

What I wish all DOCs knew about Alignment and the Alignment Process.

Since it is next to impossible to sit down and have a one on one conversation with each of you, I am hoping that this will be the next best thing. Most alignment mistakes that cause significant drama and emotional distress are all avoidable. The reason I became a competition representative over 5 years ago was because I wanted to reduce soccer drama and make the process more predictable. Knowing and using the information below will help make this more a reality.

Respectfully,

Tracy Proulx
Competition Committee, Chair
Region 2 Representative

Operating Parameters

- Clearly delineated alignment rules and a specific sequence for their application. You deserve the right to know how decisions are made and for them to be made predictably.
- Complete honesty & disclosure during the alignment process is expected from all representatives. Each representative is responsible for checking roster continuity and noting any teams in violation. Failure to do so jeopardizes the entire process and is not tolerated.

Dates & Deadlines Spring 2013

Registration Deadline Feb 1st: The date to have teams activated and in the gaming league is 11:59pm MST February 1st. This means that they must meet the minimum requirements to be a team, activated without violation AND your registrar must take the extra step to apply them to the state gaming league. It is a three-step process and is where most controversial mistakes are made. I strongly encourage you to have a prior deadline for this and to request a report from your registrar to review prior to Feb 1st. That way you can make sure that all your teams are where they need to be prior to the deadline. No teams are accepted to the state gaming league after this deadline.

Some coach Risk Assessments expired in December. When this happens, a background check is automatically initiated. You might have a coach who has an "R" to the left of their Admin ID number or has "Under Review" to the right of their name under Risk Status. On their team profile this will create an "Active w/violation" alert. Please make sure that all your teams are compliant and "Active w/o violation." As a DOC, you can be listed as an Asst Coach on every team in your organization. If you don't want to do this, have your registrar give you or some other club designee the access to check all of this for you.

Feb 1st is also the **deadline to have roster continuity** set. 11v11 must return 9 players, 8v8 must return 7 players, 6v6 must return 5 players. There were several

teams caught unaware in the Fall when some of the players they were expecting to count towards roster continuity did not get registered by the registration deadline. The policy has been clarified to specifically state that current roster continuity will be frozen as of Feb 1st. Very important for you and your Member Organization to be sure that your players are all registered and reflected on the roster by this date. Players added after Feb 1st will NOT count towards current roster continuity. Competition Representatives may make you aware if they notice a team without roster continuity to ensure you know how this will affect the team's alignment. This is not to be construed as an opportunity to correct the mistake after the Feb 1st deadline.

We are working on clarifying the **“previous roster” date you must compare the current roster to**. GU14 and up previous roster will be as of State Cup roster freeze/ 4.27.2012, due to policy from last year. We will be doing roster checks on all HS girl teams as this spring will be their primary season.

(NOTE: Look for updates at the March 16, 2013 AGM concerning roster freezes for the end of the 2013 playing season. This will affect roster continuity for the Fall 2013 Spring 2014 playing season.)

The Spring 2013 Alignment Form includes a place for the **Team Number from last year**. This is critical to make sure your current team is being accurately compared to the right team for roster continuity this year. If your representative has to guess at what team this is, there are bound to be mistakes. Do not make this a guessing game. Either you have roster continuity or not. Make it obvious.

Additional Information on Alignment Form. If you have a new to state team or are making a special alignment request, please include district standings and schedule with individual game scores. Also include any tournament information with individual game scores, not just the final tournament result. Highlight any games against other already state ranked teams. Note how many guest players there were on your tournament roster. It is preferable to have your tournament roster be as close to your regular season roster, without any guest players, if possible. Tournament results are used to place new teams or to debate between two teams vying for a special alignment request in an open spot. For example: A GU15 team in D1 disbands. This creates an extra spot in the bottom of D1. The two teams relegated from D1 didn't win a single game so they can't be un-relegated. There's a team in D3 that won all their games with no ties or losses and is eligible to jump D2 if there is room in D1, which there is. However, the third place team in D2, tied in points with the 2nd place team but lost head to head. Who should get the open spot in D1? Both teams are eligible. Which one is the better fit? This is when tournament information would provide another data point to differentiate between the teams.

Feb 2nd - Deadline to have alignment forms to your Competition Representative. For this spring, your representative should have a form for each GU15 and up team, any new to state team or any team that has a special alignment request they want

considered for this Spring. Find your rep here: <http://www.utahyouthsoccer.net/programs/competition.aspx>

Tuesday, Feb 5th - Pre-Alignment Meeting.- Competition Reps only. Having accurate contact information for a coach on the alignment form & being available this evening allows us to contact someone quickly should there be a question.

Wednesday, Feb 6th - Pre-Alignment Posted to UYSA website. It is important for each team, member organization or DOC to confirm that all your teams are accounted for on this posting. If there are any mistakes, contact your Rep immediately. Most issues are worked out over the phone or via email prior to the final alignment if possible. Do not wait until Final Alignment to bring a problem to the attention of your Rep. Our options are much more limited at that point.

Friday, Feb 8th - Final Alignment 7:00pm TOSH Auditorium (south entrance.)

Spring we start with the Boys. DOCs are allowed to sit in the entire meeting. If individual team coaches come, they are allowed in at the gender/age of their specific team. This is not a forum where an entire team, coaches, parents show up to address the committee about an alignment decision. It is the perfect forum for a DOC to supervise the final placement approvals of his/her teams. If there are any adjustments that need to be made, immediate consultation is available because of their presence.

There might be times when the committee will excuse the room for a closed discussion concerning a specific age group. This doesn't happen often and will only transpire if there is information that needs to be considered by the committee in order to provide a consensus not obtained prior. This may be due to new information or the result of a decision made in a previous age group that affects a subsequent age group. It is our desire to provide enough consideration that the committee is unanimous in their decision.

The final alignment meeting shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) The CS shall gather in a closed door session approximately one hour before the open public portion of the meeting to resolve any errors or concerns that developed since the issuance of the pre-alignment. The intent is to give voice to conflicts in private and develop a consensus on any issues before presenting the results in the public meeting.
- (2) The public portion of the meeting shall be conducted by age group and gender. In the spring, the boys will go first starting with the XL/ U9 age group.
- (3) When an age group is called, a coach, administrator, and/or club representative for each Team in that age group may enter the alignment room and converse with their representative on the CS for no more than five (5) minutes. Team representatives are not allowed to directly address the CS. It is

strongly encouraged that discussion with the Team's respective CS representative be facilitated prior to the alignment meeting.

(4) If necessary, the CS may have a discussion. A motion to discontinue discussion may be made and voted upon by any representative at any time.

(5) Upon closure of discussion, the CS Director will conduct a vote to finalize that age group's alignment. Each representative will then cast their one vote in favor of or against approving the age group under consideration.

(6) Once an age group is completed, all non-committee members are dismissed from the room. The Director shall ask the committee members if there is the need for any closed discussion concerning the next age group. If yes, a closed-door session is conducted. If no, the Team representatives for the next age group are allowed into the room.

(7) A neutral individual shall be appointed to count and record all motions and votes. This neutral individual also assists the Director with updating the electronic version of the alignment to reflect all necessary changes.

(8) When all age groups are finalized, the meeting is adjourned.

(9) The CS shall immediately provide the final alignment to the State Office, which will post such alignment on the UYSA website.