

CLUB PLAYER PASS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OKLAHOMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION CLUB PLAYER PASS SYSTEM

1) What is the objective of the Oklahoma Soccer Association Club Player Pass System?

The Oklahoma Soccer Association Club Player Pass allows for a more realistic and fluid movement between teams and levels of play. This fluid movement allows the player to be challenged at the appropriate level based on their current level of development. The movement is designed to help reduce the “win at all cost” team first attitude and re-focus on the development of the player. Another objective is to eliminate the administrative (paperwork) and cost load on the clubs who wish to move players internally.

2) What about potential abuse of the system?

Since teams utilizing the system will be involved in the Oklahoma Premier League, OSA member leagues and possibly other developing statewide leagues, there has to be scrutiny of clubs as they implement the program. The abuse of the system and unethical actions, as the case is with any system, are possible. Oklahoma Soccer has chosen to leave penalties for abuse of the program up to consideration of peer review committee’s designed to police coaches and administrators involved with play in leagues. As participants in the league, coaches are bound by the new Coaches Code of Ethics presented by the Director’s of Coaching of the Clubs of Oklahoma and passed recently by the Youth Board and are subject to sanctions for violations of that code or for others that may arise as time passes in the system.

3) What players will be affected by the Oklahoma Soccer Association Club Player Pass System?

Originally, this will affect all competitive soccer players in Oklahoma whose clubs decide to participate in the program. Participation is on a club-by-club basis. Each club shall provide a Declaration of Intent form to each child trying out for a club as to how they will participate in the system.

4) What will the Declaration of Intent form tell the player?

The form will allow clubs three options for participation in the system. They are:

- A club shall roster players on teams immediately upon completing tryouts and will use the Club Player Pass System during the seasonal year.
- A club shall develop a pool of players within an age group and will assign players to rosters at a date no later that rostering requirements and will use the Club Player Pass System during the seasonal year.
- A club shall not participate in the Club Player Pass System and will roster players on teams immediately upon completing tryouts.

A player will be able to use the Declaration of Intent to determine which type of program they wish to participate in prior to tryouts.

5) Can a player play in a division above their current level of play?

Yes, a player can be moved to play in any division as old as or older than the age group for which they are originally rostered. Player's rostering in age groups older than their birth year cannot play back down with their birth year age group

6) When will Clubs be able to use their club passes?

The club passes will be valid at all Oklahoma Soccer league games including those competitive leagues run by OSA members which promote or relegate to the Oklahoma Premier League. Club Passes will not be valid at Regional Premier League games or at tournaments out of state that require the original roster for the participating team.

7) Is this geared towards the needs of the big clubs? How will small clubs benefit from the club pass system?

All clubs, regardless of size will benefit. In fact, smaller clubs could benefit even more. Circumstances such as injuries to players and unavailability of players affect the smaller clubs more adversely. The "Club Pass" will enable them to move players freely from the age group below or from the second team. Small clubs that have a hard time finding enough players for each team will be able to field more teams in the knowledge that they can reinforce squads by moving players as needed.

8) How will the existing State Cup and National Cup rules affect the club pass system?

The State Cup is still based on the 'team' concept and its rules dictate that teams maintain their roster continuity from the initial roster at the start of the seasonal year to the final roster named for State Cup. Teams who wish to maintain eligibility for State Cup will have to stay within the required continuity. For example, the State Cup limits roster size to a minimum of 7 and maximum of 18 and at least 9 players from the initial league roster must be part of the final named roster. Also, only 5 previously rostered players are allowed at the time the roster is named for state cup. State Cup rules for the seasonal year take precedence over Club Pass if different.

9) How will the Club Pass System be administered?

Each club will administer the system as it best suits them. The Club will provide to OSA the name of a Club representative who will be given administrative rights to the OSA RosterPro® system. The Club Representative will be able to give rights to others in their club to administer player movement within their club. How this will be done by a club will be an internal decision for that club.

On game day, a team representative will print and present to the referee 3 copies of the day's list of players. One copy will be for the referee, one for the opposing team and one for the club. The form will be one provided by OSA and all OPL games and league games for member leagues promoting or relegating to the OPL will use this form for their match rosters.

10) Can Clubs register all their players on one pool or team and choose different players to play each week?

No. Clubs are required to roster at least 9 players on each team. In addition, the State Cup restriction of 5 previously rostered players allowed at the time rosters are named for State Cup makes it risky to only roster 9 players to a team.

11) Will these 9 players be “frozen” to that team and not be able to move to play with other teams within the club?

No. Any player can be moved within the appropriate age groups but in order to be eligible for State Cup, a team must show continuity of rosters from the “original” roster to the named roster for State Cup. In order to do that, at least 9 players must be on both rosters and have no more than 5 previously rostered players on the State Cup roster.

12) Won't parents and/or team coaches get upset if their players are moved around?

It is up to each club how and when to use the “Club Pass” system. Clubs who do not see a need for it or who are happy to continue rostering and using players in the traditional way are not obligated to utilize the “Club Pass”. It will become an internal club policy on how to deal with the added flexibility of a club pass.

13) How will Red/Yellow Cards be handled in this system?

Players or coaches sent off from a game will have to “sit out” the next league game that their originally rostered team plays.

14) What is the target date for implementation?

The Youth Board has passed the Club Player Pass System as a policy and the system will be used in the Fall of 2005. The General Membership will review this policy at the May AGM. If you believe this is a positive step for your player and club, then petition with your club to lead your Country representatives to support the policy at the May AGM.

15) How can the club director of coaching and/or coaching coordinators and club presidents help to make the transition toward the club pass system run smoothly?

By educating the players, parents and coaches within their club on the purpose and limits of the system and by proactively creating mechanisms within their own club for dealing with the "Club Pass" system. The onus will be on the club director of coaching and/or the club president to monitor and control how the club pass is used in their own backyard.