



St. Catharines Club Roma Soccer

Club-Specific Player Pathway

1. Purpose

St. Catharines Club Roma Soccer (SCCRS) provides a clearly defined, progressive and player-centred pathway that supports players from their first experience with soccer through grassroots development, competitive and high-performance soccer, senior soccer and lifelong participation.

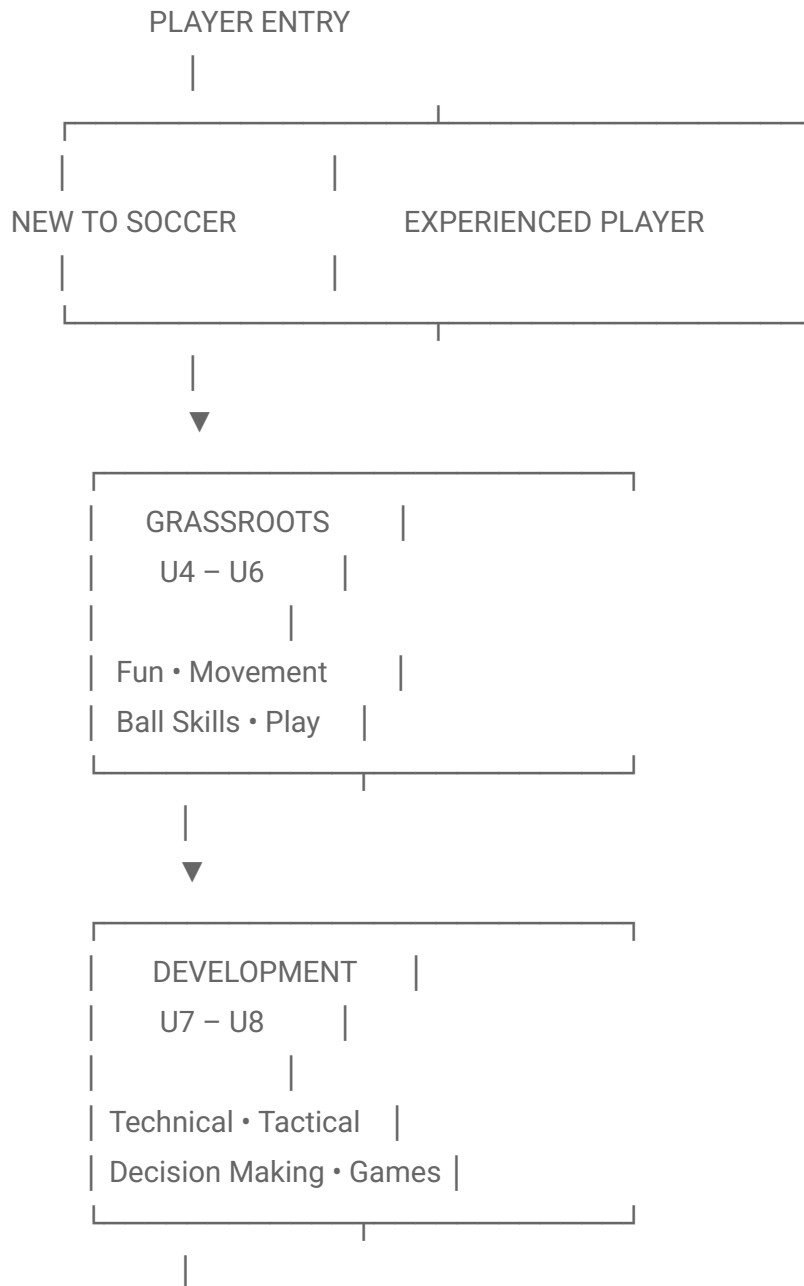
The SCCRCS Player Pathway is aligned with the **Ontario Soccer Player Pathway** and the **Canada Soccer Player Pathway**, while being specifically designed around the programs, opportunities and player development environment provided by St. Catharines Club Roma Soccer.

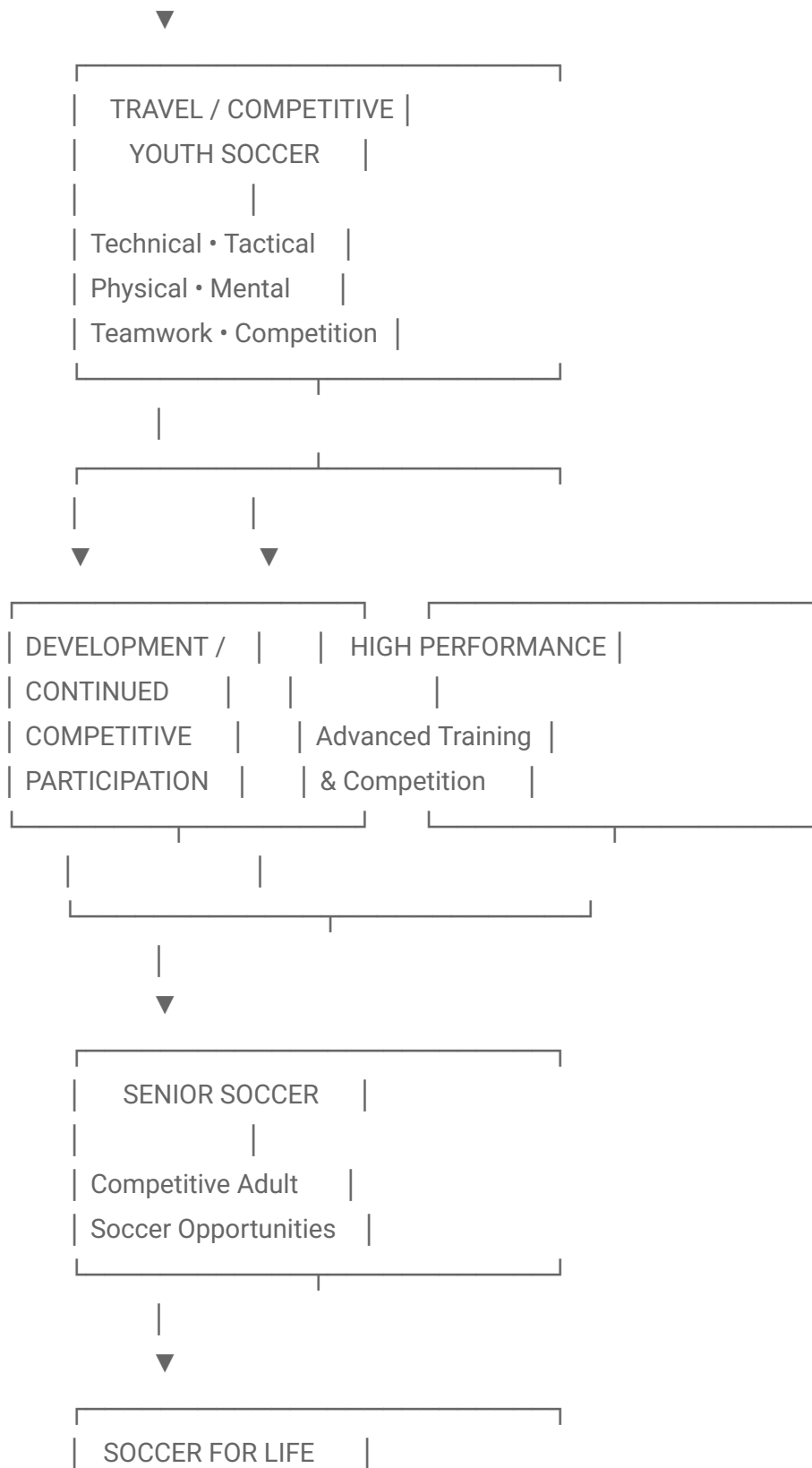
The pathway is not intended to be a single linear route. Players enter the Club at different ages and levels, progress at different rates and may move between programs according to their development, goals, ability, commitment and interests.

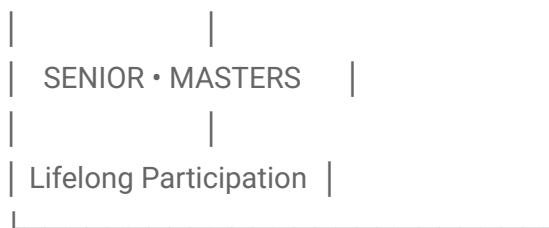
SCCRS also recognizes that player development extends beyond youth soccer. Players can continue participating as senior and masters players or remain involved in the Club as coaches, match officials, mentors, volunteers and leaders.

2. SCCRS Player Pathway at a Glance

ST. CATHARINES CLUB ROMA SOCCER PLAYER PATHWAY







PLAYERS CAN ALSO PROGRESS INTO:

COACHING • MATCH OFFICIATING • VOLUNTEERING
MENTORING • LEADERSHIP • CLUB SERVICE

3. Player Entry into SCCRS

Players can enter the SCCRS pathway at different stages.

The primary entry point is through the Club's grassroots programs; however, players may join SCCRS at an older age or at a different stage of development.

The Club's pathway therefore accommodates:

- Players experiencing soccer for the first time.
- Players transitioning from another soccer organization.
- Players returning to soccer after a period away.
- Players seeking recreational participation.
- Players seeking competitive development.
- Players demonstrating an interest and ability to pursue high-performance soccer.
- Older players seeking senior or masters soccer opportunities.

Regardless of entry point, SCCRS aims to place players in an environment appropriate to their age, development, experience, interests and goals.

4. Grassroots Pathway – U4 to U6

Player Experience

The grassroots stage introduces players to soccer in a positive, inclusive and developmentally appropriate environment.

The primary objective is to develop a love of the game while building the foundations required for continued participation.

Development Priorities

Players are introduced to:

- Fundamental movement skills.
- Basic soccer movements.
- Ball familiarity and ball mastery.
- Dribbling, passing and receiving.
- Small-sided games.
- Creativity and decision-making.
- Confidence and enjoyment.
- Teamwork and social interaction.

Player Progression

Players completing the grassroots stage can progress into the SCCRS U7/U8 development environment.

Players are not expected to progress at exactly the same rate. SCCRS supports individual development and provides appropriate opportunities for players who require additional time or challenge.

5. Development Pathway – U7 to U8

The U7/U8 development stage builds on the grassroots foundation and introduces players to a more structured development environment.

Development Priorities

- Continued technical development.
- Ball mastery.
- Passing and receiving.
- Dribbling and attacking skills.
- Basic defending.
- Decision-making.
- Introduction to tactical concepts.
- Small-sided games.
- Physical literacy.
- Confidence and creativity.

Player Progression

Players are progressively prepared for participation in the Club's competitive/travel environment.

The transition is based on individual readiness rather than simply age or results.

6. Travel / Competitive Youth Pathway

The SCCRS Travel/Competitive pathway provides players with increased training and competition opportunities.

Players in this pathway participate in structured training and competition designed to progressively develop the technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social components of performance.

Player Development Priorities

Technical

- Ball mastery.
- Passing and receiving.
- Dribbling.
- Finishing.
- 1v1 attacking and defending.
- Position-specific skills.

Tactical

- Individual decision-making.
- Principles of attack and defence.
- Positional understanding.
- Team tactics.
- Game understanding.

Physical

- Movement skills.
- Speed and agility.
- Coordination.
- Age-appropriate strength and conditioning.
- Fitness and physical preparation.

Mental and Social

- Confidence.
- Resilience.
- Communication.

- Leadership.
- Teamwork.
- Goal setting.
- Positive competitive behaviours.

Progression Opportunities

Players may progress within the competitive pathway as their skills, maturity, commitment and development needs change.

Players may also be identified for high-performance opportunities where appropriate.

7. High-Performance Pathway

SCCRS provides a pathway for players who demonstrate the ability, interest and commitment to pursue a higher level of training and competition.

High-performance development builds on the competitive pathway and provides an increased level of challenge.

High-Performance Priorities

- Advanced technical development.
- Advanced tactical understanding.
- Increased decision-making demands.
- Position-specific development.
- Age-appropriate physical preparation.
- Mental performance skills.
- Performance habits.
- Goal setting and self-reflection.
- Increased training intensity.
- Higher-level competition opportunities.

SCCRS recognizes that high-performance development is individualized. Players may enter and exit higher-performance environments according to their development and goals.

The Club will also support appropriate player movement and opportunities within the broader Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer system where this benefits the individual player.

8. Youth-to-Senior Transition

A key component of the SCCRS Player Pathway is providing players with an opportunity to continue playing after completing youth soccer.

SCCRS will support the transition from youth soccer into senior soccer by:

1. Identifying players approaching the senior age group.
2. Communicating available senior opportunities.
3. Supporting appropriate movement from youth to senior environments.
4. Maintaining relationships between youth and senior technical programs.
5. Providing opportunities for players to remain connected with SCCRS.
6. Supporting players interested in higher-level senior competition.
7. Encouraging graduating players to continue participating in the Club.

The objective is to reduce the traditional drop-off in participation that occurs when players leave youth soccer.

9. Senior Soccer

Senior soccer represents an important continuation of the SCCRS Player Pathway.



Players who have completed youth soccer can continue to participate in competitive adult soccer according to their ability, goals and commitment.

Senior soccer provides opportunities for:

- Continued competitive participation.
- Advanced player development.
- Leadership.
- Mentorship.
- Continued physical activity.
- Social connection.
- Club engagement.

Youth players who aspire to senior soccer will be made aware of the opportunities available to them and supported in making the transition.

10. Soccer for Life – Masters

SCCRS recognizes that the Player Pathway does not end when a player completes senior soccer.

The Club supports **Soccer for Life** by providing opportunities for players to continue participating in soccer through masters and other appropriate adult programming.

Masters soccer provides an opportunity for former youth and senior players to remain connected to the game and to SCCRS.

The Club's Soccer for Life approach supports:

- Lifelong physical activity.
- Continued participation in soccer.
- Social connection.
- Community.

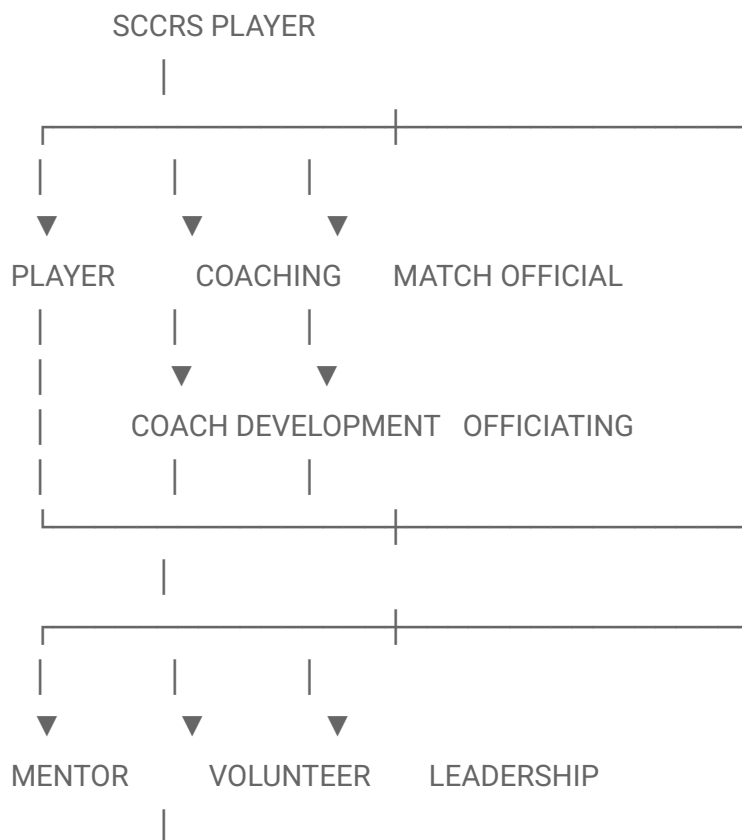
- Recreational and competitive participation.
- Continued Club involvement.
- Mentorship of younger players.

This ensures that SCCRS provides a pathway not only to develop players, but also to retain players within the soccer community throughout their lives.

11. Growing Beyond the Player Pathway

SCCRS recognizes that players can continue to contribute to soccer even when they are no longer primarily participating as players.

The SCCRS pathway therefore includes opportunities for players to transition into other soccer roles.



▼
CLUB CONTRIBUTOR

Players can be encouraged to remain connected to SCCRS through:

Coaching

Former players can transition into coaching roles and continue their development through coach education and licensing.

Match Officiating

Players can explore match officiating and develop skills that allow them to remain involved in soccer from a different perspective.

Mentoring

Older and experienced players can support younger players by serving as positive role models and mentors.

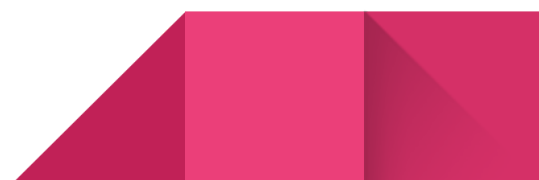
Volunteering

Players and former players can contribute to Club events, programs and operations.

Leadership

Former players can develop into Club leaders, technical staff, committee members and other contributors to the organization.

This creates a **two-way pathway** in which the Club develops players and players, in turn, contribute to the continued development of the Club.



12. Alignment with the Ontario Soccer Player Pathway

The SCCRS Player Pathway is structured to align with the Ontario Soccer Player Pathway.

The Club recognizes the Ontario Soccer pathway as the provincial framework for player development and participation and uses it to inform its programming, player progression and development environment.

The SCCRS pathway reflects the principles of:

- Long-term player development.
- Age- and stage-appropriate programming.
- Development for all players.
- Appropriate competition.
- Player-centred development.
- Continued participation in soccer.
- Soccer for Life.

The Ontario Soccer Player Pathway is used as a reference point, while the SCCRS pathway translates the provincial framework into a **Club-specific pathway showing how players actually progress through SCCRS programs**.

13. Alignment with the Canada Soccer Player Pathway

The SCCRS Player Pathway is also aligned with the Canada Soccer Player Pathway.

The Club's development environment reflects the progression from:

Active Start → FUNdamentals → Learn to Train → Train to Train → Train to Compete → Soccer for Life

SCCRS recognizes that players have different goals and that not every player is pursuing elite performance.

The Club therefore provides opportunities for players to:

- Develop their skills.
 - Participate recreationally.
 - Compete.
 - Pursue higher performance.
 - Continue into senior and masters soccer.
 - Become coaches.
 - Become match officials.
 - Volunteer.
 - Mentor younger players.
 - Remain connected to soccer throughout their lives.
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14. Player Progression is Not Linear

The SCCRS Player Pathway is intentionally flexible.

Players may enter the Club at any stage and may move between levels depending on their development and individual circumstances.

For example:

Grassroots → Development → Travel → High Performance → Senior

or

Grassroots → Development → Travel → Senior

or

Travel → continued competitive participation → Soccer for Life

or

Youth Player → Coach

or

Youth Player → Match Official

or

Senior Player → Masters Player → Mentor/Volunteer

This approach recognizes that successful player development is not defined solely by reaching the highest competitive level.

A successful pathway is one that allows each player to find an appropriate and meaningful place within soccer.

15. Supporting Player Progression

SCCRS will use the following mechanisms to support player progression:

Player Identification

Coaches and technical leadership monitor player development and identify appropriate opportunities for advancement.

Player Development Plans

Where appropriate, players receive development objectives based on their age, stage, position and individual needs.

Coach Communication

Coaches communicate with players and families regarding development and potential pathway opportunities.

Program Transition

The Club supports transitions between grassroots, development, competitive, high-performance and senior environments.

Technical Oversight

The Club's technical leadership provides oversight of player development and pathway alignment.

Player Feedback

Player and parent feedback is used to identify barriers to progression and opportunities to improve the pathway.

Annual Review

The SCCRS Player Pathway will be reviewed annually to ensure continued alignment with Ontario Soccer, Canada Soccer and the Club's strategic objectives.

16. Measuring the Success of the SCCRS Player Pathway

SCCRS will monitor the effectiveness of the Player Pathway through measurable indicators, including:

- Number of players entering SCCRCS grassroots programs.
- Player retention between age groups.
- Progression from grassroots to development programming.
- Progression from development into competitive programming.
- Progression into high-performance opportunities.
- Number of youth players transitioning into senior soccer.
- Number of players participating in masters/Soccer for Life programs.
- Number of former players transitioning into coaching.
- Number of players transitioning into match officiating.
- Volunteer and leadership participation.
- Player and parent satisfaction.
- Coach feedback.
- Player retention within the SCCRCS soccer community.

These measures will help SCCRCS identify gaps in the pathway and make improvements to programming and player support.

17. SCCRCS Player Pathway Commitment

St. Catharines Club Roma Soccer is committed to providing every player with an opportunity to find an appropriate place within the Club's soccer pathway.

The Club's definition of pathway success is not limited to producing high-performance players. It includes developing players who:

Start with SCCRCS → Develop with SCCRCS → Compete with SCCRCS → Progress with SCCRCS → Continue with SCCRCS → Give back to SCCRCS.

Through its grassroots, development, travel, high-performance, senior and masters programs, together with opportunities in coaching, officiating, volunteering, mentoring and leadership, SCCRS provides a pathway for players to **enter, develop, progress, continue and contribute** within the soccer community.

The SCCRS Player Pathway is therefore both a **player development pathway and a lifelong participation pathway**, aligned with the Ontario Soccer Player Pathway and Canada Soccer Player Pathway while reflecting the specific programs and opportunities available through St. Catharines Club Roma Soccer.

18. Pathway Summary

ENTER

Grassroots • Development • Transfer • Return to Soccer



DEVELOP

Technical • Tactical • Physical • Mental • Social



COMPETE

Travel • Competitive • High Performance



PROGRESS

Advanced Youth Development • Senior Soccer



CONTINUE

Senior • Masters • Soccer for Life



CONTRIBUTE

Coach • Match Official • Mentor • Volunteer • Leader

SCCRS PLAYER PATHWAY

A pathway for every player — from first kick to lifelong participation and contribution to the game.