



2011 Recreational (Outdoor) Player Evaluation Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to help all of our recreational coaches evaluate their players in a more uniform and systematic fashion. With your help these evaluations will aid our club representatives to better balance the recreational teams in the future. Please take a few moments to read these guidelines and follow the examples. If you have any questions regarding the guidelines or the evaluation itself, please contact your Director at either mini@pickeringssoccer.ca or fullfield@pickeringssoccer.ca for clarification. You may also contact operations@pickeringssoccer.ca or call the clubhouse at (905) 831-9803.

Evaluation Criteria

We have defined 4 basic criteria that should be easily identified in all your players. Although there are many other factors that can be evaluated, our purpose is to keep things as simple as possible and to stay focused on soccer skills as opposed to physical factors.

NEW!!

The four criteria are:

- 1) **Technical Skill** - This area includes the 3 basic skills for house league soccer: **passing, dribbling** and **shooting**. A high score should be given to players if they show the proper technical skills in all 3 areas. *Example:* A high score should be given to players that pass with the inside of their foot, dribble with control (the ball is always around them) using both the inside and outside of their feet, and shoot with their laces. Please don't confuse technical ability with power and strength. For example, if a player is able to kick the ball far up the field using their toe they are NOT using the proper shooting technique as shown in the PSC manual.
- 2) **Tactical Skill** - This area demonstrates how well a player knows the "game" of soccer, listens and learns. A player should score high here if they listen well at practice and can perform instructions given by coaches, show respect to players and coaches, understand which side they are attacking and defending, and participate fully at every practice. Aside from the true tactical skills being assessed, attitude can definitely play a part in this section of the evaluation. *It is also important to note players with learning, listening, or other disabilities (as best as you can) so we can take that into account when building future teams.*
- 3) **Speed** - This area includes both speed while dribbling a soccer ball and speed without a soccer ball. A player should score high if they are the fastest player on their team AND have good ball control.

This area is for U12 and up only:

- 4) **Goalkeeping** - This area demonstrates a player's interest and ability to play in goal. Do they enjoy it? Do they understand their position (keeping the ball out of their net/only player on field that is allowed to use their hands)? Do they know where to stand? A player should score high if they show enjoyment in the position as well as the ability to catch the ball in the air or on the ground and distribute it appropriately. Please keep in mind that many of the players are not used to playing goal and at the younger age groups they may have to take turns and try the position.

When it comes to balancing teams, the number one complaint from coaches is that "Nobody wants to play goal..." or "I don't have a keeper on my team...". **Please help us to identify potential keepers** for the coming years by making a point of notating who has and who hasn't played in net.

Scoring Area

For each criterion, please mark a score from 1-5.

- 1) **Lowest grade a player can get.** The player falls short in the skill sets as compared to the average player **in the division**. Watch for this player to move up skill wise as the season progresses.

TECHNICAL: Player shows weak skills in all 3 areas (passing, dribbling, and shooting).

TACTICAL: Player has poor listening skills, poor behaviour, problems following instructions that other players understand, problems understanding the game, and which way they are attacking and defending.

SPEED: Player is the slowest on the team.

For U12 and up only **GOALKEEPING:** Player shows no enjoyment or interest and has a hard time stopping the ball. Player shows fear of ball.

- 2) **Below average.** Watch for this player to move up skill wise as the season progresses.

TECHNICAL: Player struggles in 2 or more of the 3 basic areas (passing, dribbling, shooting).

TACTICAL: Below average tactical skills but can understand more than players who have scored a 1 here.



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SPEED: Not the slowest player but has below average speed on their team.

For U12 and up only **GOALKEEPING:** Below average skills but may show some interest or enjoyment, or at least be willing to play the position without cringing!

- 3) **Average score.** This level is consistent with a good recreational (house league) player. The player shows enough proficiency to execute skills with a reasonable level of success and confidence. As a guideline, most of the recreational players should hover around this level.

TECHNICAL: Players show average skill in at least 2 of the 3 basic areas. Has potential for improvement. *Example*, a player who started out being weak at passing using their toe is now using the proper technique (inside of their foot). Their passes may still be weak but they are demonstrating that they have potential for improvement.

TACTICAL: Player shows average listening and learning skills. Player understands instruction and participates well at practice. Player knows which side they are defending and attacking.

SPEED: Player has average speed compared to their teammates.

For U12 and up only **GOALKEEPING:** Player shows interest and enjoys the position. Player has average skill and understanding of the position.

- 4) **Above average score.** Typically in recreational (house league), a team may have one or two of this level of player.

TECHNICAL: Player stands out more than others. Skill level is good in at least 2 of the 3 areas (passing, dribbling, and shooting). *Example*, player attempts moves and can pass around opposing players while dribbling.

TACTICAL: Player participates, listens well, and can follow instructions given by coaches. Player has a good understanding about the basic concepts of the game.

SPEED: Player has above average speed compared to teammates.

For U12 and up only **GOALKEEPING:** Player understands position well and shows above average skill. Use your judgment here. A player should score a 4 if they show confidence and are able to stop the "easier" shots (shots that are directed at them; low, slow shots; high slow shots). Keep in mind that a goalkeeper will not save every shot and sometimes the easier shots do get through (look at the England keeper during the World Cup). However, you are looking at players who save more than the average player.

- 5) **Excellent score.** Player is clearly superior to his/her peers in the given category. Typically, this is a player who dominates the game be it in defensive, midfield or offensive play. A minority of the players on the team – perhaps even none of your players will achieve this level of skill.

TECHNICAL: Player is one of the best on your team. They are strong in all 3 areas (passing, dribbling, and shooting). They use proper technique; no toe balls (punts)! They can dribble through opposing players. They shoot with their laces and pass with the inside of their foot every time. A score of 5 is given to a player that you believe can play All Star or higher (Rep).

TACTICAL: Player has a great understand of the game. They know the positions well. They begin to create movement when they don't have the ball (getting open for a pass or shot). They always participate at practice and have an excellent behaviour with teammates and coaches. They listen and learn quickly and can follow instructions given by coaches.

SPEED: This player is clearly the fastest on your team.

For U12 and up only **GOALKEEPING:** Player demonstrates excellent goalkeeping skills. They really enjoy the position and understand it well.

Attached is a table for you to input your information either by hand or online. Feel free to use as many lines as needed. Also, if you have a "helper" who has worked with your team all season, you may wish to do this exercise together, or give them a copy of the form to get their input also. We'll happily accept multiple assessments from each team. The formation of balanced teams in subsequent years will depend greatly on these evaluations. In order to ensure a fun, fair house league season next year all coaches must complete and submit their team ratings to their coordinator or their divisional directors via hand delivery or email.

For the 2011 outdoor season we are asking that these ratings be submitted no later than August 26th, just prior to the Year End Tournaments. Teams/Coaches who have not submitted their ratings by that date will be asked by their Coordinators or Director to do so in order to be eligible to play in the tournament.

Thank you for your cooperation! As always your contribution is greatly valued.

