

SYSA Kickoff Meeting

Fall 2021



Agenda

- INTRODUCTIONS
- IN-TOWN LOGISTICS
- TRAVEL LOGISTICS
- GENERAL INFORMATION



Introductions

SYSA Board

- President Bill Fruhan
- Vice President Elise Morgan
- Director of Coaching Ben Deschaine
- Girls Travel Director Jim Logan
- Boys Travel Director Jamie Mieth
- In-Town Director **Open**
- Registrar **Open / Ellen Faherty**
- Equipment Director Justin Straz
- Treasurer Terri Grogan
- Fields Director Steve Devine
- Clerk **Open**
- BAYS Rep Ming Tang



Who to contact

Topic	Who	Contact Info
Registration, Uniforms (check her voicemail for pick-up times)	Open / Ellen Faherty	bookegf@aol.com
Coach certification courses, curriculum	Ben Deschaine	bdeschaine@gmail.com
Equipment pick up, drop off, field condition issues	Justin Straz	jtstraz@gmail.com
Scheduling practices	Steve Devine	sysafielddirector@gmail.com
Referees (good, bad, problems with other towns)	Mark Burden	marcusonus@aol.com
In-town schedule, issues	Open	elise.t.morgan@gmail.com
Boys travel issues not adequately addressed by AGC; Player/Parent issues	Jamie Mieth	jamiemieth@gmail.com
Girls travel issues not adequately addressed by AGC; Player/Parent issues	Jim Logan	jamesjosephlogan@yahoo.com
Question regarding evaluation process (not placement decisions)	Ben Deschaine	bdeschaine@gmail.com
Questions regarding COVID	Terri Grogan	terrilgrogan@gmail.com
Feedback on players, placement decisions	AGCs	



In-Town Logistics

Season Start

Teams : Pre-K, K, Grade 1 and Grade 2

Practice & Games:

Starts on September 11 and ends on November 13

Season Dates: 09/11, 09/18, 09/25, 10/02, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/06, 11/13

Jamboree: November 13

Location: Neary Fields

No practices or games on Columbus Day Weekend



Pre K & K

When: Saturday 9:45 am - 11:00 am @ **Neary Fields**

Format:

- BEST Soccer runs practice for first 45 minutes for the entire season
- Coaches run 4 v 4 games for the next 30 minutes

Age Group Coordinators (AGC) :

Pre-K Girls : TBD

Pre-K Boys : TBD

K Girls : Dean Hickey hickey.dean@gmail.com

K Boys : Christina McCarthy cm28mccarthy@gmail.com



Grade 1

When: Saturday 8:30 am – 9:45 am @ Neary fields

Format: For first four weeks:

- BEST Soccer runs practice for first 45 minutes
- Coaches run 4 v 4 games for next 30 minutes
- After first four weeks, coaches will run practices and games.

Age Group Coordinators:

Girls : Timothy Thomas timothy.thomas@rsli.com

Boys : Eryn Painsi erynpaini@gmail.com



Grade 2 - Boys

Boys Practices – TBD

Format: For first four weeks:

- BEST Soccer runs practice for first 45 minutes
- Coaches run 7 v 7 games for next 30 minutes
- After the first four weeks, coaches will run practices

Games: Saturday @ Neary

Boys - 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Age Group Coordinator:

Boys: Eryn Paini erynpaini@gmail.com



Grade 2 - Girls

Girls Practices – TBD

Format: For 1st 4 weeks

- BEST Soccer runs practice for first 45 minutes
- Coaches run 7 v 7 games for next 30 minutes
- After the first four weeks, coaches will run practices

Games: Saturday @ Neary

Girls - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Age Group Coordinator:

Girls : Nick Antonopoulos njantonopoulos@yahoo.com



Travel Logistics

Season

BAYS Season Sept 11 – Nov 13

- There ARE games on Columbus Day Weekend
- Prepone/Postpone – must provide opposing coach 3 possible dates
- Weekly games
 - Confirm referee(s) by Friday before
 - Confirm with opposing coach and make sure they have directions to field
 - Email section captain with game score by evening after game
- Player Requirements
 - You can “borrow” players for a game provided:
 - Opposing coach agrees
 - Player is from your age group or below
 - Referee agrees – need to let them know **before** game
 - Duplicate numbers are not allowed.
- Continuing this season
 - All coaches should attend at least one game (or partial game) of the other teams in your age group
 - This is at most 2 extra games, reschedules work well
 - You are **not** evaluating individual players



General Information (Including Covid Updates)

SAFETY

The safety of SYSA players, coaches, and families is and always will be the priority.

Massachusetts is a self-certification state, by attending any SYSA event, players (and their parents) are self certifying that they have:

- Checked their temperature
- Are free from all signs/symptoms of COVID
- Have not been in contact with COVID



SAFETY

- Spectators should follow CDC guidance for unvaccinated people (social distancing outside).
 - Spectators must keep at least 8 ft from the field or team sideline areas if possible.
 - Limit on number of spectators per player has been removed.
 - Field spectator capacity is now related to availability of 6 ft spacing for family groups.
 - Family groups must stay together, i.e. children from different family groups should not congregate.
- Each team is required to have a COVID-19 Team Coordinator while on the field. These adults are responsible for team and spectator compliance with the guidelines.
 - If COVID guidelines are not being followed by a team or spectators, the COVID Team Coordinators should step in to address the situation and request/mandate compliance.
 - Referees are NOT responsible for enforcing COVID protocols for spectators or coaches/teams on the sideline



SAFETY

- Player cards are not required for ANY BAYS teams this fall.
- It is recommended that carpooling be avoided. In the event that transportation of a non family member becomes necessary, all parties in the vehicle should wear a cloth face covering and have external air circulation in the vehicle (open window)
- Coaches for an upcoming match **MUST** contact each other by no later than Wednesday (or no less than 3 days before scheduled make-up matches).
 - Confirm understanding that specific home town rules apply. Home town rules affected by town BOH restrictions need to be communicated to opponents ASAP.
 - Confirm game arrival time as there may be restrictions.



SAFETY

- Game rescheduling parameters and forfeit rules/fines per the BAYS Rules are in effect.
 - Playing the Schedule per the BAYS Rules is important, and efforts should be made to play all games.
 - Note to keep in mind for make up scheduling: Teams may play two different opponents on the same day.
 - A club or team should NOT unilaterally choose to postpone a match against teams when their TOWN is at risk levels of "High" or worse.
 - Teams are not towns, and the decision to play or postpone should be made at the TEAM level. We treat all member organizations the same, without any judgment based on the status level of the town/city they reside in. If a parent feels uncomfortable with their child playing a team from a High Risk town, they have the choice to opt out of the game. If enough parents opt out, this may cause the team to forfeit according to BAYS rules.



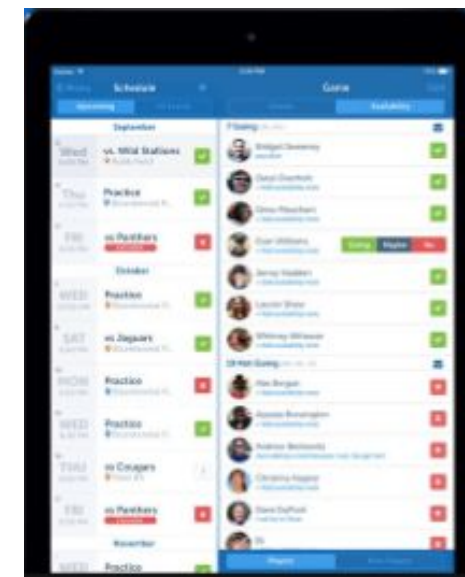
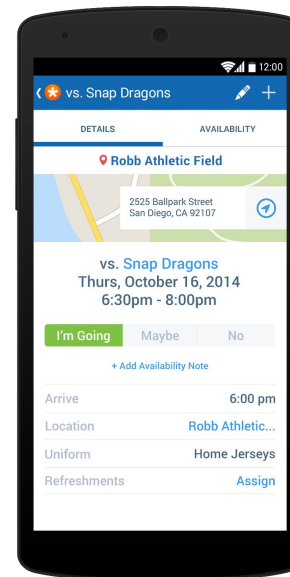
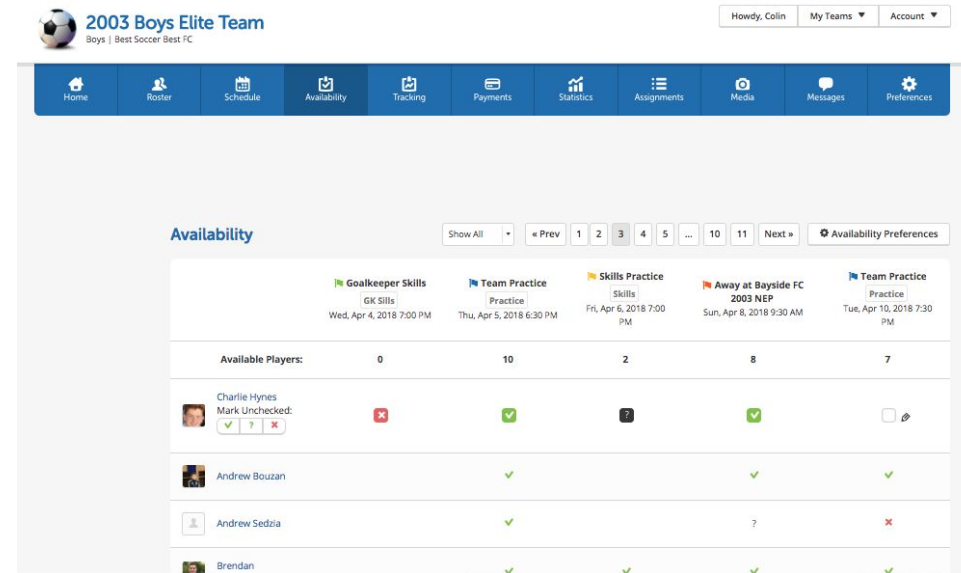
SAFETY

- Games that are canceled or postponed due to a team that has a COVID quarantine issue have an extended make-up window of 5 weeks.
 - The Division Director will assign a no game (NG) status if a game cannot be played because one of the teams has insufficient players due to compliance with COVID quarantine guidelines. NG will be removed if the game can be made up within five(5) weeks. Teams should work to reschedule the game as soon as the quarantine restriction has been removed.
- Coaches can file Game Feedback reports in BAYS to alert the appropriate people to certain situations. Feedback may be positive or negative:
 - COVID Concern Feedback - Goes to both involved Club Presidents and BAYS Officials
 - Sportsmanship Feedback - Goes to both involved Club Presidents and BAYS Officials
 - Referee Feedback - Goes to the home town referee assignor and BAYS Officials



TeamSnap

- All Travel and In-Town Teams required to manage their rosters and schedules through TeamSnap.
- SYSA will sign up a club account and fund fully for all travel teams.
- Each team will have basic plan
- Feedback about the app welcome: tangming_46902@yahoo.com



Equipment: Travel

All coaches will be provided with the following equipment:

- Pinnies:
- First Aid Kit
- Cones
- Ice Packs
- Game balls

Players are expected to have, and bring with them to practices and games, the appropriate sized ball.

I will be out on weekends looking at the goals and making repairs if necessary. Please let me know if there are any glaring needs.

For new equipment, replacement equipment or any other question, please contact the Equipment Director: Justin Straz at jtstraz@gmail.com. (don't forget the 't')



Equipment: In Town

All equipment... including cones, balls, and pop up nets...will be dropped off at the field the morning of the sessions. Coaches that arrive early should help with the field set-up.

The larger goals are located behind to the shed. Please make sure they are returned to that location after practices.

For new equipment, replacement equipment or any other question, please contact the Equipment Director: Justin Straz at jtstraz@gmail.com.



Game Reschedule

Game Reschedule Process

- The town decides if grass fields will be closed due to weather
- <https://southboroughma.myrec.com/>
- Contact new Ref. Coordinator Mark Burden to cancel your referee (cc Steve Devine)
- 508-673-2452, marcusonus@aol.com, detailing which game will be postponed (Date, Time, Field, Age Group, Game Number.)
- To reschedule, contact your team to find out player availability
- Contact Steve Devine to find field openings (**at least** 7 days before desired game slot)
- Contact opposing coach (offer 3 dates) to confirm
- Contact Mark Burden at least 72 hours before you are scheduled to kickoff or a referee cannot be guaranteed.



Referee Information

For any HOME games that must be postponed for reasons other than WEATHER:

- Games that are postponed within 48 hours of their scheduled kickoff will be responsible to pay ½ the referee game fee.
- Games postponed within 24 hours of their scheduled game time will be responsible for 100% of the referee game fee.
- Games postponed due to weather conditions or field closures are not subject to the above fees.

For any HOME games postponed due to weather related reasons or field closures:

- Decisions on fields must be made as early as possible.
- If referees have already travelled to the field, they will be paid.



Referee Information

BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy: <http://bays.org/node/88>

- No one, except the players, is to speak to the referee during or after the game. Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.
- Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. NO YELLING at the referee, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game.
- Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the BAYS Sportsmanship Review Committee.
- If coaches or spectators have questions regarding particular calls, rules, or a referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, please contact the town soccer club referee coordinator, Mark Burden, 508-2673-2452, marcusonus@aol.com, for the game in question.



Director of Coaches Summary

GET EDUCATED – YOUR TEAM WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT!

- *Coaching Education*
 - *U.S. Soccer Grassroots Coaching Courses*
 - *Online courses for 4v4, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11*
 - *\$25 each which SYSA will reimburse. ** Please let Terri Grogan know if you take advantage of any of the online courses for reimbursement.*
 - US Soccer Digital Coaching Center - [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE DIGITAL COACHING CENTER](#)

PRACTICE PLANS: http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/coaches/session_plans/

MAKE IT FUN AND HAVE FUN!!!!



Practice Structure

Play – Practice – Play

- Play – Each practice should begin with a game. This should start as soon as the first two kids show up, adding more to the game as they arrive.
 - This portion of the practice should last about 15 min for an hour long session
- Practice – The second stage of practice should be focused on developing a certain area of the game, passing, shooting, defending.....
 - This portion of the practice should last about 20 min for a hour long session
- Play – The final stage of practice should be another game where the coaches emphasize the skill they worked on during the practice portion.
 - This portion of the practice should last about 15 to 20 min for a hour long session



Player Evaluation and Placement

- Player evaluation is based upon three components:
 - Coach evaluation
 - Age Group Coordinator (AGC) Evaluation
 - Independent evaluation (Spring only)
- Independent evaluations are used primarily when there is a significant discrepancy between Head Coach/Assistant Coach or Coach/AGC
- ACGs assemble rosters based on available information in discussion with coaches
- For older teams (particularly U14), field position becomes a factor in player selection; i.e. a team in need of a goalkeeper may promote a player higher than he/she ranks overall
- Keys to success in Evaluation/Placement
 - Coaches must numerically rank players 1 – X; ranking five players “#1” creates issues
 - Coaches must put aside their own biases, particularly with respect to ranking their own children
 - Grouping with friends is not a valid placement decision
 - AGS must (1) know soccer; (2) know the players; (3) observe players in games; and (4) communicate with coaches
 - If there are questions, grumblings, objections from parents and or coaches, please discuss them with the AGC first, then potentially the Director of Coaching, Travel Directors and VP



Player Evaluation and Placement: U13/U14

- Combining 6th and 7th graders in an imperfect process
 - 7th graders have already played a year in 11 v 11 format
 - There are limited opportunities to evaluate players head-to-head
 - There is no pre-determined number of spots available
 - Promotion decisions may also involve filling a positional need
- In Spring season, AGC for U13 group should try and watch some U12 games/practices; U12 AGC should similarly observe U13/14 players
- The U12 and U13/14 AGCs should both attend formal evaluation opportunities
- The U12 and U13/14 AGC should work collaboratively to evaluate players and formulate rosters
- Communication and transparency is key
- Again, if placement issues arise, please discuss and escalate them appropriately so that they do not linger and cause players to drop from the program



SYSA Night at the Revs

SYSA is very excited to offer discounted tickets for SYSA families to come out and watch a New England Revolution game this fall.



Saturday, October 16
Revs vs. Chicago Fire
7pm
Gillette Stadium



**** A link to purchase tickets at \$32 per person will be sent out soon.**



Thank You!

(Don't forget to see Ellen for coaches cards, uniform info, etc.)

