



Youth Sports Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

YMCA of Springfield

Sports Terminology

Leagues: involve teams, coaches, referees, games, and practices. Game times vary depending on schedules. Most games occur on Saturday mornings or Friday nights depending on age. Practices are at the coaches' discretion and may begin the week prior to the first game of the season.

Clinics: involve an instructor and a designated time for the sport. They do not involve actual teams or officiated games. They will include skill development, contests, and competition and practice games with other participants. Expectations will be emailed one-week before the start of the clinic.

Camps: similar to clinics, only over a shorter period of time with longer hours. Usually these are over summer and last 4 days with a longer duration of around 3 hours. Expectations will be emailed one-week before the start of the camp.

Free Agent: refers to players that do not have a designated coach entering a league.

TBD: to be determined on a schedule, will allow the league to have the best matchups for the last game weekend.

- Most of our sports leagues and clinics last 7 weeks
- You should be contacted by a coach at least one-week before the season begins. They should include practice times and a game schedule.

Head Coaches: all coaches are volunteers and are paramount to our YMCA program. Volunteer coaches do not need to be knowledgeable about the sport, although it helps. Coaches need to be organized and be able to communicate and create a safe environment. We are always looking for coaches to help, as an incentive, we offer the following to all head coaches of our sports leagues:

- Free registration credited back to their account after the season
- Free coaches jersey
- Coaching tips and tools

If a relative/friend coaches, your child will receive the discount of the credit back to your account. The coaches will choose one day to have a practice that fits their schedule, usually in the evenings during the week.



Registration

You must initially “register” your player in the DOB category from September 1st of that year. During the registration process it will ask you to select the age division, then select the desired aged division. If you would like your player to play UP a division then you may. We ask that competitive players or teams play up a division.

Waitlisted: Once the registration period closes, the Y will have soft closing. Please register on the waitlist, and once we have identified a coach and team for the player we, email you to log into your account or come into the Y to pay the remaining balance. If you have a preferred coach and their team isn’t full, I will add you to their team. I will add free agent players based on their registration date, until teams are full. If you do not get added to an active team, you will not owe anything.

Soccer League Outdoor Spring and Fall:

- Our *Spring* League typically begins the first week of April and ends the weekend before Memorial Day weekend.
- Our *Fall* League typically begins the second week of August and ends the first weekend of October. Labor Day weekend is off, every team has a bye.

Soccer Indoor Fall and Winter:

- Our *Fall* League typically begins the first week of November and ends mid-December weekend.
- Our *Winter* League typically begins the first week of January and ends the third weekend of February.

Cancellation Policy

- The YMCA reserves the right to combine terms, arrange collaborations, or cancel any program activity that fails to meet the minimum enrollment requirements.
- Refunds will not be given for reasons related to participant scheduling conflicts, unmet requests, team assignments, missed practices or games.
- If a participant has a written (emailed) cancellation request **before** the first game/clinic or camp, then the Y may offer a full refund subtracting any specific jersey or supplies purchased for the individual.
- If a participant requests to cancel **after** the first game/clinic or camp, then no refund will be approved, unless approved by the Y management team.
- All cancellations are subject to a \$10 processing fee.
- Situations related to medical conditions of the participant will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Documentation may be required.