

Fremont Youth Soccer Club

Raw Dribblers (U8)

Fremont YSC Parents,

Welcome to the Grassroots Program

Grassroots, Raw Dribblers, is for players who want to play soccer in a pressure free environment, one that is player centered for the individual players growth and welfare. We are committed to the development of our players love for the game and development as an individual. Whether they go on to play at the highest level, simply improve through the Fremont YSC ranks to become a Senior, or just want to play for enjoyment, our dedication to the individual's progress will never waiver.

Grassroots has a mission not only to develop the individual player, but to also develop the coach, and parents, so everyone involved is pulling in the same direction. Here we can learn and understand the journey taken by each player in order to facilitate the learning experience needed for individual player development and to get the most fun out of the experience.

We hope the following questions and answers will help you. While we tried to think of any possible inquiries you might have, I am sure we did not cover everything. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact Dai Redwood (Fremont YSC Director) at dredwood@fremontyoutsoccer.com

Q. How often do the players train and where?

A. U7 – U8 Grassroots (Mini Megs) players are encouraged to attend 2 times per week. Training days and times will be as follows:

Boys and Girls

Wednesdays – 6pm to 7.00pm

Saturdays – 8.30am to 9.30am

Q. Where will the practice be held?

A. Grassroots parents can pick between two locations – 1) Fremont Central Park - 1110 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538. 2) Leitch Elementary - 47100 Fernald St, Fremont, CA 94539.

Q. Where are the Saturday games and when do they start?

A. Saturdays are a regular session. All sessions are small-sided games structured. A Saturday session is in preparation of the expectations of a regular soccer calendar, where practices take place mid-week, with a game day on a Saturday.

Q. Do grassroots teams participate in tournaments?

A. Players will not be participating in any competitive leagues or tournaments, and the player's participation will be within the grassroots structure. A players development pathway is age and stage appropriate for the individual's optimum growth as a soccer player, and individual.

Q. How do I stay informed about what is going on in the program?

A. Grassroots parents will receive emails from the Grassroots Director throughout the duration of the season. There will also be a brief introduction to the program before the start of the first practice session of the season. It is important to read the emails that get sent out as they could include important information about upcoming events. Make sure you accept the TeamSnap invitation once registered to receive notifications.

Q. Which league will we play in?

A. This is the Fremont Youth Sports Club league, and all sessions are kept within the controlled environment to better provide a fun and educational experience for the player.

Q. Are there standings?

A. Players participate in small-sided games throughout the session. Small-sided games are beneficial due to the game experience, but also the development they provide towards a players technical, tactical, and physiological development. Players have multiple experiences in performing soccer specific actions, are limited by time and space to optimize decision making, and restricted numbers and field size supports a player's agility, balance, acceleration, and deceleration, all of which are age appropriate. Scores will not be kept during these small scrimmages; the expectation is for fun and engagement. These scrimmages will be chaotic and will not resemble a game of soccer as viewed for older children or adults. A progression from younger ages, is that it will resemble more structure, but these are still early years in long term development.

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Q. What is the structure of the games on a Saturday?

A. All sessions are small-sided games structured. A Saturday session is in preparation of the expectations of a regular soccer calendar, where practices take place mid-week, with a game day on a Saturday. The entire age group plays 4v4 games (other structures can be used which are smaller than 4v4, i.e., 2v2, 3v3, etc), with the teams selected by the coaches at the field. Games last 4 to 6 minutes, and after each game the teams rotate to play against the other teams.

Q. What time are the sessions on Saturdays?

A. Saturday sessions will be 8.30am to 9.30am.

Q. How is development and group movement measured?

A. Players so young are not assessed. Soccer is a chaotic game; an individual player is only one element of a structured game. Within each element there is a complex structure which is the individual, this broken down into the technical, tactical, physical, psychological, and social pillars of an athlete. Soccer with its large motor skills and complex manipulation of time and space, is a late developer sport, where no individual can have their future predicted so early. Players will be assigned a group by their birth date, and we can accommodate friend requests. Fremont YSC has a long-term development pathway for players, and older players in the Competitive program are assessed based on a criterion which supports the game model of Fremont YSC. More information on this can be found here - <https://www.fremontyouthsoccer.com/playing-identity-of-the-club/>

Q. Will my child be assigned to a particular team for the season?

A. Grassroots is a pool training environment where we will place the player into a practice group. Groups are based on the player's date of birth.

Q. Will my child play during the games?

A. Yes, our focus is development, and in an environment where there is no emphasis on winning and losing. 4v4 scrimmages mean all players get to play for the full amount of time.

Q. How far will we have to travel?

A. All practices are at Fremont Central Park and Leitch Elementary school. Saturday game days are played at the one location of Fremont Central Park.

Q. What if my child cannot attend a session?

A. We fully appreciate the busy lives of players and parents, and there will be times when you are unable to attend. Missing a session will not be held against your child.

Q. Can a player play in Grassroots while at the same time playing in Comp?

A. Competitive Soccer starts at U9, but we do have our Training Pool which is for players who are looking to get a high level of coaching who want a professional coaching, this program starts at U7. You can only play in one program at a time, but we run as a club so we can always move players if requested.

Q. How are coaches chosen?

A. Coaches are volunteer parents, and High School players. They will be given an age specific curriculum to follow, will receive a coach education session, and will get continued email support throughout the duration of the season. We also want to develop the coaches who are the future of our soccer programs.

Q. Are there specific prerequisites needed for becoming a coach in Grassroots?

A. All coaches are asked to attend the coach education session that will be held before the start of the program, and all coaches will be asked to follow the age specific curriculum that will be provided with a season outline of session topics. All coaches will also need to complete a background check and online training as provided by US Club Soccer. These courses are in your own time, but must be completed before the start of the program.