



Springfield/South County Youth Club Soccer Field Guide

10 February 2017

I. Purpose. Provide a resource for SYC Soccer that institutionalizes field allocation, assignment, and maintenance procedures to provide predictability and continuity in field matters for the club and its members.

II. Philosophy. Provide the best possible facilities to SYC Soccer in order to enhance the overall soccer experience and advance the Club's reputation. Align field priorities with overall Club priorities while establishing a Strategic Plan to improve/maintain grass fields and increase availability to turf fields. The goal is to maximize use of turf fields while judiciously assigning/rotating grass fields to maintain them in highly playable condition.

III. Execution. Field management is a year-round function with several different components.

A. Schedule. SYC fields are used year-round. The following is a template for field activity.

B. Allocation.

1. SYC Soccer Committee allocates fields between REC and TRAVEL in June (for summer) July (for fall), November (for winter), and February (for spring). Those allocations determine field access relative to the number of teams in each program and age group.

2. Fields available to SYC are classified as Turf, Premier, and Standard. Turf are all-weather, synthetic surface, and lighted. Premier are Bermuda grass fields that receive County and Club maintenance. Standard are generally elementary and middle school fields. Fields that SYC Soccer generally has access to are (however it is based seasonally on County issuance):

- a. **Turf:** Franconia Park #4, Hayfield HS Practice (can support two small-sided fields: A and B), Hayfield HS Stadium, Lee HS, Loisdale Park, Rolling Valley West #2, South Run # 5, South Run #6, and West Springfield HS.
- b. **Premier:** Hooes Road Park #2, #3, #4, and Key MS #1. Hooes #4 (can support two small-sided fields: A and B).
- c. **Standard:** Cardinal Forest ES, Forestdale ES, Franconia Park #3 & #5, Garfield ES, Halley ES, Hunt Valley ES, Key MS #2, Laurel Hill ES, Lorton Station ES, Newington Forest ES, Rolling Valley ES, Saratoga ES, Silverbrook ES, Springfield Estates ES #1 & 2, South Run #7 (lighted) and West Springfield ES.

3. Indoor. SYC has no indoor facility however utilizes South Run Recreation Center which maintains an indoor turf facility for rent. The Fairfax Sportsplex in Springfield maintains indoor facilities and runs indoor soccer leagues.

C. Assignment.

1. TRAVEL. TRAVEL teams are assigned a minimum of 7.5 hrs/week. TRAVEL teams are assigned practice times in 90 min blocks. Upper division teams receive priority and first option for an additional practice.

2. RECREATION. REC teams U-6–U-7 are assigned 1 hour/week. U-8–U-10 assigned 2 hrs/week allocated in one-hour increments. U-11 and higher are assigned 3hrs/week in 90 min increments.

3. Age Grouping: SYC field assignments are designed to support academy or age-group wide training approaches and collaboration. Therefore, rough grouping of fields to age are:

- TRAVEL Bridge through U-11: Hooes Road Park
- TRAVEL U12-U14: South Run or Key MS
- TRAVEL U15 +: Loisdale and South Run
- REC U13 +: Rolling Valley West
- REC <U13: Local Elementary Schools and Key MS.

4. Specific field assignments are conducted as follows:

- Summer (July) requirements: O/A June 15
- Fall (Aug 1 – Nov 20) regular practice assignments: O/A 25 July
- Winter (Dec 1- 28 Feb): O/A 20 November
 - Gym Requests due to county: September
- Spring (Mar 1-21) Pre-Season: O/A 1 February
- Spring (Mar 21 – Jun 15) regular season: O/A 15 February

5. Field Requests. To ensure fairness and meet club priorities, seasonal field requests will be made in club-wide, ten-day assignment windows in July, November, and February. Submission of field requests are done through an automated online Field Request system located at <http://www.sycva.com/fieldpermits>.

a. Field requests will come from one POC per team, although Age Group Coordinators or Academy programs can batch requests to better meet training objectives. Non-paid team officials (managers, coaches) must be copied on requests from paid coaches/trainers to ensure proper de-confliction.

- Regular Scheduled Practice Field Requests. Requestors will use the automated field request form on the SYC Website. Requests will be filled IAW SYC guidelines. (<http://www.sycva.com/fieldpermits>)
- Special Field Requests. Requestors will use the automated field request form and select “Special Request”.

- Practice Field Change Requests. Requestors will use the automated field request form and select “Special Request”. In addition, specific comments will be provided in the “Additional Information” text box at the bottom of the form to provide clarification.

6. Field Information. SYC posts three types of information to assist the Club in maximizing field use.

a. **Field Closure Status.** Field Closure information is posted on the SYC Main webpage located at <http://www.sycva.com/>. NOTE: On weekends, fields may be closed for REC games yet open for TRAVEL games because game decision authority and game timing are different.

b. **Practice Field Permits:** Updated as needed NLT 3PM. Posted to the Soccer Field Permit webpage located at <http://www.sycva.com/fieldpermits>

c. **Game Field Schedule:** Updated by Wed each week. Posted to game schedules located at <http://www.sycva.com/fieldpermits>, as it provides visibility on potential game reschedule and weekend practice opportunities.

7. Permits. Teams must have either a paper copy or access to an electronic copy of their SYC Field permit. The SYC permit enables the team to use the permitted space but does not allow that team to enforce a claim on another SYC team for the entire field if it is unused. Permits will have emergency numbers on them for lighting, safety, irrigation issues.

D. Division. Turf fields will be divided into three or four sections for allocation (annotated on SYC Field Permit). Full-sided grass fields will be divided into three sections. Small fields (i.e. SR #7) will be divided into not more than two sections. Elementary School fields will be divided specifically to the space and age groups involved. Teams will rotate between sections or lose their permits.

E. Peak Maintenance Periods. Grass field maintenance is conducted three times /year: In late June, Mid-November, and Early March.

IV. Priorities and Allocation Goals. The following criteria are used to establish priority for field use, including Premier fields. The goal is to allow as many teams turf field access, as well as some additional Premier field allocation.

1. TRAVEL Academies (U9-U15). The goal is to provide a combination of (2) Turf and (1) Premier practice allocations for weekday practice time slots. Practice space is assigned based upon: (1) size of Academy or number of teams, total number of athletes, age group, and the size of field. Some Academies may receive more field allocation than others, based on the criteria above. Upper division teams may request additional practice space once all TRAVEL and REC practice requests have been completed.

Individual teams can always submit a “Special Request” for one-time use or make up sessions.

2. TRAVEL Teams HS AGE (U16-U19). The goal is to provide a combination of (3) turf practice space allocations per week, with one allocation occurring on a weekend. The goal for weekend practice space is to assign each team a ½ field. High School age teams have priority for later practice time slots during the week. Upper division teams may request additional practice space once all TRAVEL and REC practice requests have been completed. Individual teams can always submit a “Special Request” for one-time use or make up sessions.

3. REC Teams (U13-U19). The goal is to provide 2 turf practice allocations per team per week. Unused Turf and Premier field spaces can be assigned on a rotating basis upon “Special Request”.

4. REC Teams (U10-U12). The goal is to provide 2 Standard field, or 1 Standard field and 1 Premier or Turf field allocation per week. Unused Turf and Premier field spaces can be assigned on a rotating basis upon “Special Request”.

5. REC Teams (U6 to U9). The goal is to provide 1-2 Standard field practice allocations per week. Unused Turf and Premier field spaces can be assigned on a rotating basis upon “Special Request”.

6. TRAVEL Tryouts. Travel Tryouts will be the SYC Soccer Program’s highest priority event at the end of the Spring season and require a great deal of field space. Once the Travel Tryout schedule has been established, impacted Travel/REC teams will be notified NLT 30 days prior if they need to be “relocated” to accommodate our Travel tryouts. The SYC Fields Director will make every effort to align and coordinate tryouts with existing practice allocation, across both REC and Travel.

7. REC All-Star Practices. All-Star practices are a priority event for the SYC REC Soccer Program and the SYC Fields Team will make every effort to accommodate our REC All Star teams to have quality field space and time prior to their scheduled tournaments. For general planning, late-Saturday and Sunday training provide the best opportunity of obtaining Turf or Premier field space.

V. Strategic Planning. SYC will continue to improve/upgrade its fields. A number of initiatives are undertaken to accomplish this task.

1. Coordination with Fairfax County to develop additional turf fields and grass field maintenance such as the recent 2016 Bermuda conversion at Key MS.

2. Coordination with Fairfax County Schools and local schools to execute “Friends of the Field” agreements. These agreements help to improve the quality of the fields while also improving SYC access to school fields. These agreements currently exist with Key Middle School and one is in development with West Springfield Elementary School.

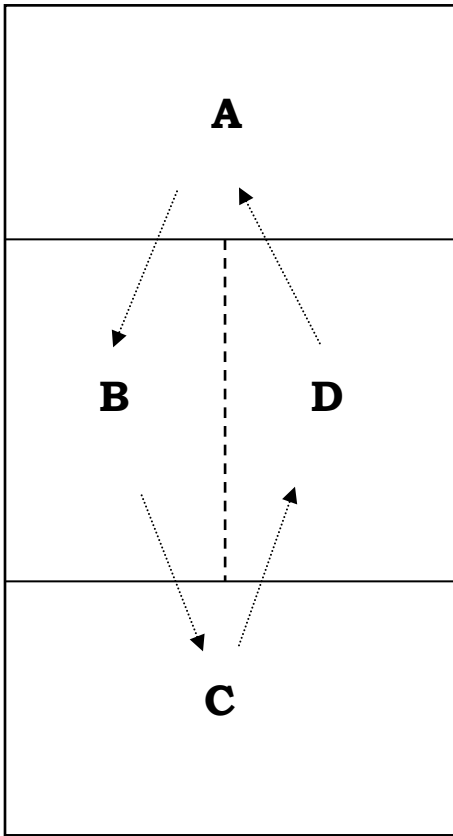
3. Developing additional “Adopt-a-Field” Programs for Elementary School fields by REC or TRAVEL teams that use them.

4. Converting and improving Middle School and Elementary School fields through either enhanced maintenance and/or conversion to Bermuda grass.

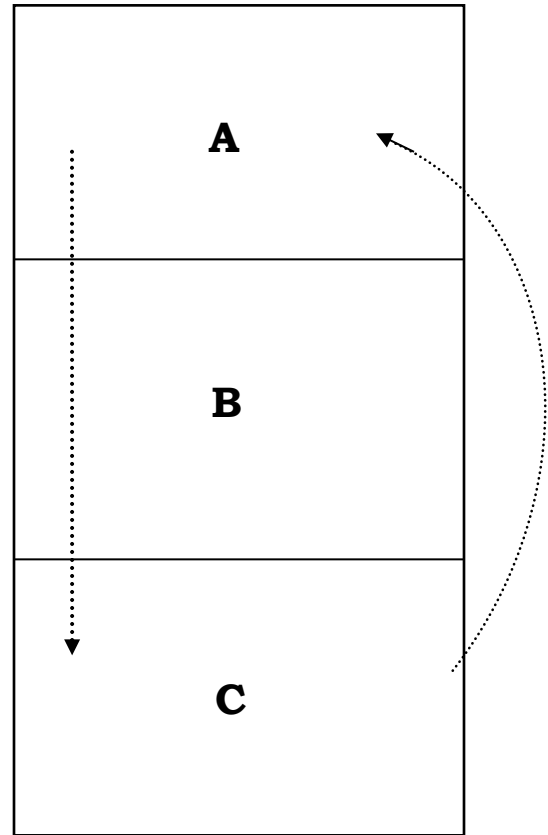
VI. Field Rotation. The following diagrams outline the rotation system for turf and full-sided field rotations. Failure to adhere to field rotation may result in loss of permit. Teams are responsible for ensuring that their trainers, if used, know exactly where training is to occur. If there are four teams on a field, for simplicity, they can agree to rotate between A & B and C & D if all parties agree

Figure 1. Field Rotation.

Turf Field Rotation (4 Teams)



Full-Sided Field Rotation (3 Teams)



This rotation increases the availability of lighted, turf field for SYC teams. The rotation system enables coaches & trainers to plan their training IAW the space allocated; e.g. possession in restricted space, finishing. Including the 5 yd apron area, A & C are roughly 40 x 70 yds; B & D are roughly 40 X 35 yds.

This standard rotation enables coaches & trainers to plan their training IAW the space allocated; e.g. finishing. A, B, and C are of equal size. Teams begin at the designated spot on their permit start date and begin rotation thereafter.

Annex A: Planning Factors. The following are factors used to plan field allocation.

1. Number of Teams. There are generally about 50 TRAVEL Teams and 150 REC Teams. TRAVEL age groups have 2-4 teams per gender. REC teams have an average of 9 teams for U12 and below, U13 and above have approximately 5 teams per age group. Total requirement is about 410 practice sessions per week.

2. Number of Turf Fields: For in-season weekday practices SYC can plan on three- hour blocks 2-3 days/week on SR #5, #6, Loisdale Park, Hayfield HS Practice, Rolling Valley West Park, and Franconia Park #4 (~166 team practices). For weekends, SYC can plan on also having West Springfield HS, Lee HS and Hayfield HS Stadium. High School fields are generally unavailable during weekdays during Sep, Oct, early Nov, Apr, May, early Jun.

3. Number of Premier Grass Fields: For in-season weekday practices SYC can plan on three-hour blocks 4-5 days/week on: Hooes Road Park #2 (Fall only) #3, #4, Key MS #1 & #2, (~75 team practices)

3. Daylight: In the Fall, twilight reaches 7:50 PM by October 1st; last day to reasonably execute a 6:30-8:00 training slot on an unlighted field. Daylight Savings usually ends late October/early November. In the Spring, Daylight Savings begins mid-March and 6:30-8:00 training can be fully accomplished by 1st week of April.

4. Number of Lighted Fields: South Run #5, #6, #7; Franconia Park #4, Loisdale Park, Rolling Valley West, Hayfield HS Practice, and Hayfield HS Stadium, Lee HS. [NOTE: West Springfield HS field will be unavailable until 2020 due to construction].

5. Rectangular field space and elementary school field space have increasing competition for use. Other sports impact the number of fields available to the SYC Soccer Program.

a. Football: During Fall they usually use South Run #5 (2-3 days/week), South Run #7, Rolling Valley West Park, and Irving MS.

b. Lacrosse: During Spring uses Hooes Road Park #2 and South Run #5 or #6 (2 days/week).

c. Rugby: Uses Hooes Road Park and South Run during late Spring and Summer.

d. Little League Baseball: Use ball diamonds at Elementary Schools which may limit area for soccer practices in Fall.

e. Other Club Tournaments. SYC habitually offers Turf field space to support other Club soccer tournaments. This serves two purposes: (1) Establishes reciprocity for the Virginian tournament and (2) many SYC teams participate in these local tournaments so it enhances the club's overall soccer experience.

Springfield/South County Soccer Youth Club
Field Maintenance & Improvement Plan
10 February 2017

I. Purpose. Improve the quality and reliability of playing and practicing facilities.

II. Philosophy. Provide the best possible facilities to SYC soccer in order to enhance the overall soccer experience and advance the club's reputation. The goal is to maximize use of turf fields while judiciously assigning/rotating grass fields to maintain them in highly playable condition.

III. Execution. Execute a phased approach to improve SYC fields, with a particular focus on Hoes Road Park.

a. Nov:

1. Top Fill and seed HRP #2, #3, #4, practice area: \$6,000
2. Send Mower in for maintenance \$1,200.

b. Jan:

1. Blanket the centers of all three HRP fields and Key MS. \$5,200
2. Coordinate development and improvement of Key MS #2.
3. Top fill WSES field: \$3,328

c. Early Mar:

1. Standard Field Maintenance: HRP fields & Key #2: \$4,800
2. Conduct mower training: 3-5 volunteers.

d. Late May/Early June:

1. Rebuild Key MS #2 as Bermuda field with irrigation: \$54,000.
 - Field closed 12 weeks.
2. Field Maintenance on HRP#2, 3, 4, Key MS #1,
3. Convert South Run #7 to Bermuda: (\$18,00)

e. September:

1. Key MS #2 and South Run #7 open
2. Begin cool-grass field conversion of one ES. (\$35,000)