

SYC All-Star Tournament Frequently Asked Questions Click for Answers.

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1. Where can I get Tournament information?

Generally you will receive the majority of your information from your tournament coach; however SYC has set up a web link on the SYC Recreational Soccer webpage for convenient access to all tournament information. SYC will provide links to the Host Tournament website, schedules, documentation, etc. Only the current seasonal tournament information will be linked for that season (i.e. Fall – Herndon Tournament; Spring – FPYC Tournament). Proceed to the SYC Recreational Soccer URL, then select Tournament under related links). This web link will be continuously updated with tournament information as it becomes available, therefore save this as one of your ‘Favorites’.

2. Is there a requirement for a minimum # of players from regular season teams?

The SYC policy is to have a minimum of one player from each regular season team for an age/gender division. The rest may be taken from the teams as desired, but should be based on best skills and talent among available players, as the teams SYC competes against in tournaments are normally well skilled.

3. How are players on each team determined (if more than one team)?

Tournament coaches and the division LD should determine the best mix of players for each team if more than one team in a division.

4. How do I get nominees for players from other coaches?

SYC coaches of regular season teams should submit a list of qualified players to the tournament coach. LD's may assist with this process. Note: To qualify for nomination, tournament players must have played in at least three regular season games.

5. Can U8 play in the tourney?

Normally, yes, however it is best to confirm with the Tournament Director or check the tournament rules on the host website.

6. How many teams from each age/gender division should be selected?

As a general rule, not more than two teams per age/gender division are selected. However, check the rules for the minimum number of players required and maximum number of players allowed on tournament teams, and assess the talent of available players. Note: If a regular season league has only four (4) regular season teams, trying to develop two (2) tournament teams may be stretching things, however, if the regular season league has ten (10) regular season teams, then development of more than two tournament teams may be desired. To

develop more than two (2) tournament teams, approval must be acquired from the Recreational League Director and Recreational Soccer Commissioner. SYC has a League Director Tournament Commitment Policy in place since Fall 2009 for reimbursement for number of teams on the tournament application and funds submitted by SYC.

7. **Are teams ranked for tournaments by skill level?**

Each tournament host handles this a bit differently.

Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC)

FPYC Father's Day Tournament (June) ranks teams (from pre-travel (A), intermediate (B), to developmental (C)) based on what the submitting club indicates to FPYC – with the hope all associating clubs tell the truth. Note: If only 8 club teams are submitted for a division, it probably won't matter how they are ranked, as they will all probably end up in the same bracket. If 16 club teams are submitted, some B teams may end with A teams and some B teams may end up with C teams. The total number of teams from the regular season may also be submitted in some cases to aid FPYC in attempting to provide balanced brackets. This has not been done recently.

Herndon Youth Soccer (HYS)

HYS All-Star Cup (November), just before Thanksgiving, does not rank teams, but instead plays a “qualifying” session on the first day (25-minute games [not a misprint]) and then seeds teams based on the won-lost-tie game point earnings for a single-elimination second day. If there are enough teams for two brackets, the top seeded teams all go in one bracket and the lowest seeded teams go in a separate bracket so that teams of more equal abilities play for Championships. One hope everyone plays to win the qualifying games, although rumors of playing to lose to get into the lower bracket go around.

8. **Can the number of players selected be changed – when?**

If a player has to withdraw for health reasons, or family matters, it is best to select another player to take the withdrawn players place. **Important:** Changes to the team roster may occur until players names are submitted on pre-registration night with SYC. SYC has a League Director Tournament Commitment Policy in place since Fall 2009 for reimbursement for number of players on a team.

9. **When is the following due?**

- **Selection of Tournament Coaches** - Tournament coaches should be selected early

in the regular season – in addition to the nominees submitted by the regular season coach, the tournament coach can then be observing players for potential player selection during regular season games.

- **Designating number of Teams and Coach Contact Information** - The number of teams must be designated when SYC registers with the host tournament – normally 5-6 weeks before the tournament date. The tournament host uses the coach contact information to set up their mail list for providing information. See League Director Tournament Commitment Policy.
- **Designating Number of Players (Per Team)** – Host tournament rules indicate a minimum number of players needed to field a team, and a maximum number of players permissible on a roster. See League Director Tournament Commitment Policy.
- **Naming Specific Tournament Players** - Specific players need to be determined by SYC pre-registration night at SYC and designated on the tournament team roster submitted that night. That roster is certified by an SYC Official at SYC pre-registration.
- **Assigning Jersey Numbers** – This can be done anytime prior to submitting the tournament roster to the host club. Jersey numbers are listed on the tournament roster submitted to the host club during check-in. We use regular season jerseys. FPYC allows duplicate numbers, realizing teams may use regular season jerseys and since players come from different teams, may be duplicate. HYS makes jersey numbers be unique – however this can be done with tape.

10. **What is the cost – is that per player?**

The per player cost varies from tournament to tournament depending on the cost of host registration, patches for club trading, and other tournament expenses incurred., and the number of players Normally, SYC establishes the same cost for each player in the tournament regardless of age, and advises of that cost as early as possible in the process. While team registration and costs may differ, the number of players per team also affects the per player cost, such that having the same cost for each player regardless of age is generally within \$1.00 of calculating each player based on age division.

11. **Can an *estimated* cost for the tournament be provided?**

It is recommended that an *estimated* cost NOT be provided, because once an estimate is provided, an upward change often causes confusion and frustration,

and a downward change can also provide confusion and possibly checks written in the wrong amount necessitating refunds (if the player family did not pay on-line).

12. When is the money due – in what manner?

Teams are registered with the tournament host roughly 5-6 weeks before the tournament and SYC pre-pays the TOTAL cost of registration for all SYC tournament teams. On SYC pre-registration night, normally in the week or two preceding the tournament, tournament coaches or team representatives submit individual player fees to SYC for reimbursement of the funds SYC paid in advance for them. Payment can be submitted on-line, or by check written to SYC or in cash. If the player fee has NOT paid by SYC pre-registration night, payment by the team representative will be needed to cover all players designated for that team and the coach can obtain personal reimbursement at a later time. See League Director Tournament Commitment Policy.

13. Why do I register at SYC AND at the Host Tournament?

Pre-registration at SYC is necessary to obtain SYC Club Certification from an SYC Official on Player Cards and Team Rosters. This is also when trading patches are distributed. It is also a good time to verify that a tournament coach has all documents needed for checking in at the host tournament. Individual player medical forms are not needed for SYC pre-registration, BUT MEDICAL FORMS (one per player) ARE REQUIRED AT HOST TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN. Also at pre-registration, SYC verifies reimbursement for the pre-paid tournament fees paid for the players' registration a month previously. Registration at the host tournament assures that your team is still playing and knows where, when, and your opponents.

14. What is the schedule, the field, opponent – when will I know?

Schedules are posted on the host tournament websites – normally 10-14 days prior to a tournament. The host tournament website includes sites each team is assigned, directions to sites, specific fields at sites if more than one, times of play, and opponents. Be sure to use the SYC House Soccer Tournament web link for this information.

15. What do the SYC team geographic designators mean?

If there is more than one SYC team in an age/gender, team geographic designators are normally used as a means of designating between each team – often SYC North, SYC West, and SYC South are used. These designators do not designate any

ranking of skill. Colors are not used because they are often confused as the jersey color the team will wear. Numerals and alphabetical letters are not used because they too often appear to designate a ranking. Tournament coaches' names are not used because coaches have changed in the past up to the time of the tournament, and would be difficult to coordinate with the host tournament as they changed. Special team names are not used for the official registration because these team names are often not selected until later in the process by the actual team members.

16. What do the tournament bracket color designators/bracket letter designators mean?

Similarly to SYC team color designators, tournament bracket color designators are a means of designating one bracket from another without necessarily having any meaning regarding rank. The same is true of letter designators. However, the first bracket listed in each age/gender division is typically the highest skilled.

17. What do the SYC uniforms look like? What parts of the uniform will be provided? How are sizes determined?

SYC uses regular season jerseys – thus should always be able to have a color available that does not conflict with the opponent. This helps to keep tournament costs at a more manageable level.

FYI - Some years ago, tournament jerseys were provided at no cost, but had to be returned at the end of the tournament. Some coaches did a good job of getting all jerseys back, some did not. The set of jerseys soon disappears if not returned in good shape. There were also some concerns of players wearing unclean or formerly worn jerseys, and this does not allow a player to retain a jersey as a memento of the tournament.

18. When can my team practice – where?

SYC policy allows teams to practice once a week for the month prior to the tournament before the end of the regular season. Field time, and player time (remember, they are students) are a consideration. After the end of the regular season, teams may practice as much as they desire. Teams may practice at fields as available. Normally, a tournament coach uses the same field used during the regular season. Note: A tournament team does NOT have precedence for use of a field before the end of the regular season. Some field time on turf fields, at night on lighted fields, are often arranged. If there are problems or conflicts, contact the SYC Field Manager to check on available fields.

19. What forms do I have to fill out – where do I find them – what information do I need on them (player cards, roster, medical forms)?

- **Team Roster:** This form can be found on the SYC House Soccer Tournament webpage. The roster includes player name, birth date, and uniform number. Make sure to use the specific tournament roster.
- **Medical Information Form:** This can be found on the SYC House Soccer Tournament webpage. Emergency medical information require parent/guardian signature (player signature if over 18). Specific insurance information such as company and policy number is not required. It is best to use the specific tournament medical form. When filling out, younger age teams may find it easier to use one form for all players, while older age teams may find it easier to print a separate form (page 1 only) for each player.
- **Player Cards:** The hard copy of the forms are obtained at the SYC office. The template for completing the cards is sent to each Coach. This is an electronic template (MS Excel) that is very easily filled by computer OR the cards may be filled out by hand. It is recommended that a coach or representative fill out the player cards, NOT the player. Due to printer differences, printing the cards may call for a little adjustment to the template on the computer screen prior to printing. The card requires player name, birth date, SYC ID number (obtained from League Director), State (Virginia), Club (Springfield-South County Youth Club), division of play (e.g., U9B, U16G), team (regular season team – often identified by coach name), team number (regular season team number if available and used). Much of the info has been pre-loaded and the program is very easy to use. Thanks to Jerry Stillman for this program. SYC is exploring having the cards generated at SYC for each team (2017).

20. What do I need for Pre-Registration at SYC – Host Tournament Registration – Where do I go – How long does it take?

- **For SYC Pre-Registration** (at SYC Headquarters Office/warehouse in Newington):

Needed:

- **Player Cards completed** – They will be countersigned signed by an SYC Official. No photo necessary. Take all cards when leave.
- **Team Roster (listing individual player and birth date)** - They will be signed by an SYC Official (uniform number not necessary for SYC pre-registration,

but NUMBER WILL BE REQUIRED AT HOST TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN. Leave one copy of roster with SYC, take original and one (1) additional copy when leave.

- **Medical Forms** – Not required for SYC pre-registration, but good to have as check AND WILL BE REQUIRED AT HOST TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN. Either all player authorizations on one form, or individual sheets for each player with authorization (parent/guardian signature).
- Also pick up trading patches for ages U8-U12.

This takes 15-20 minutes depending on the length of the line (25-30 teams done as open house).

- **For Host Tournament Registration** (Often can check-in early on-line, or at host clubhouse or some other designated site indicated on website, OR at the site of your first game (HYS) – read the requirements on the host website. Check-in with the host tournament is normally only done once (special rules may apply for older divisions based on total number of players).):

Needed:

- **Player Card completed and countersigned by SYC Official:** No photo necessary. No PLAYER signature necessary.
- **Team Roster completed as above plus Uniform Number - signed by an SYC Official:** Two (2) copies – one for Host Tournament and one to keep.
- **Medical Forms:** Individual player forms signed by parent/guardian, or player named if older than 18 years of age. Either all player authorizations on one form, or individual sheets for each player with authorization (parent/guardian signature).
 - All documents should be arranged in the same order for ease in registration.

21. **Can cleats be worn on synthetic turf fields?** Yes

22. **Can players wear casts – how do they need to be protected?**

Normally yes, if wrapped. Check tournament rules, and confirm with Referee.

23. **Can we provide tents and cooking facilities at the fields?**

Normally yes, if the site allows and is on grass. Most artificial turf fields do NOT

allow tents, canopies, chairs, or other gear on the “turf”. Be safe for your players and for players on the field. Can also check site rules or ask as necessary.

24. How do I make a query on questionable players from another team?

As a start, go to the On-Site Game Field Check-in Station (located at game field) and ask to see a copy of the team roster. Obtain information on the player in question and turn in to SYC Tournament Coordinator. SYC will investigate.