

# Oyster River United

## Player Evaluation & Team Placement Policy

The purpose of player evaluations at Oyster River United (ORU) is to place players in age-appropriate competitive environments that support long-term development, enjoyment of the game, and player retention. Evaluations are not intended to permanently label players, but to guide team placement for the season.

### Evaluation Process

1. **Coach-Led Evaluations**  
At each age group, head coaches are responsible for evaluating players. If an age group requires multiple teams, coaches will work collaboratively to form appropriate team groupings.
2. **Evaluation Period**  
Players will be evaluated during the first week of practice or initial training sessions. Evaluations are based on observations during training activities, small-sided games, and age-appropriate exercises.
3. **Coach Collaboration & Team Formation**  
Following the evaluation period, coaches will meet as a group to discuss observations and determine team placement. Decisions should be made collectively using shared criteria and best judgment.
4. **Dispute Resolution**  
If coaches are unable to reach agreement on final team splits, the Soccer Parent Advisory Group will be consulted to assist in making a final determination.

### Evaluation Criteria

Players should be evaluated holistically across the following four areas:

- **Technical** – Ball control, passing, receiving, dribbling, shooting
- **Tactical** – Decision-making, positioning, awareness, understanding of the game
- **Physical** – Speed, coordination, balance, stamina relative to age
- **Mental** – Attitude, effort, coachability, confidence, focus

Evaluations should always consider age, maturity, and long-term development, not just current performance.

### Team Placement Philosophy

Team placement is for age-appropriate competition only and is not a permanent label. Player development is non-linear, and movement between teams may occur in future seasons. ORU prioritizes player development, learning, and enjoyment over short-term results. Players/parents should be notified via email, phone call or in person conversation.

### Optional Player Evaluation Tool

Rating Scale

1 = Needs significant development

5 = Advanced for age group

Player Name	Technical (1-5)	Tactical (1-5)	Physical (1-5)	Mental (1-5)	Notes