



# 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 KSUSA MEMBER CLUBS & COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

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

It is the period when KSUSA members or competitive team representatives may recruit and talk with competitive 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 players will begin **May 15, 2021** and go until **July 16, 2021** or until formal acceptance to an offer from a KSUSA member or competitive team. This means that at **11:59 pm on June 10, 2021** all competitive players who have not signed a formal acceptance with their existing KSUSA member or competitive team are free to join any club/team following the tryout procedures.

#### **When are tryouts for 2021-2022? When can a club begin to register players for tryouts?**

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? How is this rule amendment going to affect that?**

This is when a coach or club representative (Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Parent of currently registered KSUSA 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.

Targeted Recruiting is still in effect and violation of the rule is subject to serious penalties listed below for a club representative:

- 1st Offense: Six (6) month suspension
- 2nd Offense: Twelve (12) month suspension & \$1,000 fine.
- 3rd Offense: Thirty-Six (36) month suspension & \$2,500 fine.

**VIOLATION:** A club representative (Coach, Assistant Coach, Administrator, or Club Member) may not contact a competitive player outside their own club **before May 15, 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 KSUSA 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.

## **As a club/team representative when can I resign my current competitive players?**

KSUSA member or competitive team representatives may officially offer positions to competitive players currently registered for the 2020-2021 season starting **May 15, 2021 through June 10, 2021**. A club/team may not make offers to currently registered competitive players prior to May 15, 2021.

**Kansas State Youth Soccer Association**  
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## **As a club/team representative when can I talk to competitive players outside my club/team?**

KSUSA member or competitive team representatives may contact competitive players beginning May 15, 2021. This representative however CANNOT make an offer to competitive players who currently play outside their organization or guarantee them a spot without the competitive player going through the tryout process which tryout registration may begin May 15<sup>th</sup> with physical tryouts being held no earlier than June 8, 2021.

## **When can I sign players outside my club?**

You can sign a competitive player outside of your KSUSA member or competitive team on or after your tryout which can be held no earlier than **June 8, 2021**.

## **Types of formal acceptances?**

A formal acceptance is defined by the KSUSA 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 KSUSA 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.

## **When can I communicate with my current competitive players about the process for next year regarding tryouts/or the need not to tryout?**

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.



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## **Can competitive players rescind a formal acceptance? What is that time frame?**

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 KSUSA member or competitive team is made to KSUSA.

**First option** is for a competitive player who declare and put down a deposit for their current KSUSA 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 KSUSA 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 KSUSA member or competitive team.

**Second option** is for a competitive player going through the tryout process with a different KSUSA 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 KSUSA 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.