

# Frequently Asked Questions for Coaches about SYSA Spring Soccer Updated for 2018

**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's 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@sysa.org](mailto:information@sysa.org). Please remember that over 600 teams participated in spring soccer in 2017, and the email volume is often very large. We truly appreciate your patience.

This Frequently Asked Questions document is organized into two parts:

- **Questions Most Asked by Coaches**
- **General Questions**

## Questions Most Asked by Coaches

### ***HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE ON THE FIELD?***

SYSA Spring Soccer has its own guidelines for field players:

U6: Total of 3 players on the field; no goal keeper

U7: Total of 3 players on the field; no goal keeper

U8: Total of 4 players on the field; 3 plus a goal keeper

U9: Total of 5 players on the field; 4 plus a goal keeper

U10: Total of 7 players on the field; 5 plus a goal keeper

U11 and older: Total of 8 players on the field; 7 plus a goal keeper

### ***HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE ON A TEAM?***

SYSA Spring Soccer has its own guidelines for roster numbers. These are different than during fall soccer. Our intention is that players get to play as much as possible, and not stand on the sidelines. Please contact the registrar for your age group for an exception if you want to add more players to your team than the maximum allowed.

U-6: recommended roster size 6, max allowed 7

U-7: recommended roster size 6, max allowed 7

U-8: recommended roster size 8, max allowed 9

U-9: recommended roster size 9, max allowed 10

U-10: recommended roster size 10, max allowed 12

U-11 and older: recommended roster size 14, max allowed 16

### ***WHICH AGE BRACKET WILL MY TEAM BE PLAYING IN?***

**Teams will play in the same age bracket as they did in the fall.** So if your team played U-7 last fall, they will be playing U-7 in the Spring Soccer league, using the same rules as the fall. Note that roster sizes for Spring Soccer are different than they are in the fall. Check the chart of roster sizes just above in this FAQ.

### ***HOW DO I REGISTER A TEAM THAT DIDN'T PLAY IN THE FALL?***

Because of the growth of SYSA's Spring Soccer league, there is limited space for teams that did not play in SYSA's fall leagues. To register a team that did not play in the fall, you will need to contact the SYSA Assistant Registrar Anne at [anjalgp@hotmail.com](mailto:anjalgp@hotmail.com) to get approval to register a team. Please note that **any players who were not on a fall team** within SYSA will need to register separately as players.

### ***CAN SELECT TEAMS PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?***

**No.** Select level teams are not permitted in SYSA Spring Soccer. We consider our league a recreational league, not appropriate for select level teams. However, select level players can play on existing Recreational teams. See the next question.

### ***CAN SELECT PLAYERS PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?***

**Yes.** Select players can join and play on existing fall Recreational teams.

SYSA considers the definition of select players to include not only those who play on SYSA Seattle United teams, but also on US Club Soccer teams as well, including Seattle Celtic, Emerald City, Kajumulo, Seattle Soccer Club, and ANY program that uses selection for forming the teams. Because it is hard for SYSA to know if players are on these US Club teams, we ask our coaches to use the honor system, and report to SYSA's registrars any players on their teams from these non SYSA programs.

Guidelines for select players on Spring Soccer teams:

- Teams can have up to 2 select players.
- Teams with 3 or more select players will be made to play up one year.
- No team can have more than half of its roster consist of select level players.

### ***CAN OVER-AGE PLAYERS AND DIFFERENT GENDERS PLAY ON THE SAME TEAM?***

Spring Soccer **does not have mixed gender teams.** Players must also be age appropriate for the teams they play on. Note that at some older team divisions, because of a lack of teams, age groups are mixed together, allowing for players of different ages to play on the same team as long as no player is over the age limit for the age group they are in.

### ***CAN SYSA HELP ME FIND MORE PLAYERS IF MY SPRING TEAM DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH FALL PLAYERS?***

Yes, SYSA can add players to teams at U9 and older ages if the team needs more players to fill out its roster. Coaches should indicate during the team registration if they have room for extra players.

### ***WHEN WILL THE SCHEDULES BE READY?***

We try to post schedules by mid-March. As the league keeps growing, it takes longer to create and refine accurate schedules. Your patience is appreciated.

### ***WHY DOES MY TEAM HAVE MULTIPLE GAMES AGAINST THE SAME OPPONENT?***

It is the most fun and most productive for players to play against teams of comparable ability. In places where enough teams have identified themselves as strong, we have placed them in the same group. We think it is better to have teams play the same team twice than to play different teams but have lopsided scores due to a disparity in team ability.

### ***DO TEAMS HAVE UNIFORMS?***

Teams supply their own uniforms. They can use any type of jersey they choose, including something as simple as a t-shirt, or a jersey from a previous season.

### ***ARE THERE TEAM PRACTICES IN SPRING SOCCER?***

No. Spring Soccer teams do not practice due to a lack of available fields. Seattle playing fields in spring are primarily allocated for baseball, lacrosse, boys high school soccer and boys and girls select soccer. **Please do not request practice fields from Seattle Youth Soccer Association, or directly from Seattle Park or Schools, or Shoreline Parks or Schools.** SYSA works hard just to acquire the playing field time we have for Spring Soccer games.

## **General Questions about Spring Soccer**

### ***WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPRING SOCCER 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. The biggest differences are: **no practices, just games on Sunday**; scores are not recorded, and no standings are kept or posted; games are refereed by coaches from the teams playing the game; the fields are shorter and the teams smaller.

### ***WHEN ARE THE GAMES PLAYED?***

Spring Soccer games are played on **Sundays only**. The Spring Skills & Games Academy organized for U6-8 players without teams to play on is on Saturday late afternoons. Exact times for 2018 are still being determined.

### ***WHEN DOES SPRING SOCCER START AND WHEN DOES IT END?***

The season will start on Sunday, April 8 and be completed in mid-June. Each team will be scheduled for eight games.

### ***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

1. The coach/manager may use the form from the fall season.
2. The Player can download a medical release form, sign it and give it to the coach.

### ***ARE GAMES PLAYED ON EASTER AND 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.

### ***ARE DOGS ALLOWED AT SPRING SOCCER GAMES?***

No dogs are allowed at athletic fields in Seattle and Shoreline.

**NOTE:** *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 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 club registrars in order to preserve the "non-select" nature of recreational soccer.

Questions? Problems? Email us at [information@sysa.org](mailto:information@sysa.org).