



Welcome!

We're pleased that you brought your player here today to consider making Foster City United your soccer home. In the pages that follow, you will find helpful information about our selection process, along with an overview of United's 2017/2018 program.

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is the largest single entity youth soccer organization in the United States and is an affiliate member of US Soccer. It has over 4,500,000 players nationwide participating in youth soccer programs. AYSO is built upon 6 primary philosophies:

***Everyone Plays® • Balanced Teams • Open Registration
Positive Coaching • Good Sportsmanship • Player Development***

AYSO has typically served the recreational player with over 90% of the players coming in the 4-12 age bracket. However, over the last few years AYSO has developed more competitive programs nationwide to compete in both USYS and US Club leagues. These teams enter tournaments and travel distances to expand their soccer experience and compete with other organizations. The increased demand for a higher level of play within AYSO, has led to the creation of a new national program called "AYSO United". The program was launched in January of 2017 and currently nationwide there are just over 20 club programs, each run by Club Administrators and a Director of Coaching.

AYSO United adheres to 5 of AYSO's primary philosophies (all but Balanced Teams), but there are some differences between AYSO United and the more traditional recreational programs, or even the Spring Select or Extra programs. These differences include:

- Players try out, and if selected for a team, they play with the same team for 12 months (fall and spring season)
- Travel to games may be a little farther (depending on the league) from previous recreational programs. Half the games in a season are "away" in other surrounding towns
- All United teams nationwide wear the same club uniform
- Fees are higher to cover player and team registration costs, AYSO costs, field/equipment costs and some operation/training costs.

All players are evaluated and selected for United teams at open tryouts. Throughout this opportunity, our professional United coaching staff will be on-hand to assess players in attendance on the following criteria:

Mental strength (player focus, attitude and effort demonstrated)

Physical ability (speed, athleticism, agility and endurance)

Technical competence (ball skills)

Tactical awareness (offense and defensive skills in game situations)

Upon the completion of tryouts, our United staff will prepare a final list of players, with team assignment. A coach or United staff member will contact each candidate's family within 14 days of the completion of tryouts. Notifications will be made regardless of whether or not your player will be offered a place on a team. *Please note, while we may have hosted a tryout for a particular age group, if there are not enough qualified players to create a team that age group may not ultimately be offered in the 2017/18 year.*

United teams are comprised of players identified as having demonstrated an aptitude to train and compete at the highest level within the age group.

While the initial tryout process provides a good first evaluation, players will develop differently throughout a season; therefore, our coaching staff will continually collaborate to determine if roster re-adjustments are warranted. Like all decisions we make, roster moves will be made in the best interest of a player's development.

United is pleased to offer a comprehensive developmental and training environment for our players. During the primary competitive playing seasons of spring and fall, our teams will have two team practices per week, with some teams having the possibility of an additional practice in the weeks prior to games being played. Some teams might decide to train outside the schedule below and these will be optional.

The United calendar will generally run as follows:

Fall 2017 August 14 – November 12th up to Team training 2x/week

Spring 2018 March 12 - June 10th up to Team Training 2x/week

Program Fees for AYSO United – Foster City Teams

The projected annual United program fees for 2017/18 are \$1,450 per player and include:

- Team training during the defined fall and spring seasons, as outlined above
- All registration fees both for AYSO and Nor Cal premier
- Trainer fees associated with the practice schedule above, league games for fall and spring seasons.
- Tournament fee and trainer fee for one tournament a season.
- All associated field usage, field maintenance and field equipment fees
- Referee fees, for all league home games
- General costs of operating the league

An initial installment of \$500* will be required by July 1, 2017 to secure your player's place on a team roster and will be applied toward 2017/18 United annual program fees. The remaining balance may be paid in two (2) equal installments of \$475 each, payable August 1 and September 1.

**Any fees already paid toward Fall 2017 Core AYSO participation in Foster City AYSO will be credited toward the initial installment.*

Additional Program Fees and Optional Costs for all Players

The fees outlined above, do not cover uniforms. Existing players have already purchased a uniform and can use it for the Fall/spring. New players will have to purchase a uniform, the cost for this uniform is \$100. The uniforms have to be ordered by July 10th. During the pre-season and summer breaks, your age group Director of Coaching (DoC) will outline optional "United" programs at an additional cost. These programs may include scrimmage leagues, summer camps, futsal etc. All programs, while completely optional, will be designed and made available to maximize your player's touch on the ball and development through the off-season.

2017/8 Coaching Staff & Leadership Team

Focused on the unique developmental milestones and needs of specific age groups, the DoC team will tailor and oversee age-appropriate training curriculum, establish skill development objectives, and provide day-to-day management and assistance to our professional United coaching team.

Director of Coaching (DoC) Neil Diaz