

Spring Player Evaluation Criteria

In an effort to give you a clear idea of what I will be looking at when evaluating players, here are some of the many things that will be taken into consideration:

- **Individual Technical Skills** (dribbling, ball handling/footwork, passing, receiving, heading, shooting, tackling, goal-keeping skills - for keeper candidates only, etc.)
- **Individual & Team Player Tactical Skills** (1v1 skills and awareness, 2v1 skills and awareness, 3v3 skills and awareness, awareness of support positioning (triangles), follow-up and follow-through, ability to understand and carry-out various passing strategies - overlaps, leads, combinations, back-passing, wall, give & go, etc., an ability to adapt to multiple field formations)
- **Player Versatility** (the ability to play multiple field positions willingly and competently)
- **Strength, Endurance, & Conditioning** (the ability to play for long periods of time without undo fatigue beyond what would be considered "normal" for this high level of physical activity, an evident and self-motivated desire to stay in "soccer shape" through regular conditioning)
- **Aggressiveness & Speed** (a demonstrated tendency to be "first to the ball", to maintain possession, and to move quickly around the field both with and without the ball)
- **Positive, Constructive, & Supportive Attitude** (a demonstrated ability to engage and interact with teammates both on the field and on the sidelines in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner that encourages teamwork and team spirit)
- **Commitment** (a consistent history of attendance at practices and games, a consistent history of notification of coaches in the case of anticipated absence)
- **Sportsmanship** (a demonstrated "fair play" and "good sportsmanship" attitude towards all teammates, opposing players, coaches, and referees)

If this sounds like a high level of expectation, it is meant to... these are many of the components needed to build a skilled, cohesive, committed, and winning team!