

SYSA 2025 U10 City Tournament

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the City Tournament?

The Seattle Youth Soccer Association's annual [City Tournament](#) is a recreational tournament for teams that participated in SYSA's fall recreational league. The largest of its kind in the state, SYSA's modified City Tournament traditionally gives recreational teams U11-U19 an opportunity to top off the Fall season in a fun, competitive environment.

This year, due to popular demand, we have created a special U10 division! U10 teams will be divided into four 4 divisions of 16 teams each (Boys Gold and Silver, Girls Gold and Silver). Each team is guaranteed three games.

Don't miss out on the excitement and fun of this great event!

Should my team play in the City Tournament?

YES!! Playing in the tournament is an opportunity to create memories for your players that will last a lifetime. There's a feeling of excitement to the tournament that you can't get during the regular season, and many teams surprise their coaches (and themselves) by raising their level of play because of it. It's fun to track your team's standing as the games progress, and Semi-Final and Final tied games go on to penalty kick shootouts (Kicks from the Mark).

Some of the strongest, fondest memories that the SYSA Board and Staff members have are from watching their kids play in SYSA's City Tournament.

When does it start and end?

By SYSA Rules, the tournament begins after Thanksgiving. U10 preliminary games will be played over two weekends: December 6, 7, 13, with Semi-Finals and Finals concluding on December 14 in an all-day event that's not to be missed!

Where can I find the official U10 City Tournament rules & regulations?

U10 City Tournament rules are available on our website: <https://www.sysa.org/city-tournament>

How many games will my team play?

All teams are guaranteed to play at least three games. Additional games are determined by the number of teams registered, the number of points accumulated in the preliminary round, and semi-finals results.

U10 teams will be divided into four 4 divisions of 16 teams each (Boys Gold and Silver, Girls Gold and Silver). There must be four teams to form a bracket, and bracket levels will be determined by a combination of coach request, fall season stats, and the number of teams registered.

Please refer to the SYSA U10 City Tournament Rules for more information on brackets and the points system being used to determine team advancement:

<https://www.sysa.org/city-tournament>

When will the bracket schedule be published?

[Schedules](#) for each age/gender bracket will be published during Thanksgiving week, as early in the week as possible. Some years, the schedule is tougher to put together, but it always comes out before Thanksgiving.

What if my players can't make a game? Can I reschedule?

No. Rescheduling games is not permitted, nor is it possible in the City Tournament. There are many teams and many games, and a limited amount of field availability. Additionally, the Semi-finals and Finals depend on the outcomes of other games. In other words, the entire tournament is scheduled very tightly. Teams are urged to get as many players as possible to attend and play the games, even if shorthanded, rather than forfeit.

Can I add new players to my roster for the City Tournament?

Yes. Teams are allowed to add guest players to their roster for the tournament. We want to help teams that might miss out on the tournament because some of their players are unable to participate (we realize it is a busy time of the year for families), and give players whose teams are not participating a chance to join the fun.

Players can be added to a team as a guest player under the following rules:

- All players must be listed on the official SYSA City Tournament roster and have a corresponding player card. Taking the field with unrostered players is a forfeitable offense and may result in dismissal from the tournament.
- All new players must have been registered with their SYSA club before October 31. No registration is allowed after that date. Note: Please remember that no select players can register with an SYSA team after September 30 each year.
- The player cannot switch to a different team if their fall team is already playing in the tournament.
- A team must have at least a minimum number of players on the roster before it can begin adding players (meaning the team should be mostly intact before signing up for the tournament).
- A team cannot add guest players if they already have a maximum number of players (meaning a team cannot bulk up with additional players just to make the team stronger).

- Guest players added to a team will be approved by a committee of SYSA staff and board to ensure fairness.
- Tournament team rosters must be final by Saturday, November 15 (to give SYSA staff time to finalize rosters and issue player cards).

Please refer to the SYSA U10 City Tournament Rules for complete information on rosters:
<https://www.sysa.org/city-tournament>

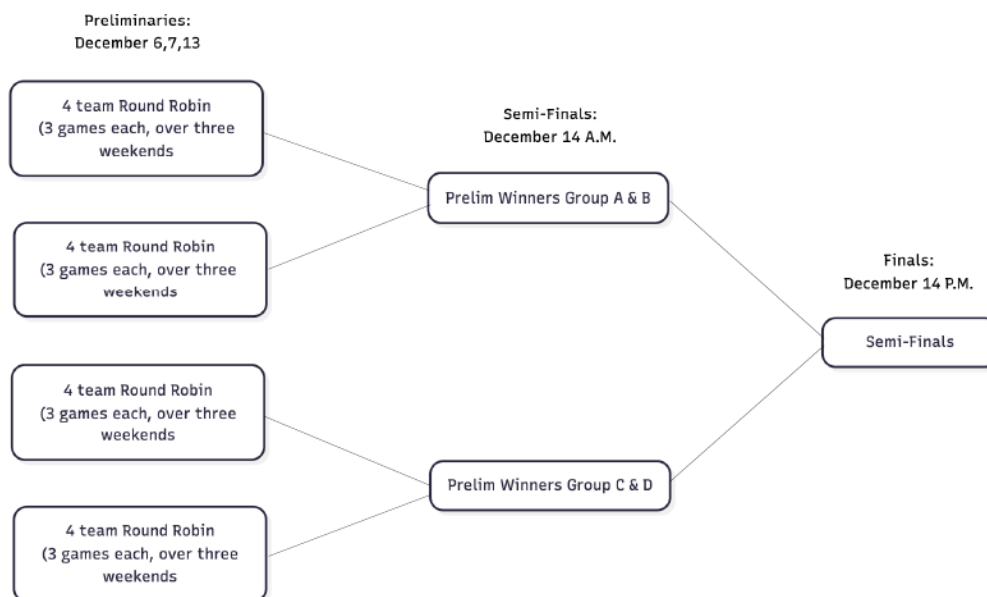
How do I add new players to my roster for the City Tournament?

SYSA will send instructions via email to all registered teams. Our goal is to get the email out the week before registration closes and again the following week (as a reminder and to capture anyone who has registered last-minute). Be patient - it's a busy time of the year! If you haven't heard from us in the week after registration closes, please reach out to anne.bare@sysa.org

Tournament team roster freeze is Saturday, November 15 (to give SYSA staff time to finalize rosters and issue player cards).

How does my team progress?

An ideal scenario is that teams begin the tournament in groups of four for a round-robin of games. The semi-final matches consist of the top teams from each group, with the Final game between the two semi-final winners. The winner of the final match wins the City Tournament.



Because we will not know skill levels and the number of teams signing up until registration closes, we may alter the progression slightly. However, each team is guaranteed at least three games.

Please refer to the SYSA U10 City Tournament Rules for an outline of the points system being used to determine team advancement: <https://www.sysa.org/city-tournament>

When and where are the games played?

U10 City Tournament games are played over two consecutive weekends. Preliminary games on December 6, 7, and 13th will be played at Parkwood, James Baldwin, McGilvra, and Echo Lake fields. The semi-finals and Finals on December 14th will be held at Echo Lake and Parkwood.

While there are “home teams”, the home teams don’t necessarily play on their league-season “home fields” as U10 games are restricted to the locations where SYSA can set up appropriately sized fields, while allowing larger fields to be utilized for older age brackets.

Is the City Tournament only for the most competitive teams?

No! The tournament is open to all U10 recreational teams, and we encourage all to participate. It is a great way to wrap up the season, regardless of how far a team advances. While the quality of play is important, other factors determine how well a team performs, including player participation (getting players to attend games), weather, player enthusiasm, and, to some degree, luck.

Where can my team practice in between games?

Unfortunately, there are no practice fields available during the tournament. In November, most grass fields are closed to use, and nearly all synthetic fields are being used for tournament games. SYSA will post any fields available for drop-in practice on the City Tournament website page.

What if a game ends in a tie?

In preliminary games, a draw shall stand as played. In the semi-finals and finals, matches that end in a draw shall be decided by penalty kicks or “Kicks from the Mark”. There will be no overtime.

In the event of a tie in points after preliminary rounds have concluded, the following tiebreakers shall be used:

1. Head-to-head winner.
2. Goal Differential
3. Fewest Goals Against
4. Goals For
5. A coin toss by a member of the Tournament Committee in the presence of representatives from affected teams.

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