



## **SYC All-Star Tournament Frequently Asked Questions**

**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 House Soccer webpage for convenient access to all tournament information. SYC will provide links to the Host Tournament information, schedules, documentation, etc. Only the current seasonal tournament information will be linked for that season (i.e. Fall – Herndon All Star Cup; Spring – FPYC Father’s Day Tournament). Proceed to the SYC House Soccer URL ([http://www.sycva.com/house-soccer/index\\_E.html](http://www.sycva.com/house-soccer/index_E.html)), and then select the “House Soccer Tournament Information” under related links). This web link will be updated with tournament information as it becomes available, therefore save this a one of your ‘Favorites’.

Who can I contact if I have any questions regarding the tournament? You are always encouraged to contact your League Director or tournament coach; however you may always send an email to [House.Tournament.Coordinator@sycva.com](mailto:House.Tournament.Coordinator@sycva.com).

**Is there a requirement for a minimum number 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.

**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.

**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(s). LDs may assist with this process. Note: To qualify for nomination, tournament players must have played in at least three regular season games.

**Can U8 play in the tournament?** Normally, yes, however it is best to confirm with the Tournament Coordinator or check the tournament rules on the host website.

**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 House League Director and House Soccer Commissioner. SYC will have a League Director Tournament Commitment Policy (LD TCP) in place starting Fall 2009 for reimbursement for number of teams on the tournament application and funds submitted by SYC.

**Are teams ranked for tournaments by skill level?** Each tournament host handles this a bit differently.

The Fairfax Police Youth Club (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 are truthful. 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 play A teams and some B teams may play C teams. The total number of teams from the regular season is also submitted and will be used by FPYC to attempt to provide balanced brackets.

The Herndon Youth Soccer (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 their win-loss-tie 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.

**Can the number of players selected be changed – when?** Once uniforms are ordered, changing the number of players on a team becomes problematic. If players are added, a uniform may not be available – it is too expensive and nearly impossible to obtain a uniform after the original order has been submitted. SYC will plan NOT to order additional uniforms late. If a player withdraws and not replaced, SYC has incurred a cost for a uniform – a loss to the overall program. If a player has to withdraw for any reason, it is expected the tournament coach will 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 will have a League Director Tournament Commitment Policy (LD TCP) in place starting Fall 2009 for reimbursement for number of players on a team for which uniforms have been ordered and payment submitted by SYC.

### **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. The number of players needs to be determined before ordering uniforms – normally 4-5 weeks before the tournament – and that date is flexible and depends on check-in requirements with the host tournament and when SYC holds pre-registration night – the night uniforms are picked up. 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.

**What is the cost – is that per player?** The per player cost varies from tournament to tournament depending on the cost of host registration, uniforms, patches for club trading, and other tournament expenses incurred. 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 uniform 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.

**Can an *estimated* cost for the tournament be provided?** It is recommended that an *estimated* cost NOT be provided early in the tournament process, because once an estimate is provided, an upward change often causes confusion and frustration, and a downward change can also provide confusion and checks written in the wrong amount necessitating refunds. Once the player cost is determined, the Tournament Coordinator will notify the LDs and tournament coaches to pass onto the parents.

**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. Uniforms are ordered 4-5 weeks prior to the tournament and SYC pre-pays the total cost of all uniforms. On SYC pre-registration night, normally in the week 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 by check written to SYC or in cash. If the tournament coaches have NOT collected the individual player fee by SYC pre-registration night, payment by the team representative will be

needed to cover all players designated for that team when uniforms were ordered and obtain personal reimbursement at a later time. See League Director Tournament Commitment Policy.

**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 uniforms and 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 obtains reimbursement for the pre-paid tournament fees paid for the players' registration and uniforms a month previously. Registration at the host tournament assures that your team is still playing and knows where, when, and your opponents.

**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.

**What do the SYC team designators mean?** If there is more than one team in an age/gender division, team designators are used as a means of identifying each team - SYC North, SYC West, and SYC South are now used. These designators do NOT designate any ranking, skill, or geographical location of the players. Colors, numerals, and alphabetical letters are not used because numerals and letters too often appear to designate a ranking, and colors appear to imply a jersey color. 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.

**What do the tournament bracket color designators/bracket letter designators mean?** Similar to SYC team designators, tournament bracket color or letter designators are a means of separating and identifying one bracket from another without necessarily having meaning regarding rank.

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

A new jersey is selected for each tournament – actual selection depends on availability and cost. All SYC tournament jerseys look the same for all age groups in a given tournament – normally light colors in the Spring (due to heat), and darker colors in the Fall. Because SYC uses different jerseys for regular season teams, SYC cannot use regular season jerseys as some clubs do. Yes, that makes it a little more expensive, but if a player is selected to more than one tournament, players appear to like earning a collection of tournament jerseys. Normally socks are also purchased for the tournament so players look uniform. Shorts have been purchased for some tournaments in the past, but players play in player-provided shorts (typically black) during the regular season, therefore shorts will be provided by players, and not SYC. This helps to keep tournament costs at a more manageable level. There may be some minor differences in shorts (side stripes, leg bands, etc), but not substantially different. If teams desire the same shorts, it is recommended checking with local sports stores for purchase – they are not cheap. 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. Jersey sizes are ordered based on expected size range of players with smaller numbers normally appearing on smaller size jerseys. It is up to the tournament coaches to determine which player gets which jersey. Some players have complained of the size of jerseys - jerseys sizes can be coordinated for a team (not each individual player) with the Uniform Coordinator (Nancy Cannon) prior to the order being submitted.

**When will the uniforms be received?** Uniforms are normally picked up on SYC pre-registration night by the team coach or representative, in the week prior to the tournament.

**How are jersey color conflicts handled during tournament games?** Typically tournament rules state that when the color of jersey is similar or identical, the home team must change their jersey. The visiting team

will also help to resolve jersey conflicts. The referee will determine if a jersey change is required. Should a team change jerseys due to a color conflict, numbers will not be required on replacement jerseys. However, the coach must provide the player's uniform number if requested by the referee. Each team should bring a set of alternate jerseys - pinnies often work, or when SYC typically has dark jerseys in the Fall, having each player bring a white t-shirt works fine. Color coordinating a t-shirt in the Spring when SYC typically has white jerseys can work, but is harder in coordinating the colors. SYC does not have sets of alternate jerseys for use.

**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, and indoors at South Run during Fall season are often arranged. If there are problems or conflicts, contact the SYC Field Manager to check on available fields.

**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 specified tournament roster.
- **Medical Information Form:** This can be found on the SYC House Soccer Tournament webpage. Emergency medical information including insurance company and policy number, and release to allow treatment if parent/guardian not present. During Spring 2009, FPYC did NOT require specific insurance information, but did require parent/guardian signature (player signature if over 18). 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 obtained from the SYC House Soccer Tournament webpage. 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.

**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 and signed by player** – 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 the uniform number will be required at the 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 the 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 player uniforms and trading patches.

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 at host clubhouse or some other designated site indicated on website, OR at the site of your first game – 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 signed by each player and countersigned by SYC Official:** No photo 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.

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

**Can players wear casts – how do they need to be protected?** Normally yes. Check tournament rules.

**Can we provide tents and cooking facilities at the fields?** Normally yes. Be safe for your players and for players on the field. Can also check site rules or ask as necessary.

**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.