

SYC BRIDGE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM POLICIES & PROCEDURES

I. Bridge Developmental Program Scope

The SYC Bridge Developmental Program ("Bridge Program") is part of the SYC House Soccer Program and is open to all children participating in the U-8 House league. The Bridge Program is conducted in parallel with, and supplements the U-8 SYC House Recreational Soccer League.

The purpose of the Bridge Program is to provide additional opportunities for training and development to those players who have an interest and aptitude for playing a higher level of soccer than is available through the traditional house program. The focus of this program is clearly on individual player development and NOT on the development of competitive teams. This is not a travel program, rather an opportunity for U-8 players to train with qualified trainers and to play in a slightly more advanced environment to help them and their parents decide whether to play house soccer or tryout for a travel team at the end of the U-8 year.

All players participating in SYC U-8 House Soccer are eligible. Participants will be expected to be able to follow coaching direction in a disciplined manner and successfully perform training exercises with a high level of focus. Participants will benefit from:

- Training from a professional trainer, with assistance from Bridge Program Coaches;
- Exposure to a travel soccer environment, without the pressures often associated with team tryouts;
- Internal competitions and competitions against other Northern Virginia soccer clubs who are athletically at comparable soccer levels;
- Competitions being conducted in a strict player friendly environment where coaches are instructed before the season on the conduct permissible from the sidelines from parents, coaches, friends, and family.

II. Management

A. SYC Bridge Program Director

The Bridge Program will have two divisions: U-8 Boys and U-8 Girls. The Bridge Program Director shall be appointed by the SYC House Soccer Commissioner, in consultation with the SYC Soccer Committee, prior to the U-8 Fall and Spring soccer seasons. Each division shall be administered on a day-to-day basis by the SYC Bridge Program Director.

Specific duties and responsibilities include:

- Selection and training of Bridge Program coaches, in consultation with the U-8 League Directors, the SYC House Soccer Commissioner, and the SYC Soccer Committee.
- Observing, monitoring, and directing Bridge Program coaches, to ensure that the coaches understand their duties and responsibilities and the structure and objectives of the Bridge Program, and that the Bridge Program coaches follow/conform with all Bridge Program training and competition regimens, methods and directives.
- Ensuring that information regarding the Bridge Program is timely and accurately communicated to eligible House players and their parents.
- Coordinating training opportunities and sessions with the Bridge Program coaches.

- In coordination with the U-8 League Directors, and with the approval from the House Soccer Commissioner, coordinating participation of Bridge Program participants and coaches in any outside competitions with other clubs.
- Coordinating, as necessary, with the U-8 League Director, any participation of children from the U-8 House League in post-season tournament approved by the SYC House Soccer Commissioner, consistent with existing guidelines for participation in such tournaments. *See SYC Program Guide*¹.
- Providing Bridge Program progress and updates to the House Soccer Commissioner and the SYC Soccer Committee.

B. Coaches

Coaches for the Bridge Program shall be selected by the Bridge Program Director, in consultation with and U-8 League Directors, the SYC House Soccer Commissioner, and the SYC Soccer Committee. Bridge coaches shall be selected from among the U-8 House Program coaches, and all coaches selected will be expected to adhere to the guidelines and perform the specific duties set forth in the SYC Program Guide for House Program coaches², and directions received from the Bridge Program Director. In addition to the existing criteria already set forth for the selection of House Program coaches, individuals desiring to become a coach in the Bridge Program shall, at a minimum, obtain their "F" License, and are highly encouraged to obtain their "E" License Certificates.

Specific coaching duties related to the Bridge Program include:

- Attending all meetings called by Bridge Program Director;
- Timely and accurately communicating with parents of children participating in Bridge Program the goals and objectives of the Bridge Program, training opportunities, competitive opportunities, etc.;
- Coordinating training sessions with the Bridge Program Director regarding the weekly training plans and their support role.
- Attending Bridge training sessions and any competitions involving the Bridge Program.
- Attending SYC U-8 House Program games to assist in the identification of players that may benefit from the Bridge Program, The coaches' observations and recommendations should be communicated to the League Director, who will then contact the player's coach, the player, and the Player's parents, and communicate the observations and recommendations of the bridge coach, and describe the benefits of participating in the Bridge Program.
- Ensuring that all Bridge Program players and parents comply with all the responsibilities outlined in the SYC Codes of Conduct.

III. Participation

As noted above, the Bridge Program is open to all children participating in the U-8 House Soccer Program. There are no tryouts. Instead, Bridge Program coaches will coordinate with the League Directors and coaches in the House Program during the Fall and Spring Seasons to identify children who might benefit from participation in the Bridge Program. Bridge Program training will begin the second week of the season, to provide an opportunity for evaluation of U8 players by the League Directors and coaches in the House Program.

¹ <http://www.sycva.com/docs/soccer/SYC%20Soccer%20Guide%20Aug%202006.pdf>; pp. 22-24

² <http://www.sycva.com/docs/soccer/SYC%20Soccer%20Guide%20Aug%202006.pdf> pp13-14.

Coaches in the House Program shall also provide their respective players and parents with information regarding the Bridge Program, its goals and objectives, and the level of commitment that is required. To the extent parents express an interest in the Bridge Program, their names shall be passed on to the League Directors, who will provide the parents with additional information.

Information regarding the Bridge Program shall also be provided to each child in the U-8 House Program by email, prior to the start of the House Soccer season.

The Bridge Program is geared to provide some flexibility to players, parents, and coaches in their level of participation. Player participants are strongly encouraged to attend at least 50 percent of the training sessions. However, Players are not required to participate in any seasonal competitions (described below) arranged with the SYC U9 travel program or with other clubs (either of which could mean playing in an additional game on a Saturday or Sunday), or in post season tournaments (if selected for such competitions).

IV. Training

The Bridge Program will train one day per week (Monday) during the Fall and Spring House soccer seasons. It will be the responsibility of the Bridge Program Director to coordinate with the Bridge Coaches regarding the skills, training and drills to be covered at each training session.

V. Seasonal Competitions

During the Fall and Spring House soccer seasons, SYC will attempt to provide occasional opportunities for participants in the Bridge Program to compete in game settings internally and against players of similar experience from other clubs. Such competitions may include one or more of the following: internal scrimmages; scheduling of matches/scrimmages with the U9 SYC travel teams or similar players from other clubs; and participation in post season tournaments. Participation by the Bridge Program in competitive matches shall be with the approval of the SYC House Soccer Commissioner, and the SYC Soccer Committee. Participation in these matches for those children involved in the Bridge Program is completely optional.

VII. Registration for Bridge League

The registration fee for players that wish to participate in the Bridge Program shall be \$25.00/registrant per season to be used to defray the cost of the professional trainer/Bridge Program Director and seasonal competitions.