as September 1 but no later than March 1.
- B. This registration procedure involves the following:
  - 1. Submitting all necessary information to register each player in the pool.
  - 2. Obtaining player passes for each player.
  - 3. Obtaining coach passes for each coach.

## **VII. TRAINING SESSIONS**

- A. HYSA shall establish and maintain an Academy Night training program designed specifically to develop young (U8/U10) D2 players.
- B. These D2 Academy Night training sessions shall take place once a week during the recreational season and shall alternate between boys and girls each week.
- C. These special training sessions will be led by the Technical Director (with support from the Director of Soccer) and will focus on advanced skills and team concepts not typically covered in recreational team training sessions.
- D. In addition to these training sessions, the D2 coaching staff may see fit to organize additional training sessions at their discretion and in consultation with the D2C (especially the Technical Director), steering group, and other involved parents.

## **VIII. COMPETITION SCHEDULING**

- A. The D2 coaching staff should actively work on identifying, scheduling, and facilitating appropriate competition opportunities for the D2 players/teams.
- B. According to MSA Division II guidelines, D2 teams are eligible to compete against D1 (Select) teams as well as other D2 and D3 (Recreational) teams.
- C. Because D2 players are only secondarily-rostered and because Recreational games take precedence, the D2 coaching staff should work closely with the Recreational Commissioner(s) and the Commissioner of that particular age/gender group to make sure that games and events do not conflict.

## **IX. TEAM SELECTION**

- A. In order to allow as many players as many competition opportunities as possible, event pool-team rosters will be created from each developmental pool for games or events (i.e., tournaments) during the developmental pool season.
- B. Event pool-team rosters are temporary and event specific; thus, different combinations of players may be placed on different rosters for each consecutive game or event.

- C. The composition of each event pool-team roster shall be determined by the D2 coaching staff in consultation with the D2C (especially the Technical Director) and steering group. The following guidelines should be followed during team roster formation:
1. When multiple teams will be fielded for any given tournament or event, these teams should be divided equally by skill level. In other words, there should be no "A" team that contains all of the best players and "B" team with the next-best players, etc.
  2. Any player in the pool who is interested in playing in a tournament or event should be given the opportunity to do so.
- D. Children of coaching staff will always be placed on their parent's team unless that coach/parent prefers otherwise.
- E. Selection of players for event pool-team rosters may be made across multiple pools.

## **X. PRESIDENTS CUP**

- A. Permanently rostered D2 teams are eligible to compete in the Presidents Cup each year.
- B. Thus, any players on the D2 developmental pool roster who are interested in participating in the Presidents Cup will be considered for placement on a permanently rostered team(s) to be formed out of the developmental pool.
- C. Final rosters for permanent D2 teams must be submitted to the MSA office by the Monday 18 days prior to the D2 freeze date for the Presidents Cup or the Monday of the second week in April, whichever is earlier (the precise date of the deadline each year will be posted on the MSA calendar online).
- D. The composition of each permanently rostered D2 team shall be determined by the D2 coaching staff in consultation with the D2C (especially the Technical Director) and steering group.
- E. Roster formation for permanently rostered D2 teams should follow the same guidelines as found in IX, C, 1 & 2 above.

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