

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

When is the season?

For recreational teams, YYSAs Fall season runs for eight weeks, from the weekend after Labor Day until the last weekend in October. We also have a Spring Season that lasts for six weeks, starting the first weekend of March. For District and State teams, the season is at different dates and times.

What are recreational, district, and State teams?

Recreational teams are teams formed by the Association without using any tryout, invitation, or selection process. Recreational teams primarily play games in Yakima, and are designed to enhance player development and fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

District teams, starting at U12, are teams that compete against other District teams from other associations throughout District 6, YYSAs parent district, in a more competitive environment. District 6 includes all of Eastern Washington. District teams may or may not be formed by invitations and tryouts. District team coaches are unpaid, but are required to hold a national "E" license, or higher.

State teams are designed to be the most competitive teams from the association. They are offered starting at U13, will be led by professional, qualified coaches, and are formed via a tryout process that takes place in the Spring prior to the Fall season.

Who will be coaching my child's recreational team?

The vast majority of recreational teams in Yakima are coached by parent volunteers. No extensive knowledge of soccer is necessary, especially for the younger age groups. If your child is playing with YYSAs, you may be asked to coach. You can do it!

How will I know that my child's coach is safe and responsible?

Each person who serves as a coach, assistant coach, or manager for a YYSAs team must "clear" through the Risk Management process: their names are submitted to the State, and they are given a background check. In addition, YYSAs has a process in place where parents may bring up issues of concern to the recreational committee if any exist with regards to any particular coach.

How will my child be placed on a team?

The registrar of YYSAs, along with volunteers called

age group coordinators, are responsible for forming teams. Team formation for recreational teams is generally done along geographical lines based on the various neighborhoods where the child lives or attends school.

What if my child does not like the team he or she is placed on?

YYSA will do everything possible to ensure that each child has a fun, safe, and positive learning experience with soccer. However, it is inevitable that sometimes reasons arise for children and their families to request alternative placement. Players who request to be removed from their team are returned to the players pool. From the players' pool, they will be placed on a different team at YYSA's discretion.

Why is there no referee at my son/daughter's game?

Referee availability is limited by raw numbers. Especially in the Fall, YYSA is competing with several other soccer leagues for the available referees. (Adult leagues, school leagues, college soccer, etc.) In addition, parent volunteer referees are perfectly suitable for the younger age groups. YYSA, coordinating with the Referee Association, will assign referees as needed and available. In general, all games U11 or higher will have referees assigned. Referees may be assigned to younger age groups if availability allows.

Where does the money I spend for registration go?

A portion goes to the State Association, Washington State Youth Soccer Association (located at www.wsysa.com), for State-wide registration and insurance. The remainder is used to fulfill the functions of YYSA--to provide field rentals, field maintenance, field set-up, referees, uniforms, office support, and other various expenses. The YYSA budget is available for viewing upon request.

Why aren't there standings and results posted?

For our recreational teams, having fun and developing soccer skills are paramount, and take precedence over winning and losing. Therefore, no standings are kept for recreational teams. District and State teams have standings and results posted on the web.

What if my child is injured during a practice or game?

Such a player is covered by insurance through WSYSA. Coaches or field officials will be responsible for alerting the authorities and ensuring that the child

receives adequate medical attention.

Why can't I yell at the referees, since being yelled at is part of their job?

Being yelled at is not at all part of a referees' job.

Many of our referees for the younger ages are very young themselves; persons aged 13 and higher are eligible to serve as paid referees. Many promising young referees have quit due to verbally abusive parents. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure proper parent sideline behavior. No referee is perfect, especially not young referees just learning their craft. Complaints about referees should only be made by coaches, in writing, to the YYSAs office.

How are referees assigned?

The Referee Association assigns its referees to YYSAs games based on qualifications. The older the age group and the more competitive the game, the greater the necessity for an experienced, qualified referee.

Why doesn't YYSAs play "real" 11-a-side soccer?

All WSYSA sanctioned associations are now required to use small-sided soccer from U6 to U11. In addition to the fact that small-sided play is required by State rules, experience has shown that small-sided games are superior for the development of soccer skills because each player has more chances to touch the ball and play an important role within the game. U6 and U7 start play on small fields with 3 v. 3 and no goalies, and as they advance through the years, they will eventually add a few field players at a time until U11, where play is 9 a-side on fields approximately 75% of full size. 11-a-side play commences at U12.

How much playing time will my child receive?

Each child on a recreational team must play for 50% of any games' duration, regardless of ability, the score, the opponent, etc. YYSAs has aggressively enforced this rule in the past, and will continue to do so in the future. For District and State play, there is no requirement that a child will play for any certain percentage of the game.

When and where are the practices?

At the U6 level, no midweek practices are required or encouraged, since the players (and new coaches) will receive their training and play their games on Saturday mornings. For older teams, many typically practice two days per week in the afternoons or evenings at a field near where the players live, if available. Practice times and locations are set by

the individual coaches. Contact your coach to find out when and where your practices will be.

How do I complain about an out-of-control coach?

YISA expects our coaches to be good examples and have positive interactions with players, opponents, opposing coaches, referees, parents, and board members. The great majority of our coaches fulfill or exceed this expectation and volunteer their time and expertise to the great benefit of the association.

Occasionally, there are exceptions. Complaints about recreational coaches or teams should be submitted, in writing, to the YISA office. Each complaint or concern is considered by the Recreational Committee, which has the power to take steps to do whatever is necessary to address the concerns, up to and including suspending coaches from participation in YISA activities.