

Frequently Asked Questions

for Parents & Players about SYSA Spring Soccer

Revised: January 2024

SYSA's Spring Soccer League started in 2002 with just a handful of teams.

As the league continues to grow and more players participate, it is important to keep in mind the spirit of Spring Soccer:

A league focused on kids playing soccer in a safe, comfortable environment, without the pressure of winning and losing, allowing them to get more touches on the ball and find joy and creativity in the game.

Please read this FAQ carefully. If you still have questions, please contact us at information@sya.org. Please remember that nearly 500 teams participate in spring soccer each season. Email traffic can be quite hectic, and we truly appreciate your patience as we work to serve all members and respond to each question.

The FAQ document is organized into two parts:

- **Questions Most Asked by Parents and Players**
- **General Questions**

Questions Most Asked by Parents and Players

WHO CAN PLAY SPRING SOCCER AND HOW ARE TEAMS FORMED?

Spring Soccer is organized around registration by teams. Most of the players in Spring Soccer play on the same team they played on in the previous fall season. Ask your fall coach if they plan to enter the team in SYSA Spring Soccer. If so, they can simply include you on the roster.

If your fall team is playing in the spring, you DO NOT need to register as a player. Your fall coach will simply include you on the roster.

If your fall team coach is NOT planning to enter the team in Spring Soccer, then you will need to find a team to play on. See the sections below for how to find a team to join. Playing with a team for the spring league does NOT impact your fall team placement.

HOW CAN INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS FIND A TEAM TO PLAY ON?

Parents or players should ask friends, neighbors, or schoolmates if they know of teams looking to add players. The coach can then ask those players to be added to the roster. This is by far the best way to get on a team and play in the spring. Players can also contact their neighborhood club where they played fall soccer for help locating a team. *Note: not all clubs will actively monitor email traffic at this time of year as it is considered the 'off season' and SYSA runs spring soccer.*

Players U9 and older who are unable to find a team to play with for spring can register as individual players. We will try to place these players onto teams that indicate they have room for additional players. Player placement by SYSA registrars may not be within your neighborhood club's teams for spring soccer and has no impact on your team placement next fall with your neighborhood club.

For players U6-U8, ONLY PLAYERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED BY A COACH OR ARE ALIGNED TO A REGISTERED TEAM can be added to a team roster.

HOW DO INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS WITHOUT A TEAM REGISTER?

Individual U6, U7, and U8 Players – ALL players in these age groups WITHOUT TEAMS TO JOIN can register as part of our Spring Skills Academy. You can read about the Spring Skills Academy and find out how to register by visiting the program page on the SYSA website.

Individual Players U9 and Older – if you participated in the previous fall season on an SYSA team, you do not need to register again. The coach of your fall team will let us know to add you to the spring season roster. If you did not participate in the previous fall season, but have been invited to join a team for Spring Soccer, or are registering with SYSA for the first time, you will need to register as an Individual Player. The link for Individual Player registration is located on the Spring Soccer page of the website.

WHAT IS THE SPRING SKILLS ACADEMY?

SYSA has organized a special program for U6, U7, and U8 players who do not have teams to play on. Many of these players are new to soccer and SYSA. Others have participated in fall soccer, but their team is not playing spring season. For more information, visit the Spring Skills Academy page on our website, under the Programs tab.

CAN SELECT PLAYERS PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?

Yes. Select players can join and play on existing fall Recreational teams in the spring, adhering to the guidelines below. A select player is anyone who plays on a Seattle United regional team, but also those on US Club Soccer teams as well, including clubs OL Reign Academy, Seattle Celtic, Emerald City, BVBIA, and ANY program that uses player selection for forming teams. *Remember: it is against SYSA rules for Seattle United Premier or ECNL players to participate on SYSA recreational teams.*

Because it is hard for SYSA staff to know if players are on US Club teams, we ask our coaches to use the honor system, and report to the SYSA's registrars any players on their teams from any programs & clubs outside SYSA (including but not limited to those listed above).

In accordance with SYSA Admin Rule 3.4.9, **teams can have up to 3 select players on their roster.**

WHAT AGE CHILD CAN PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?

Any child 6 years or older by July 31st of this year is eligible to play.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The cost for teams varies by age group. **PLAYERS DO NOT PAY SYSA DIRECTLY TO PLAY IN THE SPRING SEASON.** The coach or team manager pays the entire registration fee when they register the team in Spring Soccer. The coach or team manager then collects payment directly from their players families. On average, Spring season costs around \$40 - \$50 per player for the 8-game season.

You can find the list of team fees by age group, on the SYSA Spring Soccer page. Additionally, for players who did not play the previous fall, they will need to pay the \$40 individual player registration fee, too.

Financial Aid is available, upon qualification. Contact your SYSA Registrar Paige Blomso for inquiries, and specific details will be provided upon request.
(paige.blomso@sysa.org)

WHAT DO I DO IF MY TEAM'S COACH DOES NOT WANT TO PLAY SPRING SOCCER, BUT SOME OF MY TEAMMATES DO?

Players and families can reach out to friends, schoolmates, or neighbors to see if their team may have open roster spots to add players. Or, if you have a parent willing to coach the team for spring season, and enough players to form a viable roster, we can help get this set up. The adult willing to coach the team for spring should reach out to the assigned SYSA registrar to get started and register the team.

CAN A PLAYER PLAY ON TWO DIFFERENT SPRING SOCCER TEAMS?

Yes. In SYSA Spring Soccer, unlike fall soccer, players can play on more than one team. Note that no special scheduling requests can be made to accommodate players who choose to play on more than one team.

General Questions about Spring Soccer

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPRING AND FALL SOCCER?

Spring soccer is more like an old-fashioned pick-up game. The focus is and should be on the kids having fun and getting as many touches on the ball as possible. In SYSA Spring Soccer:

- No Practices during the week
- Games are all played on SUNDAYS.
- Scores are not recorded, and no standings are kept or posted.
- Games are refereed by coaches from the teams playing the game.
- Fields are shorter and teams may be smaller.

WHEN ARE GAMES PLAYED?

Spring Soccer games are played on SUNDAYS ONLY, and scheduled anytime between 9 AM and 6 PM each Sunday during the season.

The Spring Skills Academy for U6-U8 players without teams to play on is on Saturday afternoons.

WHEN DOES SPRING SOCCER START AND WHEN DOES IT END?

The season typically starts on the first Sunday in April each year and is completed in mid-June. Each team will be scheduled for 8 games.

ARE GAMES PLAYED ON EASTER & MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND?

No, we do not schedule any games on Easter Sunday or the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. We do schedule games on Mother's Day and Father's Day. There are not enough weeks available in the spring season to avoid scheduling games during some of the school spring breaks. GAMES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED DURING SPRING SOCCER due to field constraints.

IS A MEDICAL RELEASE FORM NECESSARY?

Yes. The coach/manager should have a signed medical release form for each player at all games. There are two ways to get a medical release form.

- The coach/manager may use the form from the fall season.
- The parent can download a medical release form, sign it and give it to the coach. The medical release form can be found on the SYSA website, under the Resources tab.

ARE DOGS ALLOWED AT SPRING SOCCER GAMES?

No dogs are allowed at athletic fields in Seattle and Shoreline. Please be respectful of our field providers' rules and leave your dogs at home.

REMEMBER: Playing on a spring team does NOT affect where you play in the fall. On occasion, players find new friends to play with during the spring and may want to play with them again in the fall. Most SYSA clubs do not

permit this kind of player movement in the fall, as it comes very close to looking like Select soccer. Recreational teams must be formed by the club registrars to preserve the “non-select” nature of recreational soccer.

Questions? Concerns? Email us at information@susa.org