

# North Toronto Soccer Club Recreational Program: **TEAM ROSTERS**

NTSC uses its best efforts to **balance** recreational team rosters in each division based on:

- (a) player soccer **skills and ability**, as evaluated by previous coaches (or for new players, by parents)
- (b) **age** including, in single age divisions, across the months of that year
- (c) **gender** in mixed divisions; all U4 and U5, and for the summer league, U13 and older

Rosters are randomly generated based on the above criteria. There are many advantages to developing rosters in this way:

## **1. BALANCED ROSTERS**

Rosters for all teams in a division have a similar mix of skills, ability, experience, age and gender.

- Over the season, all teams should have a reasonably fair share of ball possession and goals; all players will have the opportunity to learn age-relevant soccer skills (plus for older teams, offensive and defensive tactics).
- Volunteer and staff coaches - when preparing for and leading skills development and in game situations - are working with a comparable mix of players; more skilled and less skilled; more experienced and less experienced.

## **2. WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**

The recreational league provides a welcoming environment for all children, including those new to soccer, to the league or to the community.

- It can be difficult for a new player to fit in when most or all teammates are in pre-established social groupings.
- For those who have played before, having new and different teammates widens the circle of friends and acquaintances for players and parents.

## **3. ATTENDANCE**

Randomly assigning players avoids situations where a large group of friends on one team have a game time conflict which causes that team to play short-handed or forfeit a game;

- friends from the same school – a school trip, graduation, athletic banquet, school fair
- friends from another sports team – attending the same tournament, or tryout

## **4. ORGANIZATION**

There are 4,000+ players in the spring and summer recreational leagues, with 250+ spring teams and 150+ summer teams, and 600 recreational volunteer coaches and convenors

- The option of making teaming requests is limited to the children of parents actively serving as coaches (usually 2 per team), division convenors or team sponsors; a maximum of 3 such requests per team.
- The organization of coaches alone involves a considerable effort on the part of staff and volunteer administrators.
- Even if it was advisable from a policy standpoint, it would not be possible to accommodate teaming requests across the program without (a) closing registrations several weeks before the start of the season and (b) hiring additional administrative staff.

The NTSC Board of Directors recognizes that some families would prefer to have their children play on the same team with friends, for social or car-pooling reasons. However, it is the opinion of the Board that, for the reasons stated above, this community program will continue to be strong and best serve current and new players by having rosters balanced as they are currently.