



# RECREATIONAL SOCCER

## PROGRAM GUIDE

Rev. December 2019

7075 Newington Road, Unit G • Lorton, VA 22079

Phone: (703) 339-3796 • Fax: (703) 339-8751 • [www.sycva.com](http://www.sycva.com)

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# **INTRODUCTION**

The Springfield/South County Youth Club (SYC) Recreational (Rec) Soccer Program has approximately 1500 boys and girls participating in recreational soccer leagues each fall and spring season. Over 200 coaches and their parents contribute countless hours of volunteer time. The SYC REC Soccer Program Guide provides information and guidelines regarding the operations of the Soccer Program for parents, coaches, and players. The Guide also provides a basic understanding of the SYC Soccer Program operations, its objectives, organizational structure, and the responsibilities of those involved in the program. The Soccer Committee can approve exceptions to the Guide in the best interests of the SYC Soccer Program and will revise this Guide as needed. Comments or suggestions regarding any aspect of the soccer program are welcome to [soccercommittee@sycva.com](mailto:soccercommittee@sycva.com)

## **SYC RECREATIONAL (REC) SOCCER PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The SYC Rec Soccer Program is designed to teach soccer skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a positive environment, while contributing to the enjoyment, general health and social needs of the participating boys and girls in the Springfield/South County, Virginia area. The Program should follow a consistent approach to delivering high quality soccer training for all our players across the Program from the youngest players through U-19, with strong alignment to the player development philosophy promoted by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and as embodied in the U.S. Soccer Coaching Curriculum. Creating an environment that allows individual players to develop to the best of their ability is the principal goal of the Program.

The SYC Soccer Program is managed by the Soccer Committee, which provides overall administration of the Program and establishes and manages the Program budget. The Soccer Committee appoints the Program Commissioner who is responsible for administrative management of those programs, consistent with the developmental philosophy and objectives of the overall Program. The Soccer Committee in turn reports to the Board of Directors of SYC.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The Program is open to all children whose birth year falls within the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) guidelines. Players who become 20 years of age during the season are not eligible to participate according to age groups published by the VYSA from January 1 to December 31. The minimum birthday requirement for the U-6 league is 5 years of age

by January 1 of the Fall season.

During each game, every team member will play at least one half of the game, with exceptions noted under [Disciplinary Procedure](#).

## **UNIFORMS**

All SYC soccer players are required to wear the official SYC rec soccer jersey, socks, and appropriate size shin guards. Shin guards must be worn completely under socks and may not be worn over socks, with socks rolled over them. Shin guards are required for all games and practices.

SYC will provide two jerseys and two pairs of socks as part of the uniform package which must be purchased by the family during the registration process. Shorts, shin guards, cleats and other equipment are the responsibility of the Recreational Soccer player.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

SYC expects the highest order of sportsmanship and fair play in all soccer practices, matches, and related activities. The SYC Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches, and Spectators. All participants and their families are expected to adhere to the Code. All codes of conduct are at the back of this guide in an easily reproducible format.

1. Misconduct and/or abuse (physical or verbal) by coaches, players, officials and spectators will not be tolerated. Coaches and sideline monitors are responsible for the behavior of their teams' sidelines and responsible for the behavior of their teams' parents during the game.
2. Misconduct by a Recreational Soccer player, coach, or spectator will be referred to the League Director for resolution. The League Director has the option of resolving the issue at the league level or forwarding to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner or Deputies. Should the offense possibly involve sanction or removal of an individual from any future game or practice, the League Director must refer the issue to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner or Deputies.
3. Any club member may file a grievance provided it is in writing (email is appropriate). Once receiving the official grievance, the Commissioner can ask for a hearing before the Soccer Committee to seek appropriate disciplinary action. The Soccer Committee will schedule a hearing within 7 days of the date of receipt of the grievance. A panel of at least 3 members of the Soccer Committee, not including the Commissioner who initiated the action, will conduct the hearing. The Soccer Committee shall provide the individual with written notification of its action.

4. If action is taken directly by a Commissioner, an individual may also petition the Soccer Committee to review the decision of the Commissioner. In such cases, the procedures outlined above for hearings by the Committee also apply.
5. The Soccer Committee has the authority to bar any or all members of a family from participating in SYC soccer. Any person or family banned from participating in SYC soccer may file a written request for review by the SYC Board of Directors.
6. Any person suspected of violating the disciplinary action levied by the Soccer Committee will be asked to appear before the Committee. Failure to appear at the date and time set by the Committee will be grounds for immediate removal of all members of the family from all SYC soccer activities.
7. Head soccer coaches may administer playing time restrictions to players for misconduct during practices or matches. In the Recreational Soccer program, the League Director prior to implementation must approve such action. The League Director, in turn, shall notify the Recreational Soccer Commissioner or Deputies of the action.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

The SYC Soccer Program operates on a “seasonal year” basis, consisting of a Fall and subsequent Spring season. Each year, the Soccer Committee establishes an annual budget and updates the Program Guide as appropriate for the following seasonal year.

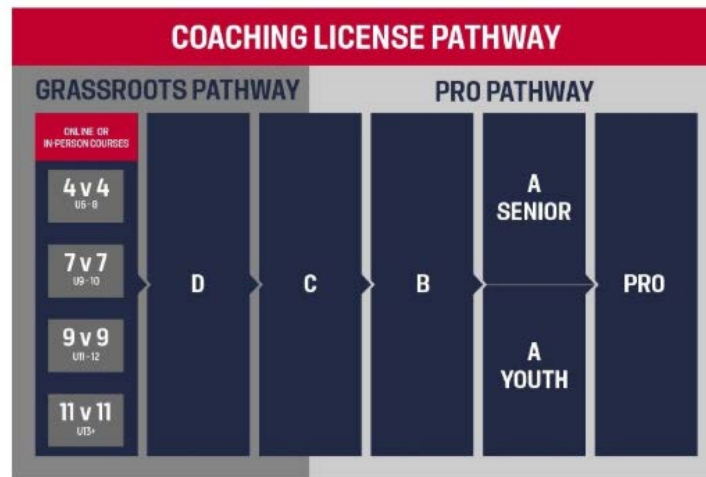
1. Fall Recreational Soccer season practices begin about the third week in August; matches begin after Labor Day and the season runs to early to mid-November. Registration for the fall season usually takes place in May, June, July, and early August.
2. Spring Recreational Soccer season practices begin in late March with matches beginning early April and running through mid-June. Registration for the spring season usually takes place in December, January and February.
3. Late registration is usually allowed on a space available basis. A late charge will be charged for late registration. Those players who have moved to the Springfield/South County area after the final regular scheduled registration may register late on a space available basis without a late charge at the discretion of the Rec Soccer Commissioner.

## **LICENSING FOR COACHES**

SYC strongly encourages its soccer coaches to seek training and development opportunities, particularly USSF state and national coaching courses.

## MINIMUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

SYC Soccer recommends that coaches and assistant coaches take available course(s) appropriate for the age level they are coaching. Volunteer SYC head or assistant soccer coaches may apply for reimbursement of course fee expenses incurred in attending state or national licensing courses. The figure below shows the pathways for soccer coach training.



1. To be eligible for training reimbursement, the applicant must coach in the next SYC soccer season. The applicant and his/her team(s) must be current in all sanctioning league and SYC fees and obligations before an application can be considered.
2. The SYC Rec Soccer Commissioner may recommend reimbursement for licensing class registration expenses in accordance with the following schedule by the SYC Soccer Committee:
  - A or B course: 50% of the course fee
  - C or National Youth course: 50% of the course fee
  - D course: 100% of the course fee
  - 11v11 (U13+) course: 100% of the course fee
  - 9v9 (U11-U12) course: 100% of the course fee
  - 7v7 (U9-U10) course: 100% of the course fee
  - 4v4 (U6-U8) course: 100% of the course fee

An up to date list of scheduled coaching courses is always available at the Virginia Youth Soccer Association website: [www.vysa.com](http://www.vysa.com)

3. The SYC Rec Soccer Commissioner must recommend the reimbursement of course fees before the training expense is incurred. After course completion, satisfaction of any

service requirement, and receipt of adequate expense documentation, the Soccer Committee will authorize reimbursement. The Soccer Committee will resolve all questions concerning the interpretation or application of this policy. A copy of the certificate must be mailed, faxed, or scanned and emailed to the SYC Main Office for reimbursement. Once received and verified, SYC will prepare and deliver a reimbursement check for the cost of the certification course registration within 15 days of receipt.

Coaches are also encouraged to participate in coaching clinics arranged by the Rec Soccer Commissioner (Example: Seasonal Coaches Clinics and Coaches Matches).

## **MANAGEMENT OF SOCCER PROGRAM**

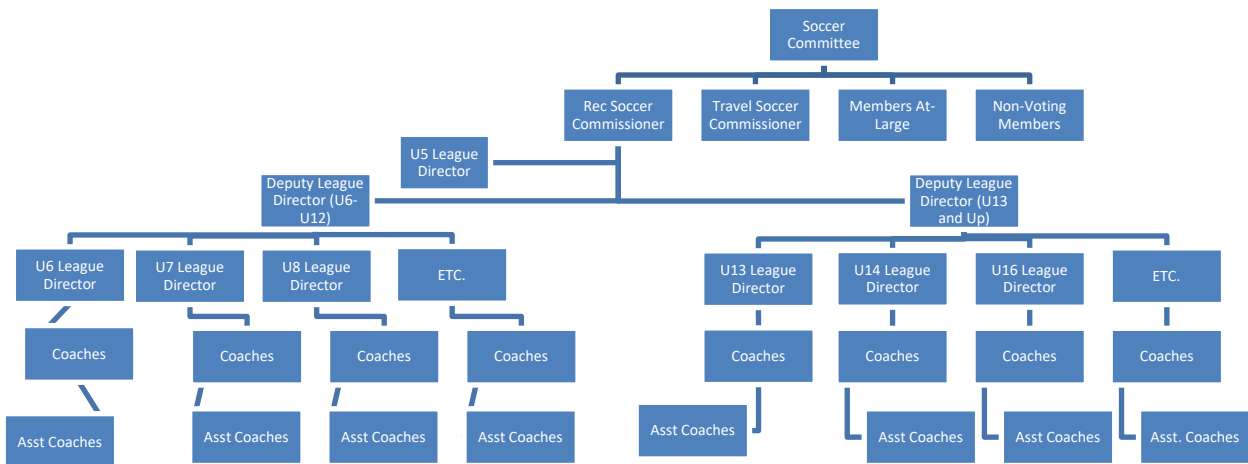
### **SOCCER COMMITTEE**

#### **ORGANIZATION**

The Soccer Committee is composed of a minimum of three voting core members, plus three or more non-voting members such as Executive Director of Travel Soccer, Technical Director, and the Virginian Tournament Director. Additional voting “at-large” members may be appointed at the discretion of the Soccer Committee such as Referee Director, VYSA REP, and Field Directors. Every attempt should be made to recruit members from both Recreational and Travel Soccer Programs.

1. **Core or “At Large” Members:** To be eligible for appointment to serve on the Committee, a person shall not be a coach or hold any office or position in another local youth soccer club or association other than SYC at any time during their tenure, unless approved by the Committee.
2. **Recreational Commissioner:** To be eligible to serve on the Committee as the Recreational Commissioner, a person (a) shall have significant experience in the SYC Soccer Program as a coach and/or league director, and (b) shall not be a coach or hold any office or position in a local youth soccer club or association other than SYC.





***SYC Soccer Organizational Chart***

## **SELECTION/APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

1. Core and “at-large” members: Elected to the Committee by a majority of the current Soccer Committee members.
2. Recreational and Travel Soccer Commissioners: Selection by the Committee.
3. Executive Director of Travel Soccer: Selection by the Committee.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Appoints a Committee Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons.
2. Appoints the Technical Director.
3. Appoints the Executive Director of Travel Soccer.
4. Appoints the Soccer Commissioner for the Recreational Program.
5. Appoints the Soccer Commissioner for the Travel Program.
6. Appoints a Budget Officer for the Committee.
7. Recommends, to the Executive Committee of the SYC Board of Directors, a Director of the Virginian Soccer Tournament. The Virginian Tournament Director is a non-voting member of the Committee.
8. Reviews and certifies the soccer budget to the Board of Directors.

9. Reviews and certifies the soccer program and policies to the Board of Directors.
10. Establishes the policy for and the control of the soccer equipment and procurement procedures, including inventory control.
11. Reviews and reports to the Board of Directors on budget program compliance as required.
12. Removes the Committee Chairperson, Recreational Soccer Commissioner, Travel Soccer Commissioner, Technical Director, or other appointed persons for cause by a majority vote of the full voting Committee.
13. Decides how SYC shall vote in any governing body soccer election.
14. Establishes the activity and other participation fee structure.
15. If at any time the Committee determines that the Soccer Program will exceed its budget for a fiscal year, the Committee shall report such determination to the Board as soon after such determination as possible and may seek assistance of the SYC as necessary to carry out the Soccer Program.
16. The Committee appoints a recorder from among the members who shall keep an accurate record of the meetings, recommendations, and actions.

## **SOCCER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON OR CO-CHAIRPERSONS**

1. Schedule and chair meetings at intervals frequent enough to assure communications between all members of the Committee, normally the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm.
2. Assure that all actions necessary for the operation of the Program are being accomplished in a manner which benefits the children of the greater Springfield/South County area.
3. Assure that all Committee members are informed of actions as they occur that are important to the Soccer Program.
4. Speak for the Committee as required. All positions shall be coordinated with the Committee prior to being voiced.
5. Cast any votes on behalf of SYC in any governing body soccer election. The chairperson or co-chairpersons may delegate this responsibility.
6. Approve purchases that are over \$1000 for the Recreational and Travel Soccer Program and within the annual soccer budget. The Technical Director recommends purchases under \$1000 related to training or coaching expenses, within the annual budget.

## **RECREATIONAL SOCCER COMMISSIONER**

1. Is responsible for the administrative operation of the Recreational Soccer Program and for resolving all conflicts arising within the Program.
2. Recommends policies and budgets for the operation of the Recreational Soccer Program to the Soccer Committee.
3. Organizes a volunteer staff to conduct the Recreational Soccer Program in accordance with the approved policies. Provides organization chart with names, addresses, and phone numbers to the Soccer Committee for their information only.
4. Manages the staff and develops a list of duties for each position.
5. Coordinates the Recreational Soccer Program requirements with the Director of Referees, the Technical Director, the Travel Soccer Commissioner, the Field Director, Budget Officer, and the SYC office.
6. Rules on all play up or down requests. Requests must be made each season.
7. Recommends procurement of the following as necessary to support the Recreational Soccer Program:
  - a. Participation Patches and Trophies
  - b. Field Supplies

## **SOCCER COMMITTEE BUDGET OFFICER**

1. The Soccer Committee shall appoint one of the core members to serve as the Committee's Budget Officer.
2. The Budget Officer is responsible for tracking actual revenues and expenses against the Committee's approved budget, monitoring the Committee's and the Virginian's budget execution to ensure that program obligations and liabilities do not exceed approved amounts, and reporting regularly (at a minimum on a quarterly basis) to the Committee.
3. By February of each year, the Budget Officer in cooperation with the Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons, the Technical Director, the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, and the Travel Soccer Commissioner, shall prepare a proposed budget for the next budget period (July 1 through June 30) for submission to the Soccer Committee.
4. The Budget Officer shall perform such other studies and assessments of the Soccer program's financial and budgetary activities as the Budget Officer or the Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons considers appropriate.

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM OPERATION

## MANAGEMENT

### RECREATIONAL SOCCER COMMISSIONER

The Recreational Soccer Commissioner is responsible for the operation of the Recreational Soccer Program.

### DEPUTY RECREATIONAL SOCCER COMMISSIONERS

The Recreational Soccer Commissioner appoints Deputy Recreational Soccer Commissioner(s). The Deputy Soccer Commissioner(s) assist the Recreational Soccer Commissioner in administering the Recreational Soccer Program. At his or her discretion, the Recreational Soccer Commissioner may designate one (1) deputy to coordinate the boys' and girls' program for age groups U6 to U12 and one (1) deputy to coordinate the boys' and girls' program for age groups U13-U-19.

The Deputy Soccer Commissioner(s) may perform other duties and tasks as assigned by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

In the absence of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, the Deputy Soccer Commissioner(s) perform the duties of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, with the exception of serving on the Soccer Committee.

### LEAGUE DIRECTORS

The League Directors (LDs) are appointed by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner to manage the day-to-day operation of each of the Recreational Soccer leagues. The general vision is that the LDs manage the leagues, while the coaches manage the parents, players, and games. Specific duties and responsibilities are as follows:

#### ***Head Coach Selection***

The LD recommends a list of head coaches to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, based on the maturity, judgment, character appropriate to manage young people, and an adequate knowledge of soccer skills. The Recreational Soccer Commissioner has final approval of all head coaches.

#### ***Replacement of Coaches***

The LD may recommend replacement of a coach when an incumbent requests to be replaced, or when the League Director considers that the incumbent no longer meets the spirit and requirements of these guidelines. Replacement of a coach in the latter instance occurs only after the approval of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

### ***Team Formation***

The LD forms teams for the league based on age, location, and experience with the overall objective to create balanced, competitive neighborhood teams whenever possible.

### ***League Structure***

When there are more than eight teams in a league, the LD may divide the league into an appropriate number of separate divisions. In age groups U-9 and above, these divisions shall be based on location as well as the experience levels of the individual teams. The experience level of a team may be determined by adding the number of “seasons played” of all players on a team.

### ***Coaches Meeting***

When the teams are formed, the League Director shall meet with the coaches and explain how the teams were formed, how the league is structured, duties, and responsibilities of coaches, etc. No deviations from this Guide are allowed without prior approval of the Soccer Committee. At the coaches meeting, the LD shall cover—but is not limited to—the following topics:

- a. Coach and Player Code of Conduct
- b. Soccer Program Guide outline of coach’s responsibilities
- c. Schedule
- d. For U8 and below, the relevant micro-soccer rules that differ from FIFA
- e. Explain the Risk Management Background Check program
- f. Explain the Concussion Protocol program
- g. Explain the Sexual Abuse Awareness Training program

The LD shall arrange with any coach that missed the coaches meeting to attend a make-up session, at the LD’s convenience prior to the coach’s first practice. All LDs will certify to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner that their coaches have been briefed on the above material prior to initiation of the season.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Parents of players are expected to assist when requested. Volunteers are solicited to handle duties deemed necessary by the League Director.

### ***Field Preparation***

Prior to the start of each season or prior to game as needed, the League Director ensures, through obtaining volunteers, that the assigned match fields are cut, lined, nets are up, and corner poles are in place. The League Directors are also responsible for assuring that coaches, players, and parents clean up the fields at the end of matches.

### ***Match Schedules***

League Directors make available a schedule of matches for their respective leagues to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner for review by the date agreed upon at the first League Directors' meeting. The League Director distributes the approved schedule to all coaches, the Referee Assignor, and the appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner, at least one week before the first day of matches. Individual matches may be re-scheduled as approved by the League Director with the consent of the appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner. In age groups U-9 and above, the League Director shall create a schedule that matches teams with similar amounts of experience. The purpose is to create a schedule that will provide a soccer season that is both fun and challenging for players at all experience and skill levels.

### ***Game Cancellations and Make-ups***

In the event of inclement weather, League Directors, in consultation with their Deputy Soccer Commissioners or Recreational Soccer Commissioner, decide when to cancel games. LDs are also responsible for determining if and when make-up games will be held and will coordinate their scheduling with the Referee Assignor.

### ***Rosters and Volunteer Lists***

Team rosters and volunteer lists must be submitted to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner or Deputy Soccer Commissioner and SYC office by dates specified at the first League Directors' meeting. Lists are completed via the SYC registration and roster software system.

### ***Equipment***

The League Director, in coordination with the Uniform and Equipment Coordinators, ensures that each team receives a game ball and uniforms prior to the first game and ensures that each team will wear only jerseys issued by the SYC for scheduled games.

### ***Submission of Scores and Standings***

Each week, in age groups U-10 and above, the LDs ensure scores and standings are recorded in the SYC registration and roster software system, and upon request, will make available to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner or appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner the scores of the matches, and the league standings. Recreational Soccer League standings are based on all games played. Each team is awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss, or other points as determined by associated league policy. Standings will be arranged in descending order of total points scored. Scores and standings are not kept for the U5, U-6, U-7, U-8 and U-9 age groups.

### ***Injuries***

Coaches must advise League Directors, who shall inform the appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner, or in their absence, the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, of all injuries requiring medical treatment.

### **Cards**

League Directors shall report all cards and other disciplinary issues to the appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner, or in their absence, the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

### **Referees**

LDs are responsible for forwarding all game reports and referee information to the appropriate Deputy Soccer Commissioner and Referee Assignor on a weekly basis. The Referee Assignor will contact the Referee Evaluator to share appropriate information to ensure the monitoring of referee performance, assure the assignment of referees to appropriate level games, develop referee skills, and work with appropriate league directors and commissioners to resolve issues that arise during competition.

## **COACHES**

Coaches are selected by the League Director with the approval of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner based on merit, cooperative spirit, and the welfare of the players.

Coaches are expected to be mature individuals whose knowledge of soccer, judgment, and character are acceptable to the Recreational Commissioner, and appropriate League Director. Coaches are expected to contribute toward the physical, mental, and emotional growth of each player on their team.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct and administration of their teams, including sideline behavior of assistant coaches, players, parents, and spectators. In short, the coaches are responsible for the conduct of the day's event. Referees control the game, but the coach is responsible for the overall conduct of their part of SYC Recreational Soccer.

Coaches set an example for their players. Their actions should be positive and reflect good sportsmanship and the spirit of soccer. Coaches should not walk outside the touchlines between the 18-yard lines (penalty area) on either end of the field. Proper instruction during practice sessions should minimize the need for instruction from coaches during games. Harassment of referees and assistant referees will not be tolerated. Failure to follow the spirit and laws of soccer may result in severe disciplinary action. See [Disciplinary Procedures](#), as well as the [SYC Coach Code of Conduct](#).

Coaches are selected each season and must submit a Risk Management Background Check application for coaching during the seasonal registration process via the SYC website. Although coaches will not be arbitrarily replaced, there is no guarantee that a coach will be selected from one season to the next, have the same assistant coaches, or be placed with the same team or players.

## COACH DUTIES

1. Adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies described in this Guide. No deviations from this Guide are allowed without prior approval of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner and the Soccer Committee.
2. Provide leadership appropriate to each occasion.
3. Create opportunities for players to learn soccer skills, sportsmanship and the value of athletic competition.
4. Attend coaches' clinics provided by the SYC.
5. Attend meetings called by the Technical Director, League Director, and Recreational Soccer Commissioner. In the specific case of the pre-season LD hosted Coaches meeting, the coach must attend. If the coach cannot attend for any reason, the coach must contact the LD and make-up the missed meeting at the convenience of the LD. This session must occur before the coach can hold a practice or game.
6. Coaches shall meet with players' parents prior to season to discuss team philosophy and organization and to reemphasize the parent responsibilities as outlined in the code of conduct.
7. Schedule practice sessions.
8. Submit Practice Field Request forms to the Field Coordination Manager to obtain approved field permits prior to 1<sup>st</sup> practice.
9. Organize parents for team administration or league volunteer positions (team manager, field preparation, Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL), etc.) as desired. Coaches can select two (2) TSLs for the season (Primary and Alternate). Alternate TSL may be selected, but each TSL must execute their duties over all games during the seasonal year. TSLs observe each scheduled match and maintains sportsmanship for their respective team during the scheduled match. The roles and responsibilities of the TSL are described [here](#).
10. Pick-up, issue, and return, as required, soccer equipment provided by SYC.
11. Report all injuries requiring medical attention to the League Director.
12. Assure compliance of assistant coaches, players, parents, and spectators with SYC's Code of Conduct during practices and matches. Inform the League Director (LD) all potential problems. Report all red and yellow cards to the LD within 24 hours, who in turn shall report them to the appropriate Recreational Soccer Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner within 48 hours of receipt as part of the game reporting procedures described in Section C (League Director) above.



## **TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP LIAISON (TSL)**

When spectators are permitted to watch games from the sidelines, they are very close to the field and in a position to influence a game in ways which they could not if they were in stands in a stadium setting. SYC recommends that team coaches designate an individual(s) on the parents' sideline as a Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL). Following are their duties and responsibilities:

TSL's should:

- Ensure the team spectators/parents observe the spectator line.
- Be the "cooler head" should the sideline behavior become extreme.

TSLs should promote a "positive" sideline atmosphere for both players and spectators and discourage the use of negative comments directed at players, coaches, or referees, or sideline jokes or humor that may not be appropriate in a public or group setting.

If sideline behavior results in an SYC Code of Conduct or Rules and Discipline (R&D) hearing, the TSL may be asked to attend the hearing and/or provide information/assistance.

## **STRUCTURE**

### **LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

The Recreational Soccer Program is divided into separate, age-specific leagues called divisions, for boys and girls. Recreational Soccer games are played from U6 through U12, generally between SYC teams made up of players of the same age and gender. Our youngest groups of soccer players are our U-4 Pee Wee players and U-5 Cubs. Pee Wees and Cubs have training designed to provide the foundation of a lifelong love of the game and soccer skills that also serve to enhance the player's motor, cognitive, and psycho-social development. Pee Wees meet once a week for training and scrimmages, while U-5 Cubs meet once a week for training and then again on Saturdays for scrimmages. There are no games. The Recreational Soccer leagues for the U-6, U-7, and U-8 leagues, focus on skill development for both players and coaches. Older ages and high school players in the age U-13 through U-19 leagues participate in regional Recreational Soccer Leagues, with the boys playing in the Suburban Friendship League (SFL) and the girls in the SFL and High School Girls House Soccer League (HSGHSL).

Cross gender placement of players will not be permitted, other than the U-4 Pee Wees and U-5 Coed Cubs developmental division.

Leagues are based on US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) age groups as indicated below. The determining factor for placement in a league will be the player's age as of January 1

of each Fall/Spring Soccer year.

Play up or play down requests may only be approved by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

<b>League (Age Group)</b>	<b>Approximate Grade in School</b>	<b>Approximate Ages</b>
<b>U-19</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> grade and above	14 and above
<b>U-16</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	14-16
<b>U-14</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	13 – 14
<b>U-13</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	12-13
<b>U- 12</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 – 12
<b>U-11</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 – 11
<b>U-10</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 – 10
<b>U-9</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	8 – 9
<b>U-8</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	7 – 8
<b>U-7</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	6 – 7
<b>U-6</b>	Kindergarten	5 – 6
<b>U-5 Cubs</b>	Pre-K	4 – 5
<b>U-4 Pee Wees</b>	Pre-K	3 – 4

## **TEAM FORMATION**

Players who register during any regular SYC soccer registration season, either in person or on the Internet, will be placed on a team according to registration date. SYC will make every attempt to place all on-time registered players. Players who register during late registration will be placed on a waiting list and will be placed on teams on a space available basis only, also in order of registration date. Players must be registered with SYC and have paid the registration fee before they can be assigned to a team and can play or practice.

New teams are formed each season (Fall and Spring). Although teams will not be arbitrarily broken up, there is no guarantee that all the same players and coaches will be placed together for more than one season.

To the extent possible, teams are formed from players living in the same general neighborhood. Because of the large number of children in the Recreational Soccer

program, SYC cannot guarantee consideration of special requests for placement, coaches, or teams. Issues such as carpools, day care, work schedules, etc., should be worked out by the individual parents.

The LDs, with the approval of the Deputy Soccer Commissioner and/or Recreational Soccer Commissioner, will make all decisions concerning team formation based on the above criteria.

With the permission of the Rec Soccer Commissioner, registered Recreational Soccer players (i.e., a player with a valid USYSA card) may participate as guest players in an SYC travel league tournament game, including SYC's Virginian Tournament, without losing eligibility to play in the Recreational Soccer program. Such players must also follow the policy of the league in which their team plays.

## **SEASON**

SYC has both Fall and Spring soccer seasons.

Generally, all games will be scheduled during the following times:

1. Spring – End of March to the weekend Fairfax County Elementary Schools are released for the summer break.
2. Fall – End of August to the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Weather permitting, the regular season will normally consist of eight (8) games per team. If a game is cancelled, it will not be made up unless agreed upon by the coaches and approved by the League Director.

Some of the older leagues play more than 8 games per team.

In addition to our regular recreational soccer seasons, SYC will offer summer camps and clinics and seasonal training programs.

## **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

SYC issues multi-season jerseys and socks in white and navy, which may be reused for subsequent seasons. SYC will issue new jersey/sock sets to players new to the club and as requested/required to existing players. The jerseys and socks issued are purchased by the player, thus belong to the player and may be kept for personal use at the end of the season.

Each jersey will have only the SYC logo and a number. Players' names are not allowed on SYC soccer shirts.

SYC issues one goalie shirt per team to teams in leagues U-9 and above. The goalie shirts may remain with the coaches after the completion of the season.

SYC issues one game ball per team prior to the season. The game balls may remain with the coaches after the completion of the season.

SYC issues practice soccer balls to all new players in the Pee Wee and U-5 Cubs League. Players may only receive one ball during the Fall/Spring soccer year. The balls belong to the players and coaches should encourage their players to bring these balls to practice.

## **OPERATIONS**

### **RULES OF PLAY**

All games will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, as interpreted by the Soccer Committee, and as modified for the younger age groups. Field, Ball Size, Players, Play Down, and Duration of the Game for each League are as follows:

<b>League</b>	<b>Field Size</b>	<b>Ball Size</b>	<b>Players</b>	<b>Play Down</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>U-19B</b>	120 x 65 yards	5	11 v 11	9 v 9	2 x 45 min.
<b>U-19G</b>	120 x 65 yards	5	11 v 11	7 v 7	2 x 45 min.
<b>U-14</b>	120 x 65 yards	5	11 v 11	9 v 9	2 x 35 min.
<b>U-13</b>	120 x 65 yards	5	11 v 11	9 v 9	2 x 35 min.
<b>U-12</b>	100 x 55 yards	4	9 v 9	7 v 7	2 x 30 min.
<b>U-11</b>	100 x 55 yards	4	8 v 8	7 v 7	2 x 30 min.
<b>U-10</b>	80 x 55 yards	4	7 v 7	6 v 6	2 x 25 min.
<b>U-9</b>	70 x 45 yards	4	7 v 7	6 v 6	2 x 25 min.
<b>U-8</b>	40 x 30 yards	3	5 v 5	4 v 4	4 x 12 min.
<b>U-7</b>	35 x 25 yards	3	4 v 4	3 v 3	4 x 10 min.
<b>U-6</b>	25 x 20 yards	3	3 v 3	3 v 3	4 x 8 min.
<b>U-5</b>	25 x 20 yards	3	3 v 3	3 v 3	4 x 8 min.

#### ***Number of Players***

Refer to the Players and Play Down columns in the chart above for the number of players and play down rules for each league.

Coaches who know of a possible play down situation should immediately notify the opposing coach. The team short of players must notify the referee when additional players arrive.

Coaches in the U-6, U-7, and U-8 Leagues are encouraged to loan players to each other to minimize play-down situations.

Play down rules does not apply if a player is ejected from a game causing his team to have less than the prescribed number of players.

The League Director, in extreme cases, may award forfeits. Coaches and League Directors should make every effort to avoid this possibility.

### ***Players' Equipment***

All players shall wear a SYC jersey and socks on the outside of all clothing. Socks must completely cover shin guards and must be under the socks, not covered by socks folded over.

Any child wearing a hard cast or splint will not be allowed to participate unless:

- It has been padded and approved by the referee (or both coaches in U6, U7, and U8 leagues) and
- The player has a doctor's certificate, authorizing participation, that is present at the field and that has been inspected by the referee (or coaches in U6, U7, and U8 leagues).

Shin guards are required to be worn by all ages during practices and games.

Shoes must have molded rubber soles. No metal cleats or football/softball cleat patterns are permitted.

Neither jewelry nor metal or hard plastic hair clips are permitted. All earrings must be removed.

### ***Substitutions***

Unlimited substitutions are permitted with the approval of the referee.

Substitutions are made only at stoppages in the game, as follows:

- during a quarter or half-time break.
- on either team's throw-in. Older age groups may only be on possession or piggy-backed.
- on either team's goal kick.
- on all kick-offs.
- after injury, provided that only the injured player is substituted. If the coach elects to substitute, the other team may also substitute.

Players must wait on sidelines until the referee allows players to enter the field of play during a substitution, or after a yellow card has been issued to a player, if the coach wishes to substitute for that player.

Substitutions are not allowed in the following situations: corner kick, direct kick, indirect kick, and penalty kick (except for U-6 and U-7 games, where substitutions may be made during any stoppage of play).

### **Referees**

The Referee Assignor, with the approval of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, shall schedule the number of game officials.

Once the Referee steps onto the field, the Referee -- not the League Director or Coaches -- is in complete charge of the soccer game. Youth Referees may need and request assistance from adults.

### **Protest of Games**

Protests regarding the outcome of a game are not permitted in the Recreational Soccer leagues. Allegations of misapplication of the Laws of Soccer should be reported to the League Director who will forward them to the Referee Assignor and Referee Evaluator. Allegations regarding the conduct of players, coaches, or spectators should be handled according to the [disciplinary procedures](#).

### **Red Cards**

These guidelines, which apply to players, coaches, and spectators in the U-8 leagues and up during regular season Recreational Soccer games, may be superseded by the rules of other leagues (e.g., SFL, HSGHSL) where SYC teams are participants and by post-season tournament rules.

#### **1. Players**

Must leave the game immediately. This means that the player must be escorted from the playing field and is not permitted to participate or watch the remainder of the game. It is important that adult supervision be provided for the red-carded player to ensure his/her safety.

May NOT be replaced – i.e. the team with the red-carded player must play down.

Must receive an automatic one-game suspension. Red-carded players may not participate in or observe from the player or spectator area the team's next game.

#### **2. Coaches and Spectators**

Must leave the game immediately. They must be escorted from the playing field and are not permitted to watch the remainder of the game.

Must receive an automatic one-game suspension. Red-carded coaches and spectators may not coach or observe from the player or spectator area the team's next game.

Referees must report all red cards issued in their Referee Game Report and should notify the Referee Assignor.

League Directors must report all red cards issued, along with information from the TSL's report, to the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

Repeated red-card infractions by the same player, coach, or spectator will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner to determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

## **FIELD OF PLAY**

All matches shall be played on properly lined fields with nets and corner poles (or corner cones in the U-6 through U-8 leagues). The League Director and/or coach will be responsible for seeing that the fields are prepared before game days.

## **PRACTICE**

### ***Field Selection***

SYC is allocated a limited number of soccer fields by the Fairfax County Department of Recreation. The fields are to be used for practice and matches under the rules prescribed by the County as implemented by the Soccer Committee.

Each coach has the opportunity to request the time and location of a practice area. Those coaching more than one team will be given first choice as to time and location.

Assignment of fields are based on such factors as vicinity to neighborhood of players, demand for the particular time or location, coaches' participation in other teams, and size and age of the team.

Once a practice field and time is allocated to a coach, it is the only authorized location for practice. If problems arise or conflicts exist, the appropriate League Directors should work together to resolve the issues.

Coaches are free to use community parks and fields that are not under the jurisdiction of the County, provided that they receive proper approvals from the controlling authority. SYC will not be responsible for scheduling or assigning practice space or times on these fields.

Because of the shortage of fields, specific practice fields may be limited to certain age groups.

### ***Practice Times***

No Recreational team may practice until the Recreational Soccer Commissioner declares the respective season open.

U-6 and U-7 Recreational Soccer teams are limited to one 1-hour practice per week.

U-8, U-9, and U-10 Recreational Soccer teams are limited to two 1-hour practices per week.

U-11 and above Recreational Soccer teams may have two 1-1/2-hour sessions per week.

### ***Additional Training Opportunities***

During the season, SYC's Technical Director will arrange skills development sessions. Some of these programs are offered free of charge and some may be offered for a nominal fee. Players and their families are responsible for any costs associated with these clinics.

While coaches are encouraged to promote these sessions, they are intended to be offered on an individual basis. Coaches may not require their team members to attend.

Occasionally, League Directors may arrange for cooperative training opportunities independent of those programs scheduled by the Technical Director. These programs will be:

1. Offered only with the Recreational Soccer Commissioner approval
2. Offered free of charge
3. Offered at a time that does not conflict with individual team practices or games

Players may choose to participate in soccer camps that are offered throughout the year.

Participation is independent of the SYC Recreational Soccer program. As such, individual families are not in any way restricted from participating in any camp they choose.

Recreational Soccer teams are prohibited from arranging for paid trainers to work with the team, other than as provided by the Technical Director.

Recreational coaches can arrange for local high school players—particularly those who are older siblings of a team member—to work with the team as an assistant coach provided that they are not compensated. However, students who are working with a younger team may have their hours count toward their community service graduation requirement if the school and the coach approve it.

## **AWARDS**

The awards program applies to all Recreational Soccer Leagues from U-10 thru U-19. The emphasis of Recreational Soccer is player development. Player development is growth in tactical and technical proficiency and increased playing enjoyment through hard competition and adherence to standards of sportsmanship. With this emphasis in mind, League Directors have the authority to provide the following awards:

- League Championships
- Division Championships
- Most Improved Teams

League Directors should submit budget requests for awards to their Deputy Soccer



Commissioner(s) and/or Recreational Soccer Commissioner at the beginning of each season.

## **POST SEASON PLAY**

### **OVERVIEW**

<b>League</b>	<b>Recreational All-Star Tournament Teams</b>
<b>U-6 and U-7</b>	No
<b>U-8 through U-19</b>	Yes

Recreational All-Star Tournament Teams exist to:

1. Honor those players whose efforts and achievement on the soccer field in a season have been exemplary;
2. Provide them an opportunity to play with others whose efforts and achievement also have been noteworthy.

The selection process for both All-Star and Tournament Teams is intended to assure that the selection of players and coaches is fair and is consistent with the objectives of the Soccer Program. The process is designed to afford all boys and girls (regardless of who their coach may be or how successful their team may be) a fair and open chance to be selected to a post-season team.

All-Star and Tournament Team play is intended to be a reward for superior play and development during a season. SYC Recreational All-Star and Tournament teams are not intended to be "training" teams prior to formation of traveling teams, nor are they to be special teams formed by individuals.

### **RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

Nature of Recreational Tournament Competition - Recreational Tournaments are a series of matches played over a weekend against Recreational Tournament teams from other soccer clubs. Recreational Tournaments are generally very competitive as opposed to developmental; therefore, SYC will authorize League Directors to field and to prepare the most competitive Recreational Tournament teams possible within the following guidelines:

***Eligible Age Groups***

Recreational Tournament teams are open to the U-8 age groups and up.

***Number of Teams***

League Directors will field one or two tournament teams based upon such considerations

as size of the league, number of capable players, and available coaches. More than two teams in an age group needs approval from the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

#### ***Coach Selection***

League Directors will select head coaches who will represent SYC well, and who can help players to enhance their soccer skills in a competitive environment. League Directors should use Recreational Tournaments to provide additional coaching experience and should avoid selecting the same coaches from season to season.

#### ***Player Selection***

Tournament coaches will invite at least one player from each League team to be a member of the tournament team. Tournament coaches may select players through a combination of league coaches' recommendations, scouting, and with the approval of the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, limited tryouts.

#### ***Practice Policy***

Tournament coaches may start practices one month prior to the scheduled Recreational Soccer Tournament. Tournament coaches may train their teams once a week prior to the end of the Recreational soccer season. After the last day of Recreational League play, tournament coaches may train their teams as often as they desire. Tournament coaches will use their age group assigned game field for both practices and scrimmages during the week and weekends. Tournament coaches will schedule practice fields with the SYC Field Director if their field is unavailable or additional fields have been made available for use.

#### ***Playing Time***

A player will play at least one half of each Recreational Soccer Tournament game given the coach judges that the player has trained and competes with appropriate effort.

#### ***Uniforms***

Tournament teams shall wear SYC issued or approved shirts and socks.

## **OTHER TOURNAMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL TEAMS**

#### ***Tournament Approval***

Recreational teams may only play in sanctioned tournaments approved by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

#### ***Relationship to Tournament Teams***

In cases of scheduling conflicts, players chosen for Tournament Teams are encouraged to play for that team.

# **SOCCER REFEREE PROGRAM**

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The SYC Soccer Referee Program gives training and experience to persons interested in refereeing and provides qualified referees and assistant referees for the Recreational Soccer Program.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Well-controlled games played according to the laws of soccer improve the overall quality of soccer experience. The opportunity to learn and to apply the rules of the game from the other side of the whistle is also important to our youth. By participating in the Referee Program, a referee improves his or her knowledge of the game and becomes better qualified to pass this knowledge along to others, whether as a player, coach, or parent.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Any SYC member, 13 years old or older, is eligible for the program.

Referee candidates must attend a clinic on the rules and principles of refereeing and pass the USSF written test and demonstrate a current USSF certification prior to being scheduled for any games.

## **ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The SYC Soccer Referee Program is run by the Referee Assignor, assisted by a Director of Referees and appropriate league officials as determined by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner.

## **REFEREE ASSIGNOR**

1. Establish the policies and budget for operating the Referee Program, subject to approval by the Soccer Committee.
2. Organize and manage a volunteer staff to conduct the program in accordance with approved policies.
3. Coordinate Referee Program requirements with the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, the SYC office, and the Director of Referees.
4. Operate the Referee Program and resolve all conflicts arising therein.
5. Ensure that referees and assistant referees are paid in accordance with the rate

schedule approved by the SYC Soccer Committee.

- Establish procedures for reporting and certifying games worked.
  - Payout will be made at the end of each season, only for SYC-sanctioned games.
6. Develop and administer an incentive compensation program to reward those referees whose performance has been exemplary. The details of this program are subject to approval by the SYC Soccer Committee.
  7. Schedule and conduct a general referee meeting at the start of each new soccer season to cover the Referee Program and procedures for the coming season.
  8. Organize, schedule and conduct SYC referee training clinics. Referee clinics are given as required, however, a minimum of one clinic will be given prior to the start of each soccer season. Length of the clinics will be appropriate to the material to be covered. The SYC Referee Test will be given at the end of the final session. Be responsible for preparing training materials used in the clinics.
  9. Present a session (as part of the pre-season coaches meetings conducted by the Recreational Soccer Commissioner) to refresh coaches with the laws of soccer. This session will primarily discuss referee responsibilities, control of the game and enforcement of the laws.

## **DIRECTOR OF REFEREES**

1. Assist in formulating the policies and budget for the Referee Program.
2. Organize an Evaluation Committee that will evaluate referee performance and make recommendations for moving referees along in the program.
3. All first-year youth referees will start as assistant referees in the three-man system. From there they will progress to the one-man system and finally to the center in the three-man system.
4. The Evaluation Committee will establish procedures, evaluate referees and assistant referees and make recommendations on the advancement of youth referees.
5. Assist the referee assignor to ensure referees are qualified for the games for which they are scheduled.
6. Devise and manage a system for obtaining feedback on referee performance from coaches through their respective league directors.
7. Review game and referee reports, particularly of cautions and ejections, with the referee assignor to assure game management is appropriate and recommend corrective actions to the appropriate league directors and Deputy Commissioners.

## **REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

1. SYC Referees and assistant referees are members of a select group striving to enhance the level of SYC soccer play. Because they are paid for their services, they are expected to perform to the best of their ability and devote full attention to their duties and responsibilities as referees or assistant referees whenever they are on the field acting in that capacity. Referees/assistant referees who fail to perform their duties in a professional manner will be dismissed from the program.
1. All referees and assistant referees are required to wear the appropriate referee uniform. They are expected to report to the field in uniform with all necessary equipment to include flags, watch, whistle, coin, paper and pencil, and caution/ejection cards. Referees and assistant referees provide their own uniforms and equipment.
2. Referees and assistant referees are expected to report to their scheduled field in time to check the field and perform other pre-game duties to permit the game to start at the scheduled time. Usually this requires the referee to be present a minimum of 15 minutes prior to game time.
3. Once a referee or assistant referee has agreed to officiate a game, the assignment is considered final. Referees/assistant referees who must make changes are responsible for finding their own replacement and they will clear the change with their scheduler a minimum of 24 hours before the day of the match. Failure to show up for games or obtain replacements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the referee assignor. Appropriate loss of fees, or removal from program may result, depending on the decision of the assignor. If a referee/assistant referee cannot obtain his own replacement, he can obtain assistance by calling his scheduler provided he does so a minimum of 72 hours prior to the match.
4. The senior referee at each game is responsible for filing all game and other reports required by these instructions.
5. If a referee must issue a caution or ejection, he will report the circumstances of the incident on the game report form provided on the field, attaching supplemental descriptions of incidents and cards as appropriate. The report will include the name of all referees and assistant referees at the game, date and time of the game, league, name of player(s) concerned, type of caution or ejection, and circumstances of the incident. If a league disciplinary hearing is conducted, referees may be requested to appear and relate the circumstances of the incident.

# MISCELLANEOUS POLICY & PROCEDURES

## FIELD CLOSURE

When Fairfax County declares fields closed for play that means no games or practices for Recreational or Travel Teams shall take place on those fields during the period of closure. Failure to abide by the rules may cause the loss of the field to the SYC, the offending team, and suspension of the offending coach.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the case of inclement weather, the Recreational Soccer Commissioner, with the assistance of the Recreational League Directors, are responsible for surveying fields and deciding whether they are playable for the Recreational Program. He will advise both the Referee Assignor and the Recreational Program directly, or through the Recreational League Directors, of the decision to close a field due to inclement weather, at least one hour before the start of the next scheduled game.

During or after inclement weather, if fields are still saturated with water, practice is not to be conducted on non-synthetic turf playing areas (even if a field has not been closed). During the week, Fairfax County website posts county field closures after 3 PM.

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Complaints or inquiries regarding the Soccer Program will not be investigated or considered unless presented in writing. Emails may be sent to the [Recreational Commissioner](#) or [Soccer Committee](#).

No verbal abuse by coaches, players, or spectators of the referee, assistant referees or the opposing teams' coach or players or toward our own players, prior to, during, or after a match or practice, will be tolerated, per [SYC's Code of Conduct](#).

The SYC Soccer Program exists for the fun, physical, social, and skill development of the youth of Springfield/South County area. The actions of all adults should be worthy of our boys and girls to emulate, and the actions of the boys and girls should make the adults proud.

## VOLUNTEER POLICY

One of the Springfield/South County Youth Club's most valuable resources is its pool of volunteers who are essential in providing quality youth sports activities to the members of our community. In the past, SYC charged families a \$40 non-volunteer fee to those

who did not volunteer during the membership year. SYC's new fee structure recognizes the hardest working volunteers in each sport by discounting their children's future registrations with a Volunteer Credit. Please remember that all SYC sports need volunteers that are not on the "Reward" system. Coaches will communicate to parents regarding any additional volunteer opportunities on an "as needed" basis. All volunteers are critical to our sports programs and your child's team. Each sport in SYC has specific volunteer positions that are eligible for a Volunteer Credit. See below for volunteer positions and credit amounts listed by sport.

- Commissioner: Free registration per season up to \$150.
- Deputy Commissioner: \$50
- Rec League Directors: \$50
- Rec Head Coaches: \$25
- Rec Assistant Coaches: \$15 (1 assistant per team)

To volunteer for the designated positions, volunteers must sign up through our volunteer link presented at the end of the registration process or volunteer separately on our [home page](#) under the volunteer tab. A team or league official will then assign you to the appropriate position so that the volunteer credit can be applied to your account. After the volunteer job has been completed, the Volunteer Credit will automatically be applied to the next registration in the same family. Credits do not have to be used in the same membership year. If a credit balance remains after the next registration, the balance will be maintained and applied in sequence. SYC's membership year begins with the registration of any summer sport through the following spring sports. Please remember it is your responsibility to volunteer!

## **REFUNDS**

The following is SYC's Refund Policy. Parents/guardians must agree to the refund policy as presented during the registration process to continue with on-line registration for any sport. Scholarship registrations follow the same policies as regular registrations. To qualify for a full or partial refund of registration fees, participants are required to complete the online Refund Request Form (RRF) found under "**Contact Us**" at <http://www.sycva.com/>. All refund requests must be in writing, using this form. SYC reserves the right to change this policy at any time and to deny or approve a refund for any reason. We strive for consistency and fairness and will evaluate every request objectively. However, there may be circumstances, that we did not foresee when forming this refund policy that may require us to deny or approve a refund request or to change the refund policy. Once the completed form is received by SYC, refunds are granted within the guidelines and time frames listed below for each sport:

## **SOCCER (REC)**

Participants who submit the RRF prior to the close of on-time registration will receive a full refund of the registration fee minus a \$15.00 administrative fee. Participants who submit the RRF during the late registration period and prior to the date of the first game will receive a 50% refund of the registration fee. NO REFUNDS will be issued to participants who submit the RRF after the date of the first scheduled game. Uniform refunds will be issued if RRF is submitted prior to the date of league uniform orders.

## **QUESTIONS**

If you have a question or issue concerning the Soccer program, call 703-339-3796. Leave your name and a daytime telephone number, and your call will be returned as soon as possible. You may also email us [soccercommittee@sycva.com](mailto:soccercommittee@sycva.com).

## **CODES OF CONDUCT**

The following Codes of Conduct have been established and adopted to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials, and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in SYC sports activities.

### **PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each player participating in an activity of The Springfield/South County Youth Club ("SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her playing conduct is that of a young lady or gentleman fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the player is expected to comply with the rules of the SYC Player's Code of Conduct as set out below.

1. Know the rules of the sport or activity that he or she is participating in and abide by them.
2. Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The team captain may address the officials during the game but only within the provisions of the rules, and in a courteous, respectful manner.
3. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper.
4. Do not physically assault, or threaten to physically assault, another player, game



official or a coach.

5. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship during and at the conclusion of the game, being humble and generous in victory, proud, and courteous in defeat.
6. Follow all building and facility rules and regulations, respecting the property of others.
7. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners of each individual player.

Players must agree to follow the Player's Code of Conduct whenever participating in an SYC sponsored activity. Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.

## **COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each coach participating in an activity of The Springfield/South County Youth Club (the "SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a lady or gentleman, demonstrating the highest level of sportsmanship and fair play. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every coach is expected to comply with the rules of the SYC Coach's Code of Conduct as set out below.

1. Know the rules of the activity or sport that he or she is coaching and abide by them.
2. Instruct team members in the rules of the game and motivate each player to compete according to the rules.
3. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
4. Ensure that the players and spectators follow all building and facility rules and regulations at, and during, SYC sponsored activities.
5. Ensure that the fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game sites. Assist game officials in maintaining control of spectators and players during the games.
6. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
7. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
8. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating. Do not physically assault, or

threaten to physically assault, any person (including, but not limited to, any player, spectator, parent, guardian, game official or a coach).

9. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, line persons, scorekeepers, and timekeepers) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
10. Never consume alcohol at SYC sponsored activities (especially in the presence of players) or allow it to be consumed during any SYC sponsored activity including, but not limited to, practices and games. Never be in an inebriated state at any SYC sponsored activities including, but not limited to, practices and games.
11. Never encourage, tolerate, or indulge in substance abuse.
12. Never smoke or use tobacco products in front of players during any SYC sponsored activity including, but not limited to, practices or games.
13. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on its sportsmanship and courtesy.
14. Comply with the SYC Child Protection Policy which includes remaining at a playing site or practice field until all children on the team have been picked up by either their parent or their guardian.
15. Comply with the SYC Equal Opportunity Policy, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, age, disability or handicap, sex, marital status, family responsibilities, matriculation, personal appearance, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or veteran status.

Coaches must follow the Coach's Code of Conduct whenever participating in an SYC sponsored activity. Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.

## **PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each parent, guardian and/or spectator attending an activity of The Springfield/South County Youth Club (the "SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a lady or gentleman while observing the activity (including, but not limited to, a practice or competition, as well as the time after the activity, practice or competition has concluded). To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every parent, guardian and/or spectator is expected to comply with the rules of the Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians and Spectators as set out below.

1. Respect the rules of the game.
2. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from

addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.

3. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
4. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating. Any physical assault or threat of a physical assault, upon a player, game official, coach or other spectator is strictly prohibited.
5. Refrain from coming onto the playing surfaces or from throwing objects or other foreign materials onto the playing surfaces. Exit in an orderly manner at the conclusion of the activity. Enter indoor facilities quietly and remain seated during the activity (including, but not limited to, a practice or competition).
6. Follow all building and facility rules and regulations, respecting the property of others.
7. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of the game, win or lose.
8. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.
9. Comply with the SYC Child Protection Policy which includes remaining at a playing site or practice field until all children on the team have been picked up by either their parent or their guardian.

Parents, guardians, and spectators must abide by the Parents, Guardians, and Spectators' Club Code when observing or participating in an SYC sponsored activity. Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.