



Dear FC Pride Parents

Parents, tryouts are a necessary but difficult period. It is as unnerving for the players, their families and the coaches. As we enter in to the tryout phase I want to share with you thoughts about the process:

1. It is our intent to find a team for every child that try's out. We want to continue to find a team that is most suited to their ability that allows them to be challenged while achieving success and having fun.
2. Concerning the make up the teams: It is not our intention, nor do we anticipate making "whole" changes to current rosters. It would be wrong for us to state what we are not in control of. For example, we do not know how many players will be trying out for the different ages, therefore, it is impossible to state that "x" amount of players will not have a place to play, or will play for a second team. We can only try to manage the situations on the day when we see the numbers that turn out. Only at this time can we begin placement process, not before.
3. Every year during the past twenty years I have been coaching each team makes a few changes. Again I want to reiterate the fact that we do not want to disrupt the "core" of players that have played together for a significant period. This is for two reasons. The first is that chemistry has been established and we wish to continue to build on. The second is that the integrity of the team does not need to be challenged. Every team is comprised of players, parents and siblings. It is an entire group that comprises a team and we are sensitive to this.
4. It is our intention to place players with players of similar abilities. The players and families have made good friends along the way. This aspect of club soccer helps build team unity, team spirit and makes the season more enjoyable. I will add that we do not ask on the try out registration form who your best friends are, nor do we ask the parents whom they would like to stay together with. This is because I feel it is our primary responsibility to place players in environments that are best suited for them. This may mean two friends may be separated on to two different teams. In the end, if two teams are created and a there is a slight difference in overall team strength the player asked to play on the stronger team may decline the invitation and stay with their teammates from before.
5. The teams are put together for multiple reasons:
 - i. To make as consistent a competitive side.
 - ii. To develop each player individually so they may achieve the level they aspire to, whether it be an Olympic Development Team, a High School team, a College team or even a professional team.
 - iii. At some point during their long careers, every player and family needs to make a decision based on what is best for them. This may involve playing for a different team within the FC Pride club.
 - iv. More players that have played in clubs that I have overseen have gone on to play in college that any other program in the state of Indiana.

6. Our goal is to create the truest environment that allows each individual player the opportunity to experience growth at his or her personal rate while having fun playing. Some players mature physically and psychologically faster than others, others are more competitive and others are more athletic. Our team placement and individual evaluation is at a moment in time...NOW. No player on any team will ever receive lesser training opportunities, nor be denied the highest quality of training offered. Like school, every student learns at his or her own ability. I think it is fair that players with "like" attitudes and abilities stay together rather than be placed in environments where they are either over challenged or under challenged. This would be unfair and ultimately no fun.

Players play for one of at least three reasons:

1. They get involved for the social and athletic environment
2. They enjoy playing soccer especially with their friends.
3. They play for the love of the game.

None of these reasons are better than the other. It is partially these categories that we try to understand when selecting teams as well.

7. Regarding coaching: Every year we select coaches that we believe will be with FC Pride for a long time and feel are very capable and worthy of overseeing the development of the players in the club. Every year coach's lives change and we must make changes as well. Some coaches' work environment changes so they no longer have the time to coach. Other coaches need a break or realize that this is not what they wish to do. On occasion, we have coaches that I feel are unsuitable to continue training players at a rate necessary for development so we mutually agree to have that coach step down from coaching with FC Pride. In any case, it sometimes makes it very difficult to not have premature coaching changes from season to season. When I assign a coach to a team it is with the understanding that he or she will remain with that team for a minimum of two full years, with three years being the maximum they would stay. After three years a new coach would be assigned to coach the team.

Like any business, there are periods or moments that do not run as smoothly as planned. Do know that we have every player's best interest in mind when changes are made. You are the customer and it is very much our goal to please you!

Good luck at tryouts. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Pete Kapsalis