



## LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

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### 10 THINGS EVALUATORS LOOK FOR AT TRYOUTS

1. **Speed** - Pure speed is a huge benefit in any sport but often in soccer, mental speed (decision making with and without the ball) allows for players to compensate for a lack of pure speed.
2. **Touch** - First touch maybe the most critical technique for a soccer player. Receiving balls on the ground or from the air swiftly and in preparation for the next decision makes the game easier to play. Balls bouncing in the air from an inside-the-foot collection and balls received in the air with the wrong surface and not moved to space or to feet are areas evaluators examine consistently.
3. **The use of both feet** in passing and finishing creates more opportunities for every player. Watching a player take extra touches to get the ball to his / her strong foot may result in losing possession. Using the proper foot surface for passing or shooting also comes into play.
4. **Transition**– Moving from attack to defense and defense to attack quickly, from any position, is a strong indicator of a high-level player. If a coach notices a player who does not seem involved, he or she will obviously be overlooked. A player's movement off the ball in the role of third attacker or providing balance as a defender shows a player who knows the game.
5. **Determined play on 50-50 balls** (tackles and especially headers) add to a player's worth in the eyes of evaluators. In tackles, evaluators are looking for players to go in hard and regain possession.
6. **Overall comfort with the ball**, without a sense of panic, is critical. Confidence and enthusiasm are recognized quickly.
7. **Decision Making**. When to possess the ball or take a player on especially in the attacking third, is an attribute that will assist a player at tryouts.
8. **Talk from an individual**, especially on the defensive side of the ball, makes the game easier for the entire team.
9. **Passionate play** within the 18 yard box, whether on attack or defense, brings out notice from coaches in attendance.
10. **Pace and endurance** during the tryouts and recognizing when there is time to recover in play are also areas that evaluators look for.

\*\*\* A guide for players trying out for the Lower Merion Soccer Club's Travel Team Program.