



# KANSAS STATE YOUTH SOCCER

[www.kansasyouthsoccer.org](http://www.kansasyouthsoccer.org)

*"The purpose of the Kansas Youth Soccer Association is to promote, foster, and perpetuate the game of soccer throughout the State of Kansas."*

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## Frequently Asked Questions for 2021 Tryout Rules & Procedures

### **What's the purpose of this new amendment and change to the rules for tryouts?**

With the feedback we received from Directors of Coaching and Club Administrators about the procedure for conducting tryouts and player commitments to teams for the 2020/2021 playing season and with Covid-19 still being an issue, we have revisited our tryout rules again. We have also taken into consideration the changing landscape of youth soccer, and wanted to put KSUSA members in competitive position with other clubs that play outside KSUSA.

That being said, we believe we have come up with a way that will allow clubs, teams, and players to prepare for the new season in a way that allows the clubs to plan, teams to be formed, and gives the players/families the right to do what they feel is in their best interest.

### **FAQ FOR COMPETITIVE PLAYERS & PARENTS**

#### **What is the Free Agency Period?**

It is the period of time that competitive players are released from any club/team and are free to tryout anywhere (unless they have already committed to the existing team and paid a deposit and the rescission period had passed). It is also a time when coaches and club representatives may recruit and talk with players without violation of KSUSA Rules or financial penalty. It is a reset period for all competitive players to begin looking into clubs/teams for the next seasonal year.

#### **When is the Free Agency Period?**

With the amendment to the KSUSA Rules, the Free Agency Period for competitive players will begin on **May 15, 2021** and go until on **July 16, 2021** or until formal acceptance to an offer from a KSUSA member or competitive team.

#### **When are tryouts for 2021-2022? When could I register for tryouts if I need to do so?**

The earliest date that KSUSA member or competitive teams may host a physical tryout for players will be no earlier than the Tuesday following the completion of the State Tournaments, which this year is on **June 8, 2021** for all youth age groups for competitive teams and may be held any day after until July 16, 2021. **Clubs may not open tryout registration until 12:01am on May 15, 2021.**



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## What is Targeted Recruiting?

This is when a coach or club representative (Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Parent of currently registered KSYSA member or competitive team) makes direct contact with a player, parents or guardian to recruit a player who is not already on their team and offers them a formal acceptance for 2021-2022 before the free agency period (May 15 - July 16, 2021) begins.

Violations of this rule will result in serious penalties including, but not limited to suspensions and fines for that club representative.

### VIOLATION:

- A club representative may not directly contact a competitive player outside their own club **before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to have them sign a formal acceptance. Contact is not limited to personal contact, but will include contact by phone, text, emails, and social media messages to the player, family member or player representative.

### NON VIOLATIONS – Targeted Recruiting is NOT applicable:

- When clubs/teams seek to re-sign their current club/team players registered for the 2020-2021 seasonal year, beginning on May 15, 2021 for the upcoming 2021-2022 seasonal year.
- During a Free Agency Period, which this year is **May 15 - July 16, 2021**. This means that coaches and club/team representatives may contact free agency players outside their club/team and invite them to tryout during the Free Agency Period.
- When a competitive player attends a Player Identification Events (Camps, ID Clinics, Kick-A-Rounds, etc.) of a KSYSA member or competitive team as per the details in the Tryout letter, which has certain criteria that needs to be met by the hosting organization in order to be exempt.

## Types of formal acceptances?

A formal acceptance is defined by the KSYSA member or competitive team and could include anything from an official contract or financial deposit to the member or competitive team for the 2021-2022 seasonal year. All are subject to that specific organization.

## What is a formal acceptance?

Once a player has made a formal acceptance (written or electronic signature) to an offer from a KSYSA member club or competitive team, they are bound to that club/team for the seasonal year until the next free agency period begins the following seasonal year, UNLESS a Release Transfer Request Form is submitted and approved by all parties involved or the player meets recension dates in time.



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## Can I rescind or change my mind after I sign my formal acceptance?

Yes, there are actually two types of rescissions options that apply for competitive players during this period. No form is required to complete this, just documentation of proper dates in case of appeal or protest from a KSYSA member or competitive team is made to KSYSA.

**First option** is for a competitive player who declare and put down a deposit for their current KSYSA member or competitive team starting on May 15<sup>th</sup> but then after a couple weeks changes their mind to return. This competitive player will have **until June 10, 2021 to rescind their commitment to their current KSYSA member or competitive team** without penalty, financial or otherwise. Players who rescind this option will receive a full refund of their deposit they made to the KSYSA member or competitive team.

**Second option** is for a competitive player going through the tryout process with a different KSYSA member or competitive team than the preceding seasonal year. This competitive player attends a physical tryout (which may begin on June 8, 2021) and be made an offer from that KSYSA member or competitive team for the upcoming seasonal year. Should that competitive player formally accept the offer then they have **TEN (10) DAYS** from the day they complete the formal acceptance.

## If I wish to stay with my current club/team, how do I do that? When can I sign my formal acceptance for my current club/team?

Beginning **May 15, 2021 through June 10, 2021** a competitive player may declare they are returning to their currently registered KSYSA member or competitive team for 2020-2021 and complete a formal acceptance for 2021-2022 seasonal year without going through the tryout process. This is allowed by KSYSA members or competitive teams without being in violation of the targeted recruiting rule. The player, if accepting the offer to return to their club/team does **NOT NEED TO ATTEND** a physical tryout for their current club/team if formal acceptance to return is done on or before **June 10, 2021**.

## What happens if I don't sign a formal acceptance with my current club/team?

A competitive player that does not sign a formal acceptance with their currently registered KSYSA member or competitive team club/team by **June 10, 2021** will need to attend tryouts to seek an offer to join a club/team. (this includes attending a tryout for their current registered KSYSA member or competitive team).

## If I wish to leave my current club and/or look into another club how do I do that?

A player is not required to sign a formal acceptance to their current KSYSA member or competitive team between **May 15, 2021 and June 10, 2021** if they are offered a spot. A player should not feel pressured by the KSYSA member or competitive team to do so. Also remember that accepting an offer does not jeopardize the competitive player as they would



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still have until June 10, 2021 to rescind the offer without financial penalty. A player can register for any tryout(s) any time after **May 15, 2021** and have to go through the tryout process to join another KSUSA member or competitive team

## **When can I sign my formal acceptance with another club?**

A competitive player may sign a formal acceptance with any KSUSA member or competitive team on or after **June 8, 2021** after that competitive player has gone through a tryout process for that specific KSUSA member or competitive team.

## **What does it mean if I haven't signed a formal acceptance or gone to a tryout and its after July 16th?**

Any competitive player who has not signed a formal acceptance with a KSUSA member or competitive team by July 16, 2021 will still be considered a free agent player until such time as a formal acceptance is made to an offer from a KSUSA member or competitive team for the 2021-2022 seasonal year.

## **Do I need to attend a physical tryout for clubs?**

Only a competitive player who has not signed a formal acceptance with their existing KSUSA member or competitive team by **11:59pm on June 10, 2021** may need to attend tryouts.

## **When can clubs communicate with current players about the process for next year regarding tryouts?**

KSUSA member or competitive team can begin communicating with their existing, registered competitive players on **February 1, 2021** about the tryout process and how the club/team will be following the amended rule guidelines.