

This document was prepared by LFYS Outreach Coordinator Michael Burr in response to inquiries from parents and coaches re: forming "Tournament Only" teams. This document hasn't been reviewed or approved by the LFYS board. All information herein is superseded by MYSA rules and LYFS bylaws.

MYSA Team Designations

- Classic
- Tournament-Only
- Rec+
- Recreational

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A 'CLASSIC' TEAM?

- "Classic" is the MYSA Northwest District league play in which LFYS U12 and older teams participate -- generally playing two games per week, starting in late May, in such locations as Alexandria, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Thief River Falls, Fargo and Grand Forks. Except for home games, our closest "Classic" game location is Alexandria. (Fargo, Grand Forks, Thief River Falls and perhaps other NW District clubs might drop out of MYSA in favor of a new North Dakota league.)
- Classic teams for the 2010 summer season must be registered with MYSA by MARCH 8.
- The Classic schedule is mutually arranged by NW District team coaches at the beginning of the season during a coaches' meeting in Detroit Lakes. The scores of league matches are recorded at the state level, and Classic teams may enter invitational tournaments, as well as the District, Regional and State tournaments.
- Rostering is restrictive -- with a strict "freeze point" for accepting new players and prohibitions against playing across teams -- i.e., a U12 player on LF classic team A *cannot* play on LF classic team B. (These play-across restrictions reportedly are under review at the MYSA.) HOWEVER, players who participate on a "Classic" team MAY guest on a "Tournament Only" or "Rec" team with coaches' permission.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A 'TOURNAMENT-ONLY' TEAM?

[MYSA language:] "A Tournament Only Team is a group of registered players that only participate in tournaments sanctioned by MYSA or US Youth Soccer. They may not participate in any MYSA league play [i.e., the "Classic" NW District travel schedule]. They DO require player passes."

- MYSA registration fees for "Tournament Only" teams are similar to fees for "Classic" teams. Total costs likely would be higher depending on how many tournaments a team enters.

- Unlike “Recreational” teams, “Tournament Only” teams MAY select players via tryouts or other methods based on skill.

- Because “Tournament Only” teams aren’t part of the “Classic” league schedule, team coaches are on their own to arrange friendly matches and to enter the tournaments of their choice. (Note: Most tournaments guarantee each team at least 3 or 4 matches.)

- “Tournament Only” rostering is more flexible than it is for “Classic” teams. Players from Classic, Recreational and Rec+ teams can play on a “Tournament Only” team with permission from their coaches. Players may be added to a “Tournament Only” team at any time -- i.e., the roster is never “frozen” as it is for “Classic” teams.

- “Tournament Only” teams may enter the season-end MYSA competitive tournaments (i.e., District, Regional, etc.) In fact that’s the whole purpose of this team designation -- to give clubs a chance to assemble their strongest players to compete in tournaments, without requiring them to compete in the “Classic” league schedule.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A ‘REC+’ TEAM?

- “Rec+” is the form of play in which LFYS U10 teams participate. Rec+ teams play in several Saturday “jamborees” (two matches per Saturday) throughout the NW District, in such locations as Glenwood, Walker, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls and Bemidji. Except for home games, our closest location is Alexandria.

- The U10 Rec+ Saturday jamboree schedule is arranged by a district representative in consultation with the U10 team coaches. Generally our Rec+ teams play in about five Saturday jamborees, for a total of 10 matches. Scores are NOT kept by the MYSA, and there’s no state-level tournament for Rec+ teams. Rec+ teams may enter invitational tournaments, and they may play “friendly” matches with neighboring MYSA teams.

- Rostering is more restrictive for “Rec+” teams than it is for “Recreational” teams, but more flexible than it is for “Classic.” Players from “Classic” and “Rec” teams MAY play as a guest on a Rec+ team.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A ‘RECREATIONAL’ TEAM?

- “Recreational” team play can be viewed as “just for fun,” but it also provides an opportunity for building individual and team skills, and for experiencing the challenge of competition. In practice, coaches, players and parents determine the ratio of pure fun to competitive drive.

- LFYS has no plans to sponsor Recreational teams. Little Falls Community Services organizes MYSA-registered Recreational soccer for LF school district students up to 5th grade. (Community Services may be considering a proposal to expand its Rec soccer program to accommodate U13 traveling Rec teams.)

- Recreational teams MAY play “friendly” matches against teams from other communities, and MAY enter or host invitational tournaments. In “friendly” matches and tournaments, recreational teams will encounter some very tough competition – every bit as tough as many of the teams in the NW District. So it would be a mistake to assume all Recreational matches are easy or low impact. They are NOT.
- Recreational teams do NOT participate in any NW District travel schedule. Coaches are on their own to arrange friendly matches and enter invitational tournaments.
- “Recreational” teams may NOT enter the end-of-season MYSA competitive tournaments (i.e., District, Regional, State).
- MYSA fees are very low for Rec teams, but total costs for a team would depend on whether and how many invitational tournaments a team enters. If a team enters zero invitational tournaments, costs could be very low for a recreational team.
- Recreational teams have minimal roster restrictions. Anyone with an MYSA player card can play on a “Recreational” team, for a given age and gender group. This means players on any other LFY Soccer team can cross over to play on an age-appropriate “Recreational” team and vice-versa, with the coaches’ permission. Total roster numbers for Rec teams are restricted for a given match, to ensure everyone gets a fair chance to play.
- No try-outs or other methods may be used to select players based on skill level for Recreational teams. All players in a given match must have the opportunity to play at least 50% of that game.