

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Policy: Team Formation

It is our intent as a club to grow to the point where we have, at minimum, two Tier 1 teams per age group, and two Tier 2 teams per age group. At some age levels, we have already achieved this milestone. At other age levels, we are still working toward this level of depth. Until we grow our program to this level, we will inevitably have age groups in which we have only two or three teams, total, in the age group. These cases require a policy to determine whether or not teams are designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 teams.

Our primary intent across the club is to provide players with an appropriately challenging playing environment, and the Tiered system is one key element of our strategy to do so. Sometimes policies do not always adequately capture the nuances of any given situation. Hence, it is our commitment to review each of these decisions about Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams carefully to ensure that BCF staff decisions about team designations are done with integrity, and with the best intentions for all teams, coaches, and players involved. That said, the following guidelines outline our policy for Tier 1 and Tier 2 designations.

- 1) In an age group that is fielding four or more teams, **at least two** of those teams will play at the Tier 1 level. Additional teams may be designated as Tier 1 teams pending review of BCF staff, based on input from parents, coaches, and players.
- 2) In an age group that is fielding three teams, **two** of those three teams will play at the Tier 1 level.
- 3) In an age group that is fielding two teams, **one** of those two teams will be at the Tier 1 level. Based on the talent pool, the interest, and commitment of players, coaches, and parents, the second team **may** be designated by BCF staff to play at the Tier 1 level.
- 4) In an age group that is fielding one team, that team will be designated as a Tier 1 team.

Recall that Tier 1 or Tier 2 is a Boulder County Force designation that exists irrespective of whether or not a team plays at the Premier, Classic, or Challenge level in the Colorado state league alignment. The tiered system is our attempt as a club to provide differentiated experiences for players. Tier 1 teams train an additional day per week than Tier 2 teams, Tier 1 teams play in more tournaments, and they have higher expectations for off-season training. Tier 2 teams, conversely, require less of a time and financial commitment of players and families. To account for the additional contact hours with BCF staff and coaches, registration fees for Tier 1 teams are greater than their counterpart Tier 2 teams.