



Player Trial Process (AA/A)

This document is a support resource to help players and parents better understand the player trial process at Halifax City Soccer Club. The information in this document is relevant to any players that are trialing at either the AA/A program level.

Player Trial Process

Players who are recommended to a AA or A program from the previous season will be placed at that level for the start of the following season.

Players who are recommended as AA or A trialists will attend the start of the recommended program for a minimum of two sessions. Coaches and staff will then monitor this player's experience in the designated program and upon the conclusion of the two session period the player's registration the recommended program will be confirmed, or the player will be recommended to the most appropriate environment.

New Players/Transfer Players

Players who are either new to the organization, not in a program that receives recommendations or transferring from another club will be able to register at their desired level and go through the trial process stated above.

If there is an instance where a team has the maximum number of players already assigned, returning Halifax City players will be given priority over a new/transfer player.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Trial?

Halifax City Soccer Club has committed to the removal of the “Open” tryout process. The tryout process brings unnecessary anxiety for all involved including players, parents, coaches, and staff. Rather than trying to select teams based on two or three sessions, we use the larger sample size of the entire previous season to make a recommendation of where a player should register at the following season.

This allows our coaches and staff a much greater sample size of what the player’s individual needs are over the course of an entire season to find the most appropriate spot for them in the following season. Through this recommendation process we are able to establish core teams for the following season. Players who may benefit from playing in multiple different levels at the club to better support their individual needs as they go through the trial process to find the best fit between 2 programs. The trial period for AA and A programs will be conducted within the first two to three sessions of those programs training as we look to find the most appropriate environment for your child.

Isn't the trial the same thing as a tryout?

Yes and no. While we look to alleviate as much anxiety as possible, we cannot completely remove it from all players' situations, especially those who may be trialing between different groups. The biggest influence that makes trials necessary is when players move between age groups in double-age banded years meaning that the pool changes every year rather than moving all up together. Therefore, we don't necessarily know all of the players who will make up specific programs for the following season when the player pools mix. With core groups being established they should give the players trialing a more realistic environment and does not have all players starting from scratch, especially when we have already recommended a set number of the players who will make up the team at the beginning of the program. This allows our club staff to provide better support and plan from season to season. It also allows our players to better understand the process and build trust that we are committed to supporting them in their soccer journey.

To summarize, instead of having 25 players trying out for a team, we break it down into a handful of players that are on the cusp between two programs and decide on what is best for their individual needs, which is usually AA, A, or a fluid schedule in between both programs.

What about players who transfer from other clubs?

Transfer players will have to go through the trial process regardless of the level they previously played at their previous club. For simplicity and transparency our transfer acceptance process is as followed:

- 1. Halifax City Players who are registered and recommended for AA/A*
- 2. Returning Halifax City players (They didn't play winter for example) where the AA/A environment is most appropriate without displacing any players from the priority chain above.*
- 3. Transfer players where the environment is most appropriate without displacing any players from the priority chain points 1 and 2.*

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