



Gander Revolution Football Club (GRFC)

5 Penney Ave, Gander, NL, A1V 1W5

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Travel Team Selection Policy

GRFC Team Selection Philosophy

The ultimate goal of this player selection process is to provide players with the best possible experience in an environment where they can grow as athletes and people. Our approach to player selection is aligned with [Canada Soccer's Long Term Player Development \(LTPD\) model of athlete development for Newfoundland and Labrador](#), which gives all players the best chance of success in soccer by tailoring training, competition and coaching to their needs at the appropriate stage of development. Furthermore, we are committed to developing a club for the entire community that supports and develops all players fairly.

GRFC recognizes that children develop physically, emotionally and mentally at different rates, and this needs to be considered when selecting players for teams. Players who play on teams that exceed their technical abilities, speed and desired level of commitment are more likely to have a negative experience. The LTPD model and GRFC believes that the right level of training and competition will facilitate their continued love of and participation in the sport

Team Purpose

Travel teams are teams that will go to 'Soccer Festivals', 'Tournaments', or potentially 'League Games' (in the case of U13 and U15), and therefore while the club is inclusive, teams in U11, U13, U15 and U17 will have selection processes.

Team 'Selection'

In accordance with the [CSA Long Term Development Program for Newfoundland and Labrador in 2026](#) GRFC will not have tryouts for teams aged U7 - U13. This Model states that the identification and placement process can be extremely stressful for young players. This is particularly true if player identification is done through a traditional "tryout", which provides a relatively limited opportunity to demonstrate ability in an unfamiliar and high stress environment. In addition to being stressful on young players, tryouts are also not the most effective way to evaluate players.

Evaluating players on an ongoing basis over an extended period of time, preferably in an environment in which they are comfortable, is a better approach in terms of the effectiveness of the evaluation and in limiting the amount of stress on young players. For these reasons, tryouts or other similar evaluation events are not permitted in grassroots soccer in Canada up to and including U13.

Tiering of players and teams is not permitted before U11. Before U11, players should be grouped using a **random* or balanced**** approach.

Streaming*** of players can begin at U11; however, placement cannot be done through a tryout process.



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**** Random – Players are placed on teams by random selection with no evaluation process.***

***** Balanced – Players are placed on teams with other players of varying ability with a goal of creating teams of similar quality.***

****** Streamed – Players are evaluated and placed on teams with other players of similar ability.***

For GRFC, this means:

- The U7, U9, U11 and U13 travel teams will not have traditional 'try outs'.
- The U7 and U9 teams will have an emphasis on learning, having fun and attending festivals for experience. Where possible, multiple teams will be registered, and teams will be balanced. These teams will be available to players based on interest and coach availability.
- U11 and U13 will have initial planning sessions to identify age group numbers and interest, and establish what our coaching needs are. From this point onward, these age groups will train together, and GRFC will stream players for match days or tournaments according to extended training performance and ability levels. *U11 will go to soccer 'festivals' where the emphasis is on learning and participation. U/13 will go to 'Rising Stars' tournaments which will have competitive structures and formats
- @U11, U13, U15 and U17, parents MUST agree to the conditions of tryouts when they register.
- All players wishing to be considered must be registered.
- Will be held in the last 2 weeks of May, 2026 @ the Gander Soccer Astro Fields
- U15 and U17 teams. These sessions will have skill, modified game and full game elements.
- More assessments may be organized depending on coach and selection committee availability

Team Numbers

- A full U7 and U9 teams will consist of a maximum of 10 players
- A full U11 team will consist of a maximum of 14 players, though ideal numbers are 10 - 12
- A full U13, U15 and U17 team will consist of a maximum of 16 players

* Coaches are encouraged to select full teams where possible and appropriate to maximise participation and experience.

* A maximum of 2 alternate players will be selected for Rep 1 Teams. These players are expected to train with the team, but not play tournaments unless called up.

* A maximum of 4 alternate players will be selected for Rep 2 Teams. These players are expected to train with the team, but not play tournaments unless called up.

Player Evaluations

- At U15 and U17, players will be evaluated at Open Assessments by a minimum of 3 'selection committee' members. The selection committee is made up of a coach, technical director, and another club official.



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- Evaluations will be both numerical and descriptive
- Upon review of the player evaluations, the first half (plus 1) of the roster will be filled automatically by players that the selection committee has agreement with eg. for a 14 player team, this is the first 7 spots + 1. The remaining spots are to be filled through by coach choice (using the selection committee feedback and their own observations).
- Selection criteria will be available for parents and players, however, player evaluations are not provided to players or parents.
- Players not selected for teams can ask for feedback regarding areas for improvement after a 24 hour cooling off period.
- Following the completion of the assessments, the section committee will decide on their final selections and notify the successful players first asap.
- Non selected players will be notified after selected players.

Selection Criteria

- Factors will play a role in determining which players are or are not successful are likely to include, but are not limited to:
 - technical attributes (soccer skills)
 - tactical attributes (eg. moving in space, transitions in attack and defense, positioning in attack and defense, applying a team plan)
 - physical attributes and conditioning
 - commitment level
 - willingness to work well with teammates
 - willingness to accept coaching and instruction
 - numbers of players preferring to play certain positions.
- The majority of the selection criteria will be determined by the club's technical team, though the coach may add several specific criteria in line with the clubs vision, the coaches playing style and through collaboration with the technical director.
- Players do NOT need to attend all tryout sessions in order to be selected, however, GRFC expects that parents will communicate the reason for non attendance to help coaches understand absences.
- Players unavailable for tryout sessions due to injury, sickness, extended holiday or reasons outside of their control may be selected if parents/guardians have communicated the issue prior to tryouts, if the team number allows it and if a 'makeup' tryout or evaluation can occur by the coach or with the team. The spirit of this statement is to ensure that players, their participation and their development are not disadvantaged by events out of their control.



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- Through registration, parents MUST agree to the conditions of selection. They are as follows:
 - Players will make every attempt to attend all team functions (games, practices, and events). Parents will make every attempt to communicate non attendance ahead of time.
 - @ U11 and U13, players will train together, but will be streamed for festivals/tournaments/matches based on extended training performance and ability levels. Therefore, it may be possible for players to move between teams, however this will be decided by coaches and communicated to parents as soon as possible. In such a short season, movement between teams is not expected to happen much.
 - Players are required to attend 50% of practices to be invited to attend festivals/tournaments/matches. All players, irrespective of age group, are required to attend at least 50% of the season tournaments.
 - Any player who relinquishes their commitment to a team for unreasonable circumstances (eg. doesn't agree with team placement, conflicts with other players/team members, etc.) may not be considered for a travel team the following season.
 - Players of Travel Teams are required to participate in their respective NLSA Provincial Tournament.

Cooling off period:

GRFC requires all members to respect the 24-hour cooling off period. Parents/guardians shall not approach coaches immediately after team selection. Once the 24 hours has passed, communication may be brought to a team manager or divisional director. The team manager is always the first line of communication, and they will bring all questions and concerns to the coaching staff, Technical Directors or GRFC Executive.

Under no circumstances shall a parent or guardian use social media during or immediately team selection to air grievances. Such occurrences will be documented and brought to the GRFC executive for discussion and appropriate discipline implemented when necessary.