

## Bay United Soccer Club Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is competitive soccer?

A: A Competitive soccer team is a team that is made up of players that have been selected through an evaluation process by licensed coaches. These coaches then place players on teams to continue to develop and advance their skills through quality training and competitive play.

### Q: When are try-outs held and how are players selected for teams?

A: The primary Club try-out is held in June for the Fall season and supplemental try-outs are held in January for the Spring Season to fill any teams that have openings on their rosters. Once a player is placed on a team for the Fall season, that player will remain on the team until the seasonal year concludes in May or June.

### Q: Are the coaches licensed for the competitive teams?

A: All of our Bay United coaches are licensed and attend continuing education courses when offered throughout the year.

### Q: What are the advantages of competitive soccer?

A: Competitive Soccer offers training by the most educated coaches in the area and ensures players are best prepared to participate in the various levels of soccer competition: from middle school and high school, to the collegiate arena and Olympic Development Program (ODP). Club Tournaments offer the best exposure to collegiate coaches and programs.

### Q: What is the cost of competitive soccer?

A: Competitive soccer's cost is broken down by the Fall and Spring seasons. In the Fall season each player will pay a \$90 Registration Fee that covers FYSA registration and insurance costs for the year. In the Fall and again in the Spring each player will pay the \$250 Club Fee (Coach's salary and Club administrative fees) as well as Event Fees. The Event Fee is based on the cost of each event for the season (to include tournament entry fees plus Coach's travel expenses), divided by the number of players. The team's events will be determined by the Coach and Team Manager based on team's parental input. There is also a uniform cost. Required uniform items for all players are shorts, socks, and a practice dry fit jersey. Competitive players must also purchase two numbered game jerseys (one blue and one white).

**Q: How do I pay my fees?**

You will log in to [www.bayunitedsoccer.org](http://www.bayunitedsoccer.org) and pay your fees through the website. The min. pmt. is your registration fee of \$90 + \$3.50 processing fee. The remaining balance is the Club fees that are due Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and your estimated travel expenses that are due Sept. 1st. You may pay by credit card or you may mail in a check to our P.O. Box.

**Q: What is FYSA, why are we required to be a member, and what are the benefits of membership?**

A: All Bay United Soccer Club players are required to be registered with FYSA for the seasonal year of August 1 through July 31. FYSA (Florida Youth Soccer Association) is our state soccer affiliation. A player must be a member in good standing with FYSA in order to be allowed to train with Bay United and play in FYSA Sanctioned Tournaments. By being a member of FYSA there are other benefits as well. Each member will receive FYSA Player Insurance for the FYSA seasonal year. The Player Insurance provides each member with General Liability Insurance, Accident/Medical Insurance (secondary medical coverage for registered players and coaches) and D&O Insurance. FYSA also requires all coaches, board members, referees and volunteers to have background checks to provide all players with the safest possible environment. As a member of FYSA, each player is part of US Youth Soccer, the largest youth soccer organization in American with over 3 million players. Each player is also a member of the United States Soccer Federation; and FIFA, the international governing body of soccer in the world. Being a member of FYSA allows participation in the State Level Tournaments (President's Cup and State Cup) as well as the Florida Olympic Development Program (ODP).

**Q: How long does the competitive soccer season last?**

A: The competitive season is considered to be from August 1 through July 31 by FYSA. However, our club's competitive season runs with the school year and is broken up into to sub seasons of Fall (August – December) and Spring (January-May).

**Q: Where do the teams travel to compete in tournaments?**

A: Depending on the competitive level of each team, the coach and manager will set the teams' schedule to best suit the level of the team while still challenging the players. The more competitive level teams may travel as far as 6-8 hours away while less competitive level teams may only travel 1-4 hours to tournaments. We are fortunate that we have access to great tournaments throughout the Southeast to challenge and meet the appropriate levels for our teams throughout the club.

**Q: How often do players practice and for how long each session?**

A: Competitive players will have practice 2 times a week for 1 ½ hours each session.

**Q: Where do the teams practice during the season?**

A: We have two practice locations, Bay Haven Charter Academy (Lynn Haven) and Frank Nelson Park (Panama City-23<sup>rd</sup> Street). The Director of Coaching sets the team's training schedule and location.

**Q: What uniform is required for training and tournaments?**

A: All teams are required to wear the appropriate training uniform to all practices. The training uniform includes, Adidas Royal Blue Shorts, Adidas Royal Blue Socks and the team practice Performance Gear Dry Fit shirt (Competitive – yellow Performance Gear; Advanced Academy – Royal Blue T-shirt; Academy – Yellow T-shirt). Each player should also come prepared to each practice with shin guards, cleats, ball and water. For Tournaments, the players wear the official uniform socks and shorts and practice jersey for warm up. At team check-in players will change into one of the two assigned jerseys.

**Q: How do I order uniforms?**

Your club's registrar will send you an email from [custserv@sportsendeavors.com](mailto:custserv@sportsendeavors.com) with a link to soccer.com where you will place your uniform order. It will take about two weeks to receive your uniform.

**Q: How many players are on a competitive team?**

A: The number of players on each team is determined by the coach and try-outs. The maximum number of players that can be rostered per team is set by FYSA as follows: 6v6 (U10 )12; 8v8 (U11-U12) 14; 11v11 (U13-U19) 18. However, most teams will not roster the maximum number of players allowed per team.

**Q: What is the difference between a Tournament and a playdate/friendly?**

A: A tournament is a 2-3 day event depending on the size and structure of the tournament. Normally, a tournament is a 2-day event requiring a 1-2 overnight stay. On Saturday, each team will typically play 2 games. On Sunday, each team will play usually at least 1 game in preliminary play with the 2<sup>nd</sup> game being a final or consolation match. This depends on the tournament's bracket and point system. A playdate or friendly is a 1-day event with each team playing 1-2 games. Playdates are generally an opportunity to work on specific skills and strategies in a competitive practice setting.

**Q: Who will be the point of contact for my team? What responsibilities does this person have during the season?**

A: Each team's point of contact is the Team Manager. The Team Manager is the liaison between the coach, parents, board of directors, tournament directors and players. The Team Manager is responsible for handling all communication to the team and working very closely with the Coach and Board of Directors to make things as stress-free as possible for our parents. The Team Manager will handle calculating event fees, registering for tournaments, relaying communication from board members, arranging hotels, checking in the team at tournaments, making sure all passes and paperwork are in order so the team can compete, scheduling playdates and friendlies with other clubs, assisting the coach in determining tournament scheduling or with other requested matters, and streamlining the email and communication process so that all players and parents are getting consistent information. The Team Manager may ask parents to volunteer to assist him or her with hotel reservations, team tent, or other responsibilities, but all communication should be distributed through her/him to ensure all information and details are consistent.

**Q: Does our club host any tournaments?**

A: Our club hosts several tournaments throughout the year. These tournaments are a great source of income for our club. These events are the club's biggest fundraisers and volunteers are the ones who can make these a success. The biggest is the Endless Summer Soccer Tournament on Labor Day Weekend at Frank Brown Park on Panama City Beach. Our club hosts as many as 80+ teams which allow our own teams to have great competition here at home. We also have 2 Academy tournaments, October Halloween Kick & Treat, and May Cinco de Mayo Academy Shootout. As our club continues to grow, these tournaments will as well, so please make sure that you volunteer your time to help to make these events a success.

**Q: What is required of me during the tournaments?**

A: During these tournaments we have a lot of opportunities for you to volunteer and show your support. Some of the opportunities are acting as Field Marshal, Tournament T-shirt Sales, Team Recruitment, and Sponsorships. Please support our club and tournament and volunteer. Each parent is required to volunteer two hours to the club yearly, and this is a great time to step up!

**Q: Does the club do fundraising to offset player's fees?**

A: The club's tries to offer different opportunities for you to offset your fees each season. This is always a great way to both support the club and pay for a portion--if not all--of your fees. Team fundraisers may be scheduled, but the date/activity must be approved by the Team Manager

and Coach. We are always looking for new ideas, so please let us know if you would like to be part of the Fundraising Committee.

**Q: What is the role of the Board of Directors?**

A: The elected officers of the Club (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar) are known as the Executive Board and are elected annually by members of the Club. Each registered player represents one vote by a parent or guardian for Executive Board members. (For example, a family with two children in the club would be entitled to a total of two votes.) There are also up to 4 Members-at-Large on the Board. Members-at-Large are nominated by Team Managers and voted upon by the Executive Board. The Executive Board and Members-at-Large together make up the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors manages the Club's business affairs, interprets and enforces the Club's bylaws and constitution, makes new policy as needed, has voting rights to make decisions on club matters, and all other duties listed in the bylaws.

**Q: When are monthly Board of Director Meetings held and can I attend?**

Board of Directors meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback on agenda items. Agenda items must be submitted to the President at least three days prior to the meeting date. The Board of Directors are the only voting members on policy issues and decisions.

**Q: What is the proper chain of communication if I have a concern or question?**

Questions and concerns should first be addressed with the Team Manager or the Coach. The 48 hour rule must be observed. If a resolution is not reached, the issue can be taken to the Director of Coaching or to a Member of the Board of Directors. Issues that are not resolved can be set on the agenda for a Board of Directors' meeting by the following process: Members registering complaints must do so in writing to the attention of the President. Upon receipt of the written complaint by the President no later than three (3) days prior to a scheduled monthly meeting, a complaining party will be permitted to address the Board of Directors. If the written complaint is received by the President within three (3) days of a scheduled monthly meeting, the complaining party will be permitted to attend and address the Board of Directors at the next monthly meeting.