



YMCA of Greater Charlotte Youth Soccer Family Playbook Spring 2025

Our soccer league is an exciting and welcoming league for youth athletes ages 3-18. This league is played in a regional model with the YMCA centers and will focus on practices that encourage athletes to love the sport and develop the fundamental skills needed to play the game.

The Y league is a true recreational soccer program where we promote at least 50% playing time in games for our athletes throughout the season. In addition to our regular season's program, players will have opportunities to attend clinics and other technical training sessions throughout the season.

- **What does the regional model consist of?**
 - Our association's regional model promotes a wide variety of teams and exciting experiences to compete, grow, and improve skills. Athletes will have games and practices at a center within their region and the opportunity to compete against other YMCAs in our Association. This helps ensure enough players and teams to create a strong league experience. Practices and games may be held at a different branch than where you signed up.
- **What are the different regions?**
 - When registering, double check what region you are registering for using the list below:
 - **North Region:** Lake Norman & Lowes
 - **Central North Region:** Keith, McCrorey, Simmons, & Stratford Richardson
 - **Central South Region:** Dowd, Harris, & Johnston
 - **South Region:** Brace, Morrison & Steele Creek
- **What age divisions are offered?**

Region	Coed Soccer Products	Girls Soccer Products
North	Pre-K Little Kicks, Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school	1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school
Central North	Pre-K Little Kicks, Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade	3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade
Central South	Pre-K Little Kicks, Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school	1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school
South	Pre-K Little Kicks, Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school	1 st & 2 nd Grade, 3 rd & 4 th Grade, 5 th & 6 th Grade, 7 th & 8 th Grade, high school

- **Can I sign up in any region?**
 - Yes, you are welcome to register for any region but, please note that our regions are set up intentionally to be geographically close to one another
- **When will registration open?**
 - Registration for Spring 2025 opens 1/1/25 for Members and 1/15/25 for Non-Members.
- **What are the soccer league prices?**
 - All pricing is available online at www.ymcacharlotte.org



- My Y Program Scholarships may be available to participants who meet the household income requirements. Please visit your local YMCA center for more information.

- **Does the YMCA have soccer for Pre-K and Kindergarteners?**

Yes. Our Little Kicks and Kindergarten age divisions are for our youngest athletes ranging from 3-6 years old. Soccer players in these age groups will learn the basic skills of soccer through our Practice-Play model. Teams in both divisions will meet with their volunteer coaches and team one day a week on Saturday throughout the season. Teams will spend their time together practicing skills, working as a team, and having fun, followed by elements of playing real games! There are no weekday practices for these players unless communicated specifically from the league.

- **What are the meeting days and times for each age group?**

- Pre-K Little Kicks and Kindergarten will only meet on Saturday for weekly Practice/Play session.
- Players in 1st Grade through High School will practice once a week (on a weekday) between 5pm and 8pm for 55 minutes. Games will be played on Saturdays.
- Practice and game locations may vary, depending on team sizes and field space.
- Practice schedules will be announced in advance of the season starting.

- **Will practices and games be held at the branch where I registered?**

- Practices and games will be held at YMCA facilities where field space is available or at CMS facilities where agreements currently exist. Please note: If there are not enough teams in certain age divisions, teams may be scheduled to interleague with teams within the association and play at other YMCA centers that are not in your region.

- **How will practice and game locations be determined?**

- Practice locations will be determined by your region. Practices can be held at any of the centers within the region but will be consistent throughout the season.
- Game locations will be determined by each region. Some centers may only hold a certain age group on game day due to field sizes while others may offer multiple age groups.
- Although we do our best to accommodate all teams, it is possible that teams within our older age divisions may be interleague with neighboring regions, requiring travel between surrounding centers for games throughout the season.
- Team practice times are primarily dependent on the volunteer coaches' availability and preference. To guarantee your practice day and time, we encourage you to sign up to COACH!

- **I have a special request regarding what team I would like to be on, can I communicate that to the league director?**

- All special requests for our spring season must be submitted by **Friday, February 21st Please submit during registration or an email to your Regional Sports Director.**
- Requests can be in the form of preferences for *one friend request, one coach request, or one day of the week you CANNOT practice.*
- To have the best chance to get your request, please make sure you and any friends, or requested coaches, are registered before the request deadline. We encourage families to put enter request preferences in at the time of registration.
- Although we do our best, please understand that not all requests may be honored for a variety of reasons, but we make every effort to accommodate as many as possible.

- **How does my athlete receive a team uniform?**



- The YMCA will provide your jersey as part of your registration fee. Players must wear shin guards, cleats, and black shorts for game days (the items are not provided by the YMCA).
- Teams will be assigned Home Team or Away Team for each game. Your jersey is reversible, with a light color on one side and a dark color on the other. Make sure your athlete wears the appropriate jersey color corresponding with the team assignment.
 - Home Team: Lighter Color
 - Away Team: Darker Color
- **Do I need to purchase any gear or equipment for my athlete?**
 - YMCA jerseys are included in the registration fee; however, **shin guards and cleats** will need to be purchased and should be worn for each practice and game.
 - The YMCA will also provide all balls and cones necessary for the season. You can buy one for your athlete – remember to label it with your athlete's name!
 - Soccer Ball Sizes Per Division:
 - Size 3: 3-4 Little Kicks, Kindergarten, 1st-2nd Grade
 - Size 4: 3rd-4th, 5th-6th
 - Size 5: 7th-8th, Highschool
- **What are the season dates?**
 - Participant Special Request Deadline: Friday, February 21st
 - Team assignments released by: Monday, March 3rd
 - Game schedules posted by: Friday, March 14th
 - Practices start: Week of March 10th
 - Game Day 1: March 22nd
 - Game Day 2: March 29th
 - Game Day 3: April 5th
 - *Spring Break* No Practices or Games April 12th – April 21st
 - Game Day 4: April 26th
 - Game Day 5: May 3rd
 - Game Day 6: May 10th
 - Game Day 7: May 17th
 - Make up Dates: Week of May 19th
- **What are the Charlotte FC Clinics?**
 - Great news! We are partnering with Charlotte Football Club, our local Major League Soccer team, to provide professional clinics and opportunities to connect with the FC. These clinics are included with your registration- no additional fees! Our athletes will be inspired, build skills, and create unforgettable experiences at these fun clinics.
- **PLAYERSPACE: How will I see league and schedule details for my athlete's team?**
 - Our YMCA partners with PlayerSpace, a sports league management and communication platform that connects players, parents, coaches, and sports directors.



We will use PlayerSpace as our primary communication platform for sharing game schedules, team rosters, cancelations, and all other essential information. Before the season starts, parents will receive account login information from the Sports Director in their respective region. When you receive your family account login information email, be sure to activate your account to receive communication about the upcoming season. [Parent Help Link](#)



PlayerSpace

PlayerSpace, allows athletes and families:

- Convenient 24/7 online access to league information such as schedules, practice times and team information
- Emails and texts with updates on essential information including schedule changes and cancellations
- The ability to post and share pictures and videos on your team's page!

For the best experience we encourage you to download the PlayerSpace app for Apple or Android. Use the QR Code to the left to download now!

- **I am interested in becoming a volunteer coach – who do I contact?**
 - Our youth sports programs rely 100% on the dedication and efforts of our volunteer head coaches, assistant coaches, and team parents. Passionate volunteers help the YMCA expand our impact and positive reach in the community.
 - Please visit the following link and send your regional representative an email. Contacts can be found below. <https://www.ymcacharlotte.org/mission/join-the-mission/become-a-volunteer/coach-youth-sports>
- **I am a returning coach; how can I secure my spot to coach?**
 - It is the same process for returning coaches, please visit the following link and send your regional representative an email. <https://www.ymcacharlotte.org/mission/join-the-mission/become-a-volunteer/coach-youth-sports>
- **Who do I contact if I have questions?**
 - Individual branch front desks can answer basic information as well as register you for the program.
 - Specific program questions can be sent to the following:
 - North: NorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Ryan Swengros can also answer regional questions at Ryan.Swengros@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Central North: CentralNorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Charles Young can also answer regional questions at Charles.Young@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Central South: CentralSouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Logan Spaulding can answer regional questions at logan.spaulding@ymcacharlotte.org
 - South: SouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org
 - Andrew Maronich can answer regional questions at Andrew.maronich@ymcacharlotte.org
- **Youth Sports Refund Policy**



- Please fill out this [form](#) to request a program cancellation. Cancellations require 15 days written notice before the program start date. No refunds if cancellation request is received fewer than 15 days before the program starts.