

FAQ for Fall Preschool and Youth Soccer Parents



Summary

1. Early registration runs from July 1-26. Late registration is July 27-August 2 and a \$15 late fee applies on any sign-ups. Preschool soccer is for boys and girls age 3. The fees for this age group are \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. Youth soccer is for boys and girls ages 4-13. The fees for these ages are \$45 for members and \$65 for nonmembers.

Participation and Rosters

1. How do I know what age group to sign my child up for?
 - a. Whatever your child's age is as of September 1, 2026 determines which age group he/she is in.
2. My child played last spring season. Will my child go back on the same team?
 - a. Your child will go back on the same team unless he/she aged up.
3. My child played last fall season. Will my child go back on the same team?
 - a. Your child may be placed on a different team since you did not play in the spring.
4. I have multiple children in the same age group. Will they be placed on the same team?
 - a. If you register on time and not late, and there is room, siblings in the same age group will be placed on the same team.
5. My child has advanced soccer skills for his age. Can I register my child for a higher age group?
 - a. Yes, your child can always play up in an age group if both you and the sports director are comfortable with that. However, you can never play down in an age group.
6. I requested my child to be on a certain team or with another player. Can you accommodate my request?
 - a. Teams are split up as evenly and fairly as possible based on experience, age, and gender. We also take into consideration any times you listed on the registration form that you cannot practice. Any other type of request is not guaranteed to be accommodated.
7. How do I know what team my child is on?
 - a. For youth soccer you should receive contact from a coach by noon on Tues., Aug. 11. For preschool soccer, you should hear something by noon on Thurs., Aug. 27. If you don't hear from a coach by those dates email the sports director or call the Y.
8. Due to circumstances, my child can't play anymore. What do I need to do?
 - a. Let your coach know. Call or email the sports director and let him know too.
9. Can I get a refund if my child isn't playing anymore?
 - a. Full refunds are only given prior to the first practice. After the first practice, only partial refunds may be given out. All refunds are subject to a processing fee. However, we can almost always credit your account with the full amount instead of issuing a refund check.
10. Does the Y provide trophies or awards to the players?
 - a. No, it's up to the discretion of each coach and team if they want to get trophies/awards.

Practices

1. When does the youth soccer (4-13 year olds) season start and end?
 - a. The season begins with practice the week (Sun.-Sat.) of August 9 and ends with the last games scheduled for Sat., October 3.
2. When does the preschool soccer (3 year olds) season start and end?
 - a. Practice starts Aug. 29 & ends Oct. 3. However, there is no practice Sat. Sept. 5 since its Labor Day weekend. They don't play games.
3. What days are preschool and youth soccer practices on?
 - a. Preschool practices are once a week on Saturday from 9-9:50 am or 10:10-11 am. Youth practices are once a week on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday from 5:30-6:30 pm or 6:40-7:40 pm with the week (Sunday-Saturday) of August 30 being the last practice week. After that week, there are just weekday and Saturday games.
4. Where are practices held and how long do they last?
 - a. Preschool practices are held on the back field of the Y. Youth practices are held on the front fields of the Y. All last 50-60 minutes.
5. Does my child's team practice on the same day, at same time, and at the same location each week?
 - a. Yes, the practice day, time, & field location is set before the start of the season by the coach & sports director. That is your child's team practice day, time, & field location for the season through the week (Sunday-Saturday) of August 30 because that is the last week of practice. After that, there are just weekday and Saturday games.
6. Are there youth and preschool practices during school fall intercession break October 12-16?
 - a. The soccer season is over by then..
7. There is threatening weather outside. Is practice cancelled? If practices are cancelled, will they be made up?
 - a. We generally don't make a decision to cancel practices due to inclement weather or poor field conditions until after 4:30 pm during the week. For practices that are on Saturday, the decision may come late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. In the event we do have to cancel, we will notify the coaches as soon as possible and they, in turn, will contact you. If you're unsure or haven't received any contact from a coach, check our website. However, there may be times when it's a game time decision. We typically don't offer make-up practices due to time and field constraints.

Games

1. When do youth (4-13 year olds) games start and what days are they on?
 - a. Saturday morning games start August 29 and end Saturday, October 3. Every team will not play each Saturday. Weekday games on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings begin the week (Sun.-Sat.) of September 6 and end the week of September 27.
2. Where are games played, what times are they at, and how long do they last?
 - a. All games are played at the Y and last at most around one hour. Weekday games typically start at 5:30 or 6:40 pm. Saturday games typically start at 9, 10:10, 11:20 am or 12:30 pm.
3. Are there youth games Labor Day weekend?
 - a. There are no games Saturday, September 5.
4. Are there youth games during school fall intercession break?
 - a. There are no games during the week of October 12-16 as the season is over by then.
5. Do preschool (3 year olds) teams play games?
 - a. No, they do not play games however the coaches may get together during practice and play a scrimmage.
6. Where do I get a youth game schedule?
 - a. Your coach should email or text them out by your second practice.

7. My child won't be able to make the game. What do I need to do?
 - a. Contact your coach and let him/her know.
8. Where do spectators sit during youth games?
 - a. All spectators must sit at least 6 feet off the field (sometimes marked with a white dashed line) on the sideline opposite of the coaches and players' sideline. 4-5 year old game spectators can sit anywhere off the field except on the coaches and players' sideline.
9. There is threatening weather outside. Is the game cancelled? If games are cancelled, will they be made up?
 - a. See question #7 above in the practices section. We try to make up any games that get cancelled due to inclement weather or poor field conditions if we have sufficient time and space.

Equipment

1. Do I need to get cleats for my child?
 - a. Cleats are optional but recommended.
2. Do I need to get shin guards for my child?
 - a. Yes, shin guards are required and they must be worn under socks.
3. What size ball does my child's age group play with?
 - a. 3 and 4-5 year olds use size 3; 6-7 and 8-9 year olds use size 4; 10-13 year olds use size 5
4. Can my child bring his/her own ball?
 - a. Yes, but please label it with his/her name.
5. When do we get uniforms?
 - a. Soccer jerseys/socks are tentatively scheduled to be handed out at youth practice the week (Sunday-Saturday) of August 23 and at preschool practice on Saturday, August 29. Jerseys should be visible during games with shin guards worn under socks. Your child can wear shorts or pants. Your coach may request a certain color.
6. My child's jersey is too small/big. What can we do?
 - a. If you registered on time and not late, your child's jersey size was ordered based on the size you selected during registration. Reordering just one jersey isn't possible. Check with other players on your team to see if a swap can be worked out.

Youth Rules

1. How much does my child get to play?
 - a. Every child will play at least half of every game and fully participate in each practice.
2. Does my child get to play different soccer positions?
 - a. Yes, every coach should rotate players throughout the season to different soccer positions.
3. Can my child wear jewelry during practices or games?
 - a. No, due to safety reasons all jewelry (rings, earrings, beads, bracelets, etc.) must be removed prior to playing.

Facilities

1. Are pets allowed at the Y?
 - a. No, they are not.
2. Is smoking allowed at the Y?
 - a. No, the Y is a tobacco free campus. E-Cigarettes and vaping are also prohibited.
3. I forgot to bring my child something to drink. Where is a water fountain located?
 - a. The closest one to the front fields is located in the front lobby. The closest one to the back field is located inside the building by the entrance to the outdoor pool which is near the indoor pool. Snacks, Gatorade, and water are also sold at the desk in the front lobby.
4. Where are bathrooms located?
 - a. There is one located near the shelter at Friendship Park. There are also bathrooms located in the front lobby of the building. The closest bathrooms to the back field are the ones inside the building in the youth locker rooms which are located close to the indoor pool.
5. Can I bring my own chair to practices and games?
 - a. Yes, you are more than welcome to as we do not provide seating. Please label any belongings you bring.
6. Where should I park?
 - a. Please park in the main parking lot at the front of the Y, in the side parking lot adjacent to the childcare entrance, or on the side of Bob Danner Ave. Please do not park on the side of the road of YMCA Lane, Dexter Dr., or Rutherford Dr.

Pictures

1. Do we take team/individual pictures? Where do I get a picture schedule?
 - a. Yes, each team takes individual and team pictures. The picture schedule will tell you when your pictures will be. Your coach should email/text it to you by your second practice.
2. Is there a form I need to fill out?
 - a. Yes, picture order forms will be handed out one week prior to picture day and are available day of as well.
3. How do I pay for pictures?
 - a. Quality Photo Sports takes cash, check, debit/credit, or cash app.
4. When do I need to pay?
 - a. Payment is expected when pictures are taken.
5. When do I get pictures back?
 - a. Pictures will be returned towards the end of the season. The sports director will give your coach your pictures.
6. I haven't received my pictures yet. Whom do I need to contact?
 - a. Contact your coach to see if he/she has them. If not, then check with the sports director.
7. I have received my picture packet but I am missing some or there is some other error. Whom do I need to contact?
 - a. Contact Gene Robinson at Quality Photo Sports at 843-260-6744 between Mon.-Fri. 9a-5p or by email at greatpicsinc@aol.com.

Contact Information: Brent Freeman; Sports Director; Florence Family YMCA
 1700 South Rutherford Drive Florence, SC 29505
 843-665-1234; bfreeman@florenceymca.org; florenceymca.org

Any and all information in this FAQ is subject to change. The Y reserves the right to review any situation and make any changes if needed.