



Pass Area AYSO – Region 641 Player Evaluation Guidelines for U8–U19



Please use the following skills descriptions to carefully evaluate and rate each of your players using the enclosed Player Evaluation Form. Player skills should be evaluated in comparison to all of the players in your division.

Enter player rating (1–10) for the following skills:

Ball Control

- Average ratings (4-6): Controls ball with feet and sometimes with thighs or chest, anticipates path of the ball reasonably well (places body in front of ball), maintains control much of the time.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Controls ball with all parts of body, consistently anticipates and adjusts to path of the ball, transitions quickly, keeps eyes on ball, keeps ball close and maintains possession after receiving the ball. Always ready for the next move.
- Lower ratings (1-3): Ducks or looks away thereby missing the ball, falls when controlling the ball, uses arms/hands, poor anticipation of path of ball (reaches leg out in often failed attempts to stop ball), loses control, deflects ball, fears contact with ball in the air.

Dribbling

- Average ratings (4-6): Uses instep ("laces of the shoes") or inside of foot, maintains reasonable control/possession, keeps eyes up some or most of the time.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Dribbles with all major foot surfaces, keeps ball close to body, is able to shield the ball well, has one or more creative fakes or feints ("moves") to beat a defender, quick changes of direction, keeps head up as much as possible to maintain field vision. Retains possession of the ball and advances the ball into a better position by penetrating a defense.
- Lower ratings (1-3): Dribbles with eyes down, little or no control, slow or awkward forward movement, loses control of ball by dribbling into trouble or out of play, repositions entire body behind ball before touching it.

Passing

- Average ratings (4-6): Passes up field or at forward angles, timing/pace/accuracy are just average.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Consistently passes to teammates with accuracy, proper pace, and good timing, which allow the team to maintain possession of and advance the ball. Able to use both feet, uses deception, and passes over greater distances, in the air, or over opponents. Will pass back as well as up field.
- Lower ratings (1-3): Poor timing, improper pace that yields either a weak or overpowering kick of the ball, poor accuracy, passes to opponents, toes the ball (wild), misses ball completely.

Shooting/Scoring (Kicking)

- Average ratings (4-6): Average shooting ability, power/control/placement of kicks (shots) are merely average, usually favors one foot for shots on goal.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Shoots from greater distances, can consistently avoid goalkeeper, makes one-touch shots off a pass or cross, can shoot well with either foot, will head the ball to score, takes chances, follows up on shots. Has a strong and accurate kick and is able to kick the ball in the air or on the ground at will.
- Lower ratings (1-3): Shoots with little or no power, looks and/or shoots at goalkeeper, often misses ball completely or shots go wild, may hesitate or refuse to take shots and will pass the ball instead.

Defending/Tackling

- Average ratings (4-6): Some sense of delay when defending and tackling but still dives in at times. Tackles ball with average success. Clear kicks with reasonable power, looks up some of the time, some placement accuracy, and often times clearing kicks well.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Maintains composure under pressure, "reads" the attack, great sense for delaying the attack, supports teammates, stops scoring, and regains possession with good tackles. Always positioned well and can "mark" opposing players as needed. Consistently clear kicks with good to excellent accuracy and timing even over greater distances, good follow through, height, touch.
- Lower ratings (1-3): "Dives in" or over commits missing the ball much or all of the time, tackling movement and follow through are tentative causing player to miss or lose the ball, ankle not locked at tackle, poor timing, little or no power/height when clear kicking the ball, looks down the whole time, toes the ball (wild) during clear kick attempts.

Speed/Agility

- Average ratings (4-6): Average running speed, foot speed, speed to ball, reaction time, and has relatively good endurance.
- Higher ratings (7-10): Superior running speed and will always use sufficient speed to cover opposing players or to penetrate a defense, quick reflexes, consistently quick to ball, makes quick decisions, and often has good to excellent endurance.



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Lower ratings (1-3): Slow running speed, slow footed, slow to ball, slow to react, often shows lack of endurance.

Aggressiveness/Heart

Average ratings (4-6): Wins the ball but not consistently, will challenge opponents some or much of the time, average amount of touches on the ball during a game. Will to play hard for much of the match.

Higher ratings (7-10): Courageous with no fear of contact, consistently first to the ball, always challenges opponents, desire to win the ball, high percentage of time with the ball during a game. Will play hard and provide their best effort until the final whistle blows. Likes to play in the middle, consistently heads the ball without hesitation.

Lower ratings (1-3): Little will to play hard and put forth best effort, fear of contact, never first to the ball, will rarely if ever challenge an opponent, avoids traffic, will not head the ball, few if any touches on the ball during a game.

Game Knowledge

Average ratings (4-6): Reasonable knowledge of the game and of assigned positions (knows about offside, handballs, throw-in rules, marking up, etc.) In the right position much of the time, will move to open space but will also bunch up, reasonable anticipation and knowledge of position.

Higher ratings (7-10): Very knowledgeable understanding both the attacking objectives (maintain possession, advance, score) and the defensive objectives (delay the attack, stop scoring, regain possession). Capable of setting an offside trap, consistently marks opponents, rarely if ever incurs a penalty, is a team leader by communicating with teammates, and understands using time, i.e., the clock, wisely in a game. "Soccer sense" which enables reading the game, mostly positioned in the right place, knows how to use the width of the field, knows how to support teammates, anticipates well, moves to open space, good to excellent understanding of assigned positions.

Lower ratings (1-3): Lacks understanding of game, incurs penalties, causes turnovers, and fails to mark up. Rarely if ever in the right position, no support, crosses over assigned zone position or overlaps/interferes with teammates, hangs back, consistently bunches up, little understanding of assigned positions.

Attitude/Heart

Average ratings (4-6): Reasonably focused during practices and games, pays attention most of the time, some desire to learn. Generally respects teammates, coaches and referees. Consistently gives great effort.

Higher ratings (7-10): Very attentive, totally focused during practice and games, student of the game, eager to learn and improve. Respectful of teammates, coaches and referees. Gives 100% effort at all times.

Lower ratings (1-3): Lacks focus at games and at practice, daydreams during games, chats or goofs off excessively, little or no desire to learn or participate. Consistently interrupts. Shows a lack of respect for teammates, coaches and referees.

Goalkeeping

Average ratings (4-6): Willing to play goal keeper. Consistently positions body along the shooting line in preparation of receiving a shot. Sometimes hesitant to cut down angles or contest the shooter.

Higher ratings (7-10): Eager to play goal keeper. Always prepared and moving body along the shooting line in preparation of receiving a shot. Cuts down shooter angles. Puts pressure on the shooter. Receives and controls ball well. Distributes the ball accurately to teammates with throws and kicks.

Lower ratings (1-3): No desire to play goal keeper. Unable to understand the concepts of goal keeping. Little sense of body positioning. Unable to receive the ball well.

Primary Player Position

FWD Forward/Striker

CMD Center Midfield

DEF Defender

GK Goal Keeper

MID Midfield

SWP Sweeper

STP Stopper

Spring Select Prospect

Please indicate with a "Y" or "N" whether this player has exhibited abilities worthy of consideration for participation in the Spring Select season.