

Fixtures & Matchdays

Fixture Arrangements

Teams play Home or Away fixtures on most Saturday's during the season (September through to early May). In the absence of a Saturday fixture the team will be allocated training session slot on Stubbington Recreation Ground (The Rec). The venue may change during the winter months if the pitches on The Rec are closed.

Fixtures are notified or are available to all via:

- Google Mid Solent Football League for Fixtures in advance:
- **Follow the LEAGUE TABLES & FIXTURES LINK**
- **This website provides only the date & opposition, giving a clue to the possible venue; it does NOT promulgate actual KO time.**
- Hampshire FA Cup matches are promulgated at:
www.hampshirefa.com/cups
- On the Sunday preceding a set of weekend fixtures the **SYFC Fixture Secretary** issues fixture the list for all SYFC teams.
 - Home teams are allocated a pitch and KO time.
 - Away teams will be notified of their venue & KO when it comes from the host (opposition) club.
 - Teams without a match are allocated a pitch and a period for their training.

Team Coaches / Managers are responsible for informing the parental group of the **match venue** (as much detail as possible e.g. postcode) for Away matches, KO time and the time that players should be pitchside ready to play.

Referees: Youth Matches should be allocated a referee. These will be notified by the Sec along with their contact details. In this case the Home team coach is required to contact the referee at least 24 hours before KO to notify him of the venue and KO time. For MS Matches, the Home Coach should encourage one of their Parental Group to referee; this allows the coaches to concentrate on coaching the players.

All communication outside of the Club regarding queries or amendments to fixtures should be done with the prior approval or notification of the Club Fixture Secretary as appropriate.

Midweek Training

During warmer months, effectively end-March to end-October (Daylight Saving Time), teams will train on The Rec at times nominated by the Coach. The Rec is a public open space and so it is a first come, first serve basis.

During the winter months, effectively end-October to end-March (Greenwich Mean Time), teams will train at venues contracted by the Club at time slots agreed between the Coach and the Club Officer arranging the venues.

The times for mid-week training will be dependant in the first instance on Coach availability and selected for optimal attendance by players.

Fixture Cancellations

It is important that the players and parents understand, particularly for SYFC Home games, what is happening and why. Our Club use Fareham Borough Council (FBC) owned and managed pitches. FBC control the availability of Borough spaces regarding forthcoming weekend round of matches on their pitches.

Generally, when the weather is poor they use one of 3 options;

- they decide pitches are playable;
- they decide that any go ahead to play is at the discretion of local pitch inspectors and/or referees (which in actuality is the case for ANY game)
- or that their pitches are closed for the weekend. FBC will inform clubs of their decision by email. This also means that the decision that a game cannot go ahead can be made quite late. During periods of poor weather all concerned with youth football should be prepared for this.

As a Club we pay for the pitches we use on a block booking basis.

When the pitches have been declared playable by FBC but it is clear that they are not in ideal condition it is the referee's decision if a youth team game goes ahead on safety grounds. For Mini Soccer, where referees are not appointed, it is the decision of the Home Coach. An Away coach may also consider a pitch unsafe to play on.

When the pitches have been closed by the council SYFC should NOT be playing OR training on them. If a referee deems a pitch is unplayable then the coach may make a decision to run a training session on a safe area which may include some ground outside the playing area. The Coach is responsible on behalf of the Club for delivering any SAFE and FUN session.

It is not always easy to see why pitches have been closed. It is wise to remember for a particular pitch that most host multiple matches each weekend. The council will have this in mind when making their decision. The Coach should ask players and parents to consider this when disappointed.

Divisional Secretaries (and your Club Fixture Secretary) will be busy re-scheduling matches. Bear with them. Help them. Keep in contact with them. Monitor respective Fixture web-pages.

Should the back-log for YOUTH team fixtures get too excessive the Div Secs may plan "Double Headers". A double-header simply entails playing both the Home and Away game on the same day at one venue. Each match is shortened to something usually slightly longer than a normal single half with a 15 minute break in between. The cost of the referee and the pitch is shared by the two Clubs involved. Obviously, double-headers can only take place when both games between two teams remain outstanding.

In the event of a late game cancellation it is the responsibility of the Coach to notify, as soon as possible, the;

- Opposition Team Coach/Manager/Fixture Secretary
- The Referee (Referee fees are payable by the Home Coach if they turn up and not contacted)
- Own Club Fixture Secretary
- Own players
- Divisional Secretary

Match Day Management

Before:

- Your Coach will assume that you / your child is attending any session unless you notify them to say otherwise. This notification should be done as early as possible.
- Remove bin from store with **goalnets and four corner flags**. Place at pitch side, with supply of net pegs; encourage parental group to put up nets & flags.
- A **First Aid bag** should be on display, preferably close to coach.
- The playing area including goals and nets should be checked to be **safe and secure**. Consider using parental group (MS) or players (Youth) to “**walk the pitch**”.
- The Coach should **supervise** players from agreed arrival time. Consider the FA adult to child ratio (1 coach to 16 children).
- An **Arrival Activity** should be organised for players. Consider a 3 Phase Warm Up:
 - Movement e.g. Tag – Develop ABCs
 - Game Related /Techniques & Skills / Decision Making)
 - With Ball (Competitive & Decision Making)
- A **Parent’s Rep** should be nominated. They, on behalf of the Parental Group should witness the pre-match and half-time (and other break-time) team talks. The Coaches message should be relayed to the other parents.
- A **RESPECT Steward** should be nominated and provided with a high-vis jacket.
- Home team will provide **MS referees**. The Coach should NOT referee a game unless a qualified Assistant Coach / manager is in place.
- Welcome **opposition coach / parents**.
 - Inform which side of pitch is for parents and which side is for coaches and substitutes.
 - Point in the direction of **Mother Tuckers Tuck Shop**.
 - Exchange check of coach **League identity cards**.
- Ensure **RESPECT Handshake** is conducted before the match.
- Conduct check of **player registration cards**.
- Conduct pre-match team talk; Formation & Tactics Discussion (Linked To Training Activities) – Put On Tactics Board. Ensure player input. Deliver Team & Individual challenges.
 - Players to share challenges with parents.
 - Players to take ownership; **formation and positions** to play in.

**Give Players
Clues Not
Answers**

During:

- **Substitutes** to wear bibs.
- Organise **substitute activity** (consider including opposition); consider 1v1, 2v2 sessions / games, consider a questionnaire to support observe activities or a quiz.
- **Attitude** of Coach to be correct (Positive) throughout.
- RESPECT towards the **match official** is maintained by ALL throughout.
- Team captain is wearing a **RESPECT armband** (not mandatory for U7-U10). Only the captain speaks to the match official (Coach at U7-U10).
- Mini Soccer level (U7 to U10) players should all get a fair share of **playing time**.
- Parents Rep witnesses the **half-time Team Talk**. Take Focus Off Scoreline.
- **Retreat Line** and **Power Play** Rules will be in force.

After:

- Final whistle **handshake** is conducted. Ensure that all players are involved.
- **Referee fees** should be paid by Mother Tuckers where due.
- Parental group should help to **retrieve equipment**.
- Coach should lead players through a **warm-down** with players at the same time.
- The whole parental group should witness the **post-match Team Talk**. Take Focus Off Scoreline. Discuss if targets achieved; set targets for next training session.
- Hand out **awards**.
- Parents with **issues to raise** should do this with the Coach and away from the Players
- Submit Team and **Score sheet** to League Divisional or HFA County Cup Secretary.

The **exchange of Registration Cards** is the responsibility of the coaches. MSFL have a "no card, no play" policy if a coach wishes to enforce this. An opposition coach who cannot produce a registration card for a player should be brought to the attention of the referee. The referee should prevent the player from taking part; if that is the coaches' choice. The referee is not responsible for instigating the card check, only ensuring that unregistered players do not play.