



# CYSA Player Assessment Process



We look at the following categories when assessing players (aligned with Mass Youth Soccer):

## **1. Technical Skills** – a player's comfort level with the ball

- Dribbling, receiving, passing, heading, shooting, tackling (getting the ball back from the opponent or regaining possession of the ball).

## **2. Tactical Decision Making** – the decisions that a player makes

- When, where, why, & how to dribble, receive, pass, head, shoot and tackle the ball.
- What to do when our team has possession of the ball
- What to do when our team does not -have possession of the ball.

## **3. Physical Abilities** – Speed, Quickness, Strength, Agility, Balance, Aggressiveness

## **4. Offensive Ability** – helps to keep possession of the ball for the team

- Loves to have the ball at their feet
- Comfortable with the ball
- Finds a way to move the ball forward toward the opponent's goal
- Finds a way to score goals
- Positional awareness (positioned to support teammates who have the ball)

## **5. Defensive Ability** – helps win the ball back from the opponents

- Recovers to a defensive position after his/her team losses possession of the ball
- Good tackler of the ball
- Show restraint/patience when outnumbered by attackers
- Applies immediate pressure to opponent to win the ball back when appropriate
- Communicates with other players on the team



## CYSA Player Assessment Process



CYSA utilizes independent, neutral and knowledgeable evaluators to provide an unbiased assessment of our players. The process is geared to provide the fairest opportunity for all players to make a team that best fits their ability and skill level. Today we partner with the University of Lowell, Massachusetts Soccer Program. Players and coaches from both the Men's and Women's team assess all CYSA players during the assessment process.

CYSA has player assessments one time per year in May and these assessments are used to place players in the following fall season. Assessments are done in May to not conflict with Chelmsford baseball playoffs and to be able to partner with the University of Lowell soccer program before school is out. For the next spring season players will potentially move up to a new team depending on the player quantity differences from the fall to spring season. Player movement to different teams will be done based on the previous May assessment and the previous fall season coach assessment. CYSA tries to keep teams in tact from the fall to the spring season, but this can be difficult since we experience about a 25% drop off in player participation between the 2 seasons.

As part of the assessment, players will go to multiple stations participating in either small sided games or a full field scrimmage. Every player will be assessed by each evaluator. Players get scored 1 to 5 in each of the categories specified above, 1 being the lowest and 5 being the best. With 5 categories and a 1 to 5 scoring system, the max score for a player by 1 evaluator is 25 points. All evaluator points are added up for each player providing a total assessment score for each player for each night. Evaluators also provide comments for each player to provide a little more insight into each player's ability. It is strongly encouraged that players attend both assessment nights. The more data we have on each player the more accurate the placement.

Assessment scores account for about 80% of the placement process. Our CYSA coaches also provide player assessments of their players at the end of each season. CYSA uses these assessments to compare them to the CYSA assessment data. This comparison is used to validate both the May assessment scores and the coach assessment scores. If there are any discrepancies between the 2 assessments, the player's previous coach is contacted to work through why we may be seeing some differences in order to ensure the player's placement is done correctly.

CYSA takes pride in providing a fair and unbiased assessment of all players to ensure everyone gets placed on teams that match their skill level. CYSA believes that for players to develop they need to be placed with other players of similar skill. In addition, a young player's ability is dynamic and changes very fast. As a result, CYSA must adapt to these changes to ensure that each year players get placed on the appropriate teams based on their current skill level. Due to the fast changing player skills and abilities, all player placements are open from year to year. For example if a player is placed on the U10-1 team in 2010, placement on the U10-1 team is not a guarantee for the 2011 season. Placement for the 2011 season will be based on the player assessment as it compares to his or her peers for that season as well as the coach assessment using the process previously detailed.