

SPRING 2026 RECREATIONAL **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

F.A.Q.'s – Frequently Asked Questions

How old does my child have to be to start soccer?

The starting birth year to play is **2022** to participate in the Spring 2026 season.

What do I need to complete registration?

Child's birth certificate (if brand new to RYSA), registration form, & payment. (Birth certificate copies can be uploaded into your player's account or emailed to RYSA. **Payment and copies of birth certificates are due by January 17th and if not received will delay and possibly deny placement of your player on a team.**

How do I pay?

Online/web registration only accepts credit/debit card payments. If you must pay with a personal check or cash, please contact the RYSA office during posted office hours for paper registration.

When is the Spring 2026 season?

The PROPOSED regular season play begins 2/28/26- 05/02/26.

Can I return to my previous team from last season?

If you played on a team in Fall 2025 and **WANT** to return to that same team be sure you choose "yes" on the return to team question when registering or else your child will be placed in the 'Free Agent' pool. There is no guarantee for Spring 2026 that we can place players on the same team. As we anticipate lower registration response, this will be based on the number of registrations we receive in each division. The Free Agent\Draft Pool is for those players who are new to RYSA or who wish to go to another team other than the one they played in the previous season. **All players in the Draft Pool will be placed on a team at random. NOTE: There is a high probability of co-ed play, mixed age play, and/or inter-league play that can only be determined after registration close by the RYSA BOD.**

Can I request to play with a friend?

Yes, if you have never played soccer before in any association then you may request to play with a friend, however the request can only be granted if your child has never played anywhere before and only if there is room on the team they're requesting. **Requests are never guaranteed.**

Can I request to "play up" a division?

Yes, in accordance with our rule 4.1.1.5. "A player with advanced ability may play in the next age bracket with permission of the receiving and releasing Age Group Directors. Proper procedure for this type of request is in writing, signed by a parent or guardian. Players in the U4 age bracket are not eligible to play up." This request must be received no later than **January 18th. Requests are never guaranteed.**

How many games will we play?

U4 is an introductory development program that consists of 2 learning sessions and 6 games. U5 and U6 play an 8 game season. All others play up to 10 games, if possible. **All age divisions play games on Saturdays, Sundays, and U9 and up can expect weeknight games also.**

When and where is practice?

Team practice days and times are set by coaches. The association has **no** knowledge of these and therefore **cannot** grant requests for specific practice nights. **NOTE: Any conflicts with practice times/ days should be resolved between the player/parent and the coach of your team. There will be no trading or swapping of players between teams due to practice conflicts.**

The following rules apply to practice: (excerpt from our Rules and Regulations document)

5.1.1. Players may not participate in more than two (2) practice sessions per week except as authorized by the Age Group Director.

5.1.2. All practice sessions shall be limited to one (1) hour of physical activity per practice.

5.1.3. The U5, U6, & U8 shall be limited to maximum of forty-five (45) minutes of physical activity per practice.

Is the uniform included in my registration fee?

No, uniform cost is **not** included in the registration cost. This cost will be collected by your player's coach and will be at minimum \$40 and up depending on the uniform. If you are returning to a team the decision to use the same uniforms or purchase new ones is up to the coach and/or his/her team.

What other equipment does my child need?

Every player should have soccer cleats, shin guards, and soccer ball. (U6-U8-size 3 ball, U10-U12-size 4 ball, U14 & up-size 5 ball.)

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When will I hear from a Coach?

Coaches will begin contacting players after the second of February.

What is the refund policy?

Refunds will only be processed with a written request using our Refund Request Form from our 'Forms' page. Refunds are of the registration fee **less a \$20.00 administrative fee**. Full refunds are only granted if received **BEFORE** a player is placed onto a team or if there was no team available. There are **NO** refunds whatsoever after **February 28, 2026**.

When will I receive the game schedule?

Schedules are published on our website under the 'Schedules' link anywhere between 1-2 weeks before the 1st game of the season. Additionally, an email is sent to the Coaches to disseminate to their players and we also publicize on our website.

- The following rule applies to schedules: (excerpt from our Rules and Regulations document)
5.2.9.3. Once team schedules are published they shall stand without change for the duration of the season, unless the scheduled game meets the requirements to postpone said game as stated in Rules section 5.3.

How much playing time will my child receive?

Per our rule 5.2.1. "Each player has equal opportunity to develop their abilities and skills, learn teamwork and sportsmanship; RYSA requires that each RYSA Player be played a minimum of 50% in every game, except for illness, injury or disciplinary reasons. In those cases, the coach must notify the player, the parents of the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced."

How will I receive communication from RYSA?

Our primary method of communication is via email & text. It's imperative that you supply a valid email address that you will check frequently & mobile number, as it's how we send out all notifications for registration reminders, game cancellations, field closures, special offers for RYSA members, etc. Additionally, Coaches use the email system to send out practice details and coordinate with their players. Alternative methods of communications we leverage are: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, www.rowlettsoccer.org, and Rainedout.net.

How are players placed on teams?

A 'Team Formation Committee' designated by the RYSA Board of Directors and consisting of 4 members (3 voting, 1 non-voting) reviews special requests and vote on such requests then using age, gender, team size, and number of volunteer Coaches as criteria for assigning players to teams. The final determination for placement will be done via 'School district assigned school' and/or a 'Lottery' method.

- The following other factors applies to player placements and team formations:
 - Returning players (players who have played at least 1 of the past 2 seasons on a team that still exists) **who register late will lose the option to return to their team of record**.
 - If an age division has a high number of players that can make a team but there are not enough Coaches in that age division and no parent steps up to volunteer as a Coach, then the registrants will not play and refunds will need to be issued.
 - If an existing team does not have a returning Coach and no parent steps up to volunteer to Coach that team, then the team will be disbanded or merged if available. Final decision rests with RYSA.
 - If an age division does not have enough players to make a team the registrants will be given the opportunity to play up into the next age group (if there's availability), otherwise the registrant will need to request a refund.
 - If there are more than 1 existing team in an age group and 1 or more of those teams do not have enough players the team will be disbanded or merged if available. Final decision rests with RYSA.
 - If there are siblings from the same household that wish to play together (e.g.. 2 brothers or 2 sisters, etc.) on the same team, this can only be accommodated if there is open spots on a team. Final decision rests with RYSA.
 - **NOTE: There is a high probability of co-ed play, mixed age play, and/or inter league play that can only be determined after registration close by the RYSA BOD.**

If you have problems/questions about registration, please send email
to: registrar@rowlettsoccer.org