

SUNSPLASH25

Frequently Asked Questions - Coaches

Welcome to Sunsplash 2025! With 165 teams competing over 4 action-packed days, this is one of the largest youth soccer events in Atlantic Canada. Whether you're a coach, assistant coach, or manager, this guide will help you enjoy the tournament and support a positive experience for all.

Q: Where are the schedules for my games?

A: Our schedules are posted on the Sunsplash Website <https://pysa.ca/content/sunsplash>. Please note changes will be occurring and the deadline to make changes is Monday, July 21 at noon. Please be sure to check your schedule for any changes that may have occurred.

QR codes to access the schedule will also be posted on site at all fields.

Q: Will there be a Sunsplash coaches meeting hosted by PSC this year?

A: Yes, our **mandatory** coaches meeting will be hosted on:

Monday, June 21st at 7pm for U10/U11

Monday, June 21st at 7:45 for U12/13

Q: Why do some divisions have quarter finals and others don't?

A: All teams are guaranteed 3 games at Sunsplash. Different divisions, depending on the numbers of teams and the number of groups within the division, may impact the number of games played.

Q: Where do I check in?

A: Team check-in details will be shared via email prior to the event. Please ensure you've submitted all required documentation before your first match.

Q: Are SunSplash Rules different from what I may be used to?

A: Slightly! SunSplash rules can be found online at <https://pysa.ca/content/sunsplash>. Rules are developed to ensure a fun and fast paced competitive game within the time frame we have. Most regular soccer rules for your age group will apply however please review prior to coming to ensure understanding.

Please note: Rules are currently under review and will be updated soon!

Q: What about Call Up Rules?

A: SunSplash Call Up Rules were reviewed and issued in 2024 and can be found online at <https://pysa.ca/content/sunsplash>. Please review to ensure you are familiar with these rules.

Q: What equipment should I bring?

A: Anything you bring for a league game! You will need to bring balls for warm ups as well as your first aid kits.

One other thing: **BRING PINNIES**, different from your main color in case there is a need to use them.

Q: Who do I talk to about a call or clarification on a rule?

A: Coaches should speak directly with the Field Marshall assigned to their game if they need clarification on a call or a specific rule. Under no circumstances should coaches address comments, directly or indirectly to our youth referees. This includes “implied commentary” such as shouting instructions to players that are clearly meant to criticize officiating. **Respect for our officials is non-negotiable.**

Q: So I can't talk to the Referee at all?

A: Our referees at SunSplash are youth officials who are being given a valuable opportunity to gain experience and mentorship from senior referees. Youth soccer depends on these young individuals stepping into officiating roles. As a coach, you're expected to lead by example, and support their development with encouragement, not criticism. A simple “Good job” or “Thank you” after the game goes a long way. If you have concerns or questions, please bring them to the Field Marshal or a SunSplash Volunteer instead.

Q: Do I have to play all my players?

A: A better question might be, “Why attend a tournament like this and not give every player a chance to be part of the experience?” At SunSplash, we expect coaches to embrace the spirit of fair play by providing balanced playing time for all athletes. This is a key value for us, we want every player to have the opportunity to actively participate in one of the premier soccer tournaments in the province!

Q: What's the Sunsplash Fair Play Rule?

A: Fair play keeps our tournament environment positive and growth-focused! And that's our goal for Sunsplash!

Here's an example of Fair Play: If your top player(s) play 4 shifts, the least number of shifts any other player(s) should play is 2.

Q: Anything I should let my players' parents know?

A: SunSplash is a massive undertaking and is organised and put off by PSC volunteers! Over 165 teams, over 2800 players and 600 + games will happen between July 24-27th. In order to keep this event going we depend upon our volunteers and we ask that you ask your parents to be respectful at all times. Let's cheer our kids on the field and win, lose ,or draw. Let's all work together to give them the absolute best SunSplash experience this year!

****Also, please share our Parents & Participants FAQ with them!***

Q: What kind of tournament culture are you promoting?

A: Sunsplash is about competition, community, and character!

We encourage:

- Cheerful, supportive sidelines.
- Respect for referees and volunteers.
- Fair play, even in tough games.
- A focus on fun and team-building!

Q: Anything I should tell my players?

A: Emphasize the importance of good sportsmanship! Players will be giving their all at SunSplash, and it's up to coaches to set the tone by reinforcing expectations around respectful, positive behavior on the field. There is zero tolerance for abusive language or physical altercations. A disciplinary committee will be in place to handle any incidents, and outcomes may be reported to the NLSA, potentially affecting players' future eligibility after SunSplash.