

8 Tips To Help You Run Successful Tryouts

Sports business insights and advice from pros, coaches, and sport organizers



Table of Contents

- 3 Introduction
- 4 | TIP 1 Prepare in Advance
- 5 Checklist
- $6^{\,|\,\text{TIP}\,2}_{\,\text{Create}}$ a Concise Schedule
- $7^{\left\lceil \text{TIP 3} \right\rceil}_{\text{Utilize Technology to Help Streamline Tryouts}}$
- $8^{\,|\,\text{TIP}\,4}_{\,\text{Advertise Your Tryouts}}$
- $10^{\left|\frac{\text{TIP 5}}{\text{Have Your Athletes Practice Visualization Techniques}}\right|$
- $11^{\left|\begin{array}{c} \text{TIP 6} \\ \text{Help Your Athletes Control Their Breathing During Tryouts} \end{array}\right|}$
- 12 | TIP 7 Have Fun
- $14\,|_{Be\ Ready\ to\ Evaluate}^{\text{TIP 8}}$
- $15 \mid \mathsf{Run} \, \mathsf{Successful} \, \mathsf{Tryouts} \, \mathsf{With} \, \mathsf{TeamSnap}$

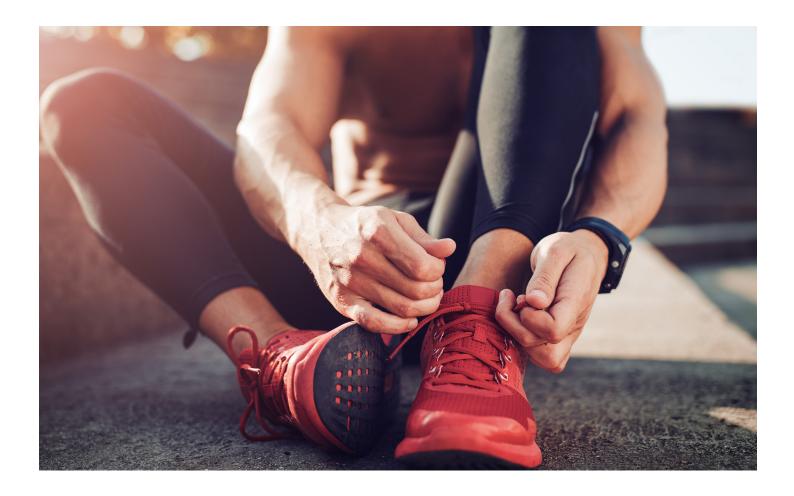
Introduction

Operating tryouts for your youth sports club can come with a long list of tasks. Running successful tryouts planning, thorough preparation, and a strong communication strategy. TeamSnap has researched and shared eight tips to help you prepare for tryouts and ensure that coaches, parents, and players all have a great experience.





Prepare in Advance



Preparation is key. There's a saying, "fail to prepare, prepare to fail." That certainly can hold true at tryouts. Taking the time to prepare sets your tryout event up for success before it even begins. Regularly hold planning sessions with all those involved so you can assign tasks and troubleshoot issues the day of the event. In addition to event logistics, planning sessions are helpful in identifying the kind of criteria you are evaluating on. It also determines what types of players you are looking for, depending on age. For example, with older athletes, you may be evaluating heavily on ability and skill level, but for younger players you could be looking for a positive attitude and zest for the game.

In order for a tryout to follow structure, there has to be a certain level of preparation that goes into the event. It has to be properly staffed, appropriate equipment and gear, and adequate space and spacing between events. If it's an open tryout for example, where will the parents watch? If it's closed, make sure that that's clearly communicated. That first registration table that the players go to to get checked in is the starting point, so it's incredibly important that whoever is working that station is well versed in the rundown of the day, has all of the player names in one place, and is ready to answer a number of questions from eager parents and families.

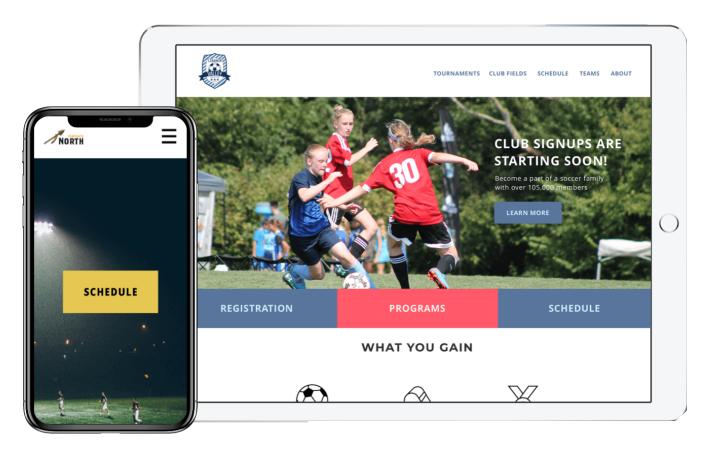
Tryout checklist:

Confirm the date and times for tryouts
Check for volunteer availability
Check for coach for availability
Determine tryout scoring criteria
Set deadline for scoring and evaluating to be completed
Set acceptance dates
When coaches will notify players who did and did not make the teams respectively



Create A Concise Schedule





For successful tryouts, set the schedule way ahead of time. Determine the specified events and establish the drills you will evaluate well before the day of tryouts. Create a legible copy of the schedule and distribute it among all volunteers and participants. Make sure that everyone involved in the operations of the tryout understands the event breakdown, session and goals. Additionally, assign volunteers ahead of time and assign them specific tasks



Utilize Technology To Help Streamline Tryouts

Of course, there are no tryouts without hopeful participants. Organize your tryout registration to maximize the number of players joining. A tryout registration form helps your club gauge member interest so you know how many players are coming in advance and can plan accordingly. Use TeamSnap for Clubs & League's registration solution to build your forms for measuring player interest.



"We utilize the registration for tryouts when the season begins, and again to register players onto their individual teams which allows us to build custom pricing for each team each season. TeamSnap allows us to push out league-wide events to all teams, and communicate with some or all of our teams in one place. And of course each team is set up with TeamSnap now with the club and league package, so our coaches can manage their teams and players accordingly."

Lance Wascom, Secretary for Showcase Baseball of TN

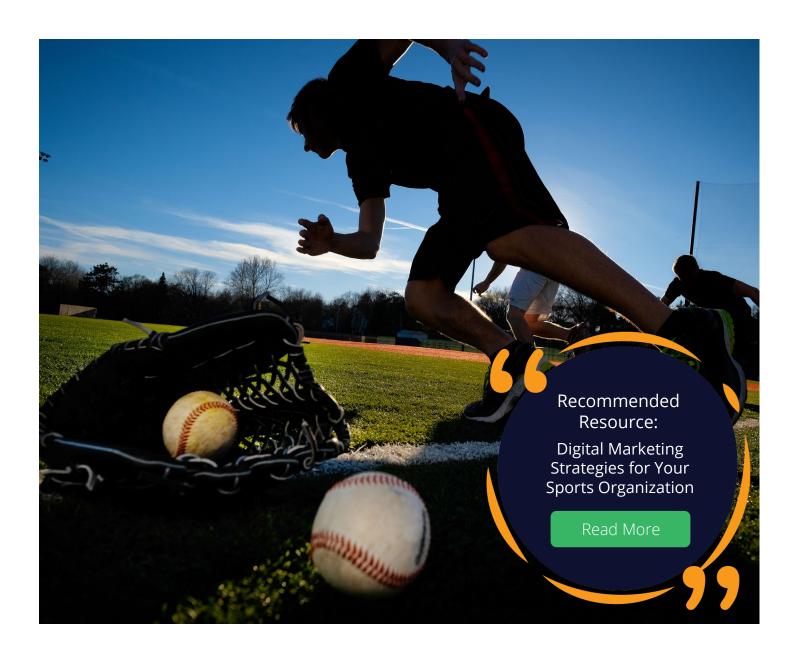


Advertise Your Tryouts



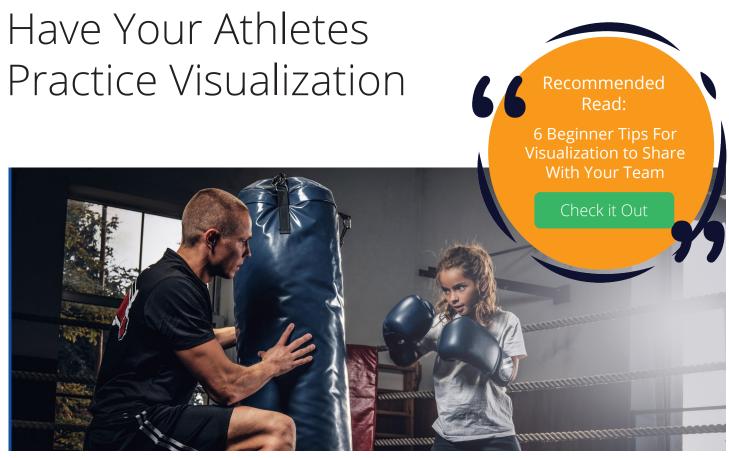
Between social media, email campaigns, and newsletters, clubs have incredible potential to reach new prospects and advertise their tryouts by marketing. Even if it's just a couple of emails leading up to the date, this is helpful for parents that are typically juggling many things at once.

Amber Hill, a professional lacrosse player for Athletes Unlimited, appreciates email reminders and thinks it is effective in getting more players to show up. One way you can think about emailing is initially sending out a "save the date" with the tryout details in terms of location, time, age groups, etc. right when that information is confirmed.



For example if you're planning on holding tryouts for the fall season in June, that email should be sent as early as January to allow parents and players time to mark their calendars and schedule out the other tryouts they may be attending. If you send out a save the date email in January it would make sense to have a follow-up email again in March when the date gets closer. A third email right before tryouts, a week out for instance, would be a great last minute strategy to remind players and families.





ave your athletes practice visualization techniques, imagining themselves completing the passes, saving goals, or scoring points on the field or court at tryouts. Visualization techniques are a powerful tool to help your athlete see themselves positively and get prepared for the big day and imagine themselves having success in their endeavors.

According to Peak Sports, "When athletes visualize or imagine a successful competition, they actually stimulate the same brain regions as you do when you physically perform that same action. Athletes who use visualization can eliminate some of the unknowns that create competitive anxiety."

Encourage your athletes to practice visualizing themselves at tryouts and completing the right plays regularly in the weeks leading up to tryouts.



Help Your **Athletes** Control Their Breathing During Tryouts

Charing breathing exercises before and during tryouts can help your athletes relax. When you breathe deeply, it sends a message to your brain to calm down and relax. The brain then sends this message to your body.

"Control your breathing, you don't want to be stressing out the whole time. Tryouts are meant to be fun, yeah it's competitive but you should enjoy the competition. It's about preparing, and preparing to be out on that stage."

- Stephen Woods Jr, Kansas City Royals Pitcher

Remember, getting nervous before tryouts is completely normal. Just don't forget to remind your athletes that it's okay.



***** Tip 7

Have Fun



aving fun is one of the most important parts of tryouts. Even though the day can bring forward a lot of pressure, you should still try and have a good time. Players that have fun at tryouts typically play better because they are less in their own head and play with their heart. Coaches and tryout organizers should also stress this at tryouts, it will make the entire day more productive and fun for everyone.

"My best advice for a player going to a tryout is to just have fun. It can be so stressful when you feel that you have to be perfect to make the team, when that is not the case. Everyone is going to make mistakes, the coaches won't focus on the mistakes you made but at how you handle them.

Focusing on the fun part of the game, perhaps the feeling of running into open space full speed or scoring and the sound of the net when the ball hits it, can help you enjoy the process. Coaches aren't just observing the skills on display, but the full picture. They will be looking for leaders, how players handle difficult moments, and how you interact with the players around you."

- Alie Jimerson, Canadian Women's National Lacrosse Team



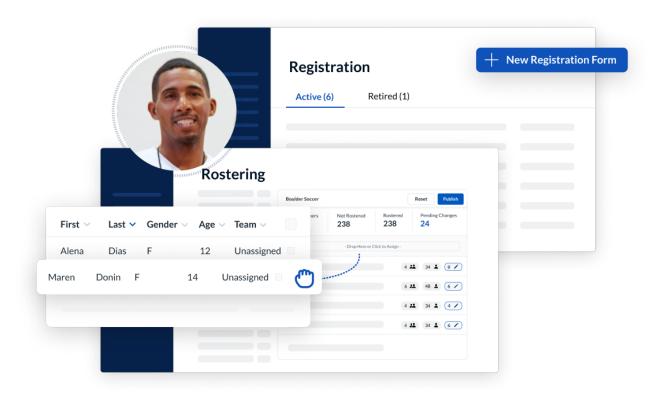


Be Ready to Evaluate



A major part of tryouts is the evaluation process. Most coaches and teams follow an evaluation template to observe the players. While every club and league may have a slightly unique process in terms of evaluation, it's crucial to have enough scoring sheets to disperse to all of the coaches and instructors evaluating. When creating the evaluation for a tryout, it's important to create something that looks at the whole player vs. just one skill or two. There are different tryout scoring systems you can use, so be sure to do your research and find a cohesive strategy for evaluating. Discuss with your organization what fits in with your club's mission statement and developmental goals and make a concise and consistent evaluation template.

Run Successful Tryouts With TeamSnap



ports organizations of all sizes rely on TeamSnap for Clubs & Leagues to manage Their club, programs, and teams in a solution that administrators, coaches, managers, and parents will all love to use.

We combine the top-rated team management app with registration, payments, communication, scheduling, and reporting to bring you a true all-in-one club solution.

Learn more about how you can run successful tryouts with TeamSnap for Clubs & Leagues.