



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will my coach contact me?

A: Your coach will call or email you after the coach's meeting. If you have not heard from anyone one week after the coach's meeting, you may call the YMCA sports department for further assistance.

Q: Where are games and practices?

A: The Richardson YMCA soccer and baseball fields and nearby parks including, FUMCR, Heights, Berkner, Woodlands, Custer/Renner, Huffhines and Lookout Parks in addition to the St. Paul, JJ Pearce and Huffhines football fields. The YMCA has a full size basketball court and our partnership with RISD and local churches allows us to use their gyms for our basketball leagues.

Q: When and where will we be practicing?

A: Volunteer coaches choose the location, day, and time of practices after the coach's meeting. Please respect their decision as they are volunteering their time.

Q: If I do not live in Richardson can I play on a Richardson YMCA team?

A: Yes, the YMCA does not have city or zip code boundary restrictions.

Q: Are there birthdate restrictions?

A: No birthdate restrictions. Players can play with others in their grade.

Q: Can my child be on the same team with a friend or specific coach?

A: Yes! Please indicate on your registration form any requests you have. All requests will be honored if: 1) Age requirements are met 2) Team size has not exceeded its limit 3) Child is not registered late.

Q: How are teams formed?

A: Teams are formed based on grade, closest elementary school, player and coach request. All requests are honored when possible. Placement is based on availability. We cannot guarantee placement, but we try our best!

Q: What does my registration fee include?

A: Officiating fees in all divisions, gym/practice/game location rental, monitoring and maintenance fees,

-Participation medals for PREK-1<sup>st</sup>.

-Placement trophies for 1st and 2nd place teams in 2nd- high school.

-Recognition medals for 2nd-high school teams that do not place.

-FREE optional end of season tournament for soccer, basketball and flag football.

-Small Fry Sports participants receive a T-Shirt, ball and trophy.

-NFL jerseys for flag football and reversible jersey's for basketball

-See each specific sport for additional details.

Q: Can I coach or assistant coach a team?

A: Yes! We always need volunteers and provide free coach training. Detailed information can be found on the Coach webpage or contact the sports department.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register online, by mail or at the YMCA branch.

Q: What is the difference between the registration rates?

A: YMCA Members are those who pay the low month-to-month family member rate and get significant discounts on all programs for the entire family.

Q: Do you have a mandatory playing rule?

A: Yes, everyone must play a minimum of 50% each game. Equal playing time for all is our goal.

Q: Where can I find schedules, game locations and/or rain out or field closure information?

A: Playerspace and Teamsideline. Game or practice cancelations because of field conditions or weather are posted by 4:00pm for weekday games/practices and 7:30am for Saturday games.

Q: Do we play in the rain?

A: Soccer, Flag Football and Baseball are outdoor sports and played in many weather conditions. We will play games in the rain. The decision to cancel a game day is complex and involves player safety, field conditions (how much the fields might be damaged and are the fields safe to play on), the forecast, as well as scheduling considerations for whether or not we have the capacity to make up the games at another date. Check the web site frequently on questionable days – it will be updated with the latest field status. It is the coach's call regarding cancelling practice due to rain if the fields are open (U5s may not have much fun practicing in a heavy rain). If the fields are open it is safe to practice. Absolutely no practices if the fields are closed.

Rainout Information:

Rainout information including game cancelations and field closings will be posted on Playerspace/[TeamSideline](#) as soon as information is available. If games are canceled or postponed because of weather, Playerspace/Teamsideline will be updated and notification sent to coaches and once a final decision is made, but no later than 7:30am on Saturday's or 4:30pm weeknights.

○ **Games are canceled for the following reasons:**

- 1) It has rained for several days prior to the scheduled game and the fields are wet to the point where playing the game will destroy the playing surface.
- 2) The presence of thunderstorms and lightning.
- 3) It is raining at the time of the scheduled game and the temperature is low enough (38 degrees) to make conditions unbearable for the children.

Q: Do we play in the cold?

A: Yes, but not below 38 degrees. Dress warm!

Q: What happens when games are postponed or canceled due to bad weather?

A: If a game has been played more than 50% that game is considered final. If an entire game is canceled, we try to reschedule for a future weekend or weeknight. Because rainouts are out of our control, sometimes rainouts cannot be rescheduled...but we do our best. There are no refunds for canceled games because the registration fee isn't per game, it's the overall cost of the program.

Q: Can my child play in an older league?

A: Yes, all kids can "play-up" a league. Kids cannot "play-down" (special exceptions to play down to be reviewed by the sports committee)

Q: Can my 3 year old play in the PREK division?

A: Yes, only if a parent/guardian signs a PREK Play-Up Consent Form. Please ask the Sports Dept. for a copy.

Q: My daughter wants to get her ears pierced. Can she wear earrings during games?

A: For your child's safety, jewelry cannot be worn by players during games except for medical or religious purposes-in this case it must be taped to the body. Earrings, necklaces and bracelets must be removed. Band-Aids/tape must be placed over newly pierced earrings during games.

Q: What is your refund policy?

A: \$25 prior to the coaches meeting, 50% after the coaches meeting. No refunds after the first game.

More information, if needed can be found on each specific sports webpage.