

Parent / Player Handbook 2006-2007



The purpose of this handbook is to provide the parents and players with information regarding the American Youth Soccer Organization, Region 630, Rancho Santa Margarita. The information, rules, regulations and guidelines are current as of this printing *March 1, 2006*. However, as the AYSO Region 630 Board of Directors makes decisions and amendments, the information, rules, regulations, and guidelines may be modified or updated throughout the 2006-2007 season. The most current information, rules, regulations and guidelines will be posted to our website at www.ayso630.org.

General Information 949/858-9118
www.ayso630.org
2005-2006

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

To develop, provide and administer quality youth soccer programs where young people develop a positive self-image, self-confidence, and other positive character traits through their interest and participation in soccer, based on these AYSO philosophies:

EVERYONE PLAYS

- Our goal is for kids to play soccer - every player on every team must play at least half of every game.

BALANCED TEAMS

- All attempts are made to balance teams based on the previous season's ratings.

POSITIVE COACHING

- We train and expect our Coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer a positive instructional environment.

OPEN REGISTRATION

- Our programs are open to all children between 4 1/2 and 18 years who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect. Our programs are designed to instill good sportsmanship.

SAFE FUN FAIR

PLAYER'S CODE

Play for the fun!

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with or complain about the Referee's calls or decisions.
- Control your temper! Resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer and affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work as hard for your team as you do for yourself.
- Be a good sport. Cheer at good plays, whether it's for your team or for your opponent.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and feel good.
- Cooperation with respect for your Coaches, teammates, opponents, and the Referees...there cannot be any soccer games without them.

PARENT'S CODE

We are all here for the Kids to have fun!

- Remember, children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT yours.
- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Your child will then be a winner even in defeat.

- Set a good example. Children learn best by example.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Support all decisions by AYSO Volunteers.
- Recognize the value and importance of Volunteer Coaches, Referees, and Officials and give them their due respect. Without them there would be no AYSO soccer.
- Stay three (3) yards away from the touchlines, between the 18 yard lines (Spectator Area). No parent or Coach may stand behind the goal lines or on the opposite side of the field.
- **No Pets are allowed at any game, scrimmage or practice.**
- **Banners are not allowed for any team playing in Region 630.**

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Region is run entirely by Volunteers. Several hundred Volunteers are required to provide a successful soccer season. We encourage each parent to consider helping in some part of our program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE

- \$100 per Player for the 1st and 2nd player, \$75 per Player thereafter. All Players within the same family must live at the same address.
- Post-registration fee is \$120 per player for the 1st and 2nd, then \$75 per player afterwards and is held from **April 30 through August 31, 2006**. Pre-register on EAYSO (www.eayso.org) then mail your forms to: AYSO Region 630 31441 Santa Margarita Parkway A-280, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Attn: Registrar. The fee is \$120 per Player for the 1st and 2nd player, \$95 per player thereafter. **The fee includes a \$20 processing fee, which will not be waived and is not refundable,** although a full refund will be given for any Player not placed on a team.

REFUND POLICY

All refund requests must be made in writing and mailed to: AYSO Region 630, Attn: Treasurer, 31441 Santa Margarita Pkwy., Suite A-280, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688. Requests **MUST** be postmarked no later than **July 31, 2006**. Notices made to the Coach or any other person will not be recognized. Refund requests sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted. Please include child's name, child's division, child's birth date, amount paid, Parent's name, address of where to mail the refund and reason for dropping in your request. Refund checks will be mailed September 30, 2006.

WHO MAY PLAY AYSO SOCCER?

Any child born from **August 1, 1987 to January 31, 2002**. AYSO Region 630 encompasses the communities of Rancho Santa Margarita, Trabuco Canyon, Coto de Caza, Dove Canyon, Trabuco Highlands, Rancho Cielo, Wagon Wheel and Las Flores.

We suggest that Players register in the Region where they reside; however, there are no restrictions. All Players registered on April 1st and April 29th will play on Region 630 teams provided resources are available. Those registered on or after April 30th will be placed on a waiting list. Placement will be attempted up until September 1st, 2006. A full refund will be issued for any Player unable to be placed on a team by Region 630.

DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS-5

Players are divided into different playing divisions based upon their birth dates. Girls and Boys, at all ages, will play with/against Players of the same sex. Any requests to play a child “up” (a division other than assigned), must be made in writing and mailed to the Region’s address. All requests must be postmarked by June 30, 2006. Requests to play down a division other than assigned cannot be accepted. All Division U16 & U19 teams will play against teams from other Regions in our area on both Saturdays AND Sundays. All non-competitive divisions will play in single age groups.

BIRTHDATE DIVISION

8/01/2001 - 7/31/2002 U5

8/01/2000 - 7/31/2001 U6

8/01/1999 - 7/31/2000 U7

8/01/1998 - 7/31/1999 U8

8/01/1997 - 7/31/1998 U9

8/01/1996 - 7/31/1997 U10

8/01/1994 - 7/31/1996 U12

8/01/1992 - 7/31/1994 U14

8/01/1990 - 7/31/1992 U16

8/01/1987 - 7/31/1990 U19

TEAM FORMATION

Division U09 to U14 teams are formed based upon team balance, i.e. players of different skill levels and experience are divided among teams in an attempt that all teams have equal chances to win. U16-U19 teams are formed based on Area rules, more information is posted on Area 11L’s website www.ayso11l.org. In order to maintain team balance, we are unable to accommodate requests for placement on teams, or placement with friends in these divisions. Head Coaches may not request their assistant Coach. Teams in Divisions U5 through U8 are formed automatically by the computer. Teams are not formed by neighborhood or school. Players may or may not be on teams with children that they already know. This is an opportunity for Players to form new friendships and learn new skills. Head Coaches may request one assistant Coach.

ANNUAL PLAYER FEE DISTRIBUTION

Player	43%
(Uniforms, balls/supplies, insurance, trophies, pictures)	
Coach/Referee	17%
(Uniforms, clinics, awards)	
Fields	18%
(Usage fees, goals and nets, striping supplies, renovation)	
Rental Fees	2%
(Meeting facilities, equipment storage)	
Regional Administration.....	20%
(Printing, postage, telephones, office supplies, auditing expenses)	

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. PLAYER REGISTRATION

A registration fee and registration form will be required for each player. If a Player wishes to drop from the program, refunds are available by written request to the Treasurer. (Please see Refund Policy on Page 4.) Even if you choose to not submit a refund request or you do not qualify for a refund, out of courtesy to other Players and regional Volunteers, please contact the Registrar if your Player drops from the season. All Players must be registered with the Region prior to participating in any practice or game. Players must be rated and coordinated through the Division Manager before being placed on a team. Please call the Division Manager of your child’s division if you have not heard from a Coach by August 21st. Do not call prior to August 21st. Please keep us updated if your address and phone number change. If you have any changes, please e-mail the registrar: Boys = registrarboys@ayso630.org or Girls = registrar girls@ayso.org.

II. DURATION OF SEASON

Practices may NOT begin prior to August 21st (except for Progressive Play). However, Coaches may hold their team meeting prior to that date.

DIVISIONS U5, U6, U7 AND U8:

Games will be every Saturday *starting September 9 until November 11, 2006.*

UPPER DIVISIONS:

U9 through U14 Games will be held every Saturday *starting September 9 through November 11, 2006, with playoffs beginning immediately afterwards..*

U16 and U19 teams will play on both Saturday and Sunday, and will finish before December 1st to comply with CIF rules.

III. PLAYER SAFETY

- Accident/Injury Reports
Forms are available on the region 630 web site. A report **MUST** be filled out by the coach within 24 hours of an accident or injury and forwarded to the Regional Safety Director (safety@ayso630.org).
- Soccer Accident Insurance (SAI)
SAI forms and brochures are available on the Region 630 and National web site (www.soccer.org). All claims must be signed by the Regional Commissioner and Regional Safety Director and be accompanied by a signed accident/injury report.
- Participation Release Form
Effective March 2006 a medical release signed by a physician is no longer required. Any player returning from injury or illness that required the care of a physician or a visit to an emergency care facility **MUST** have a Participation Release Form signed by a *parent* or *guardian*. The original signed form must be forwarded to the Regional Safety Director by the players' coach who must also carry a signed copy in the event anyone might question the participation of the player subsequent to an illness or injury. The form is available on the region 630 web site.

Please note that AYSO specifically prohibits participation by a player who must wear a cast or splint to protect an injury or whose cast or splint has been removed without the knowledge and permission of the treating physician per section VI, article H of the AYSO Rules and Regulations which states that "Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area in order to participate shall disqualify the player from practice or in any game".

IV. TEAMS

- Team names shall bear no resemblance to any religion or nationality.
- Teams shall participate only in games approved by the Regional Commissioner. Each Division U16 and U19 team shall have a maximum of twenty (20) registered players. Unless otherwise determined by area and section rules. Each Division U12 and U14 team shall have a maximum of fifteen (15) registered Players. Unless otherwise determined by area and section rules. Each Division U9 team shall have a maximum of twelve (12) registered Players. Unless otherwise determined by area and section rules.

Each Division U5 and U6 shall have a maximum of five (5) registered Players. Unless otherwise determined by area and section rules.

Each Division U7 and U8 team shall have a maximum of ten (10) registered Players. Unless otherwise determined by area and section rules.

- Every effort will be made to balance teams in Divisions U10 through U19.

- A Region or Area cannot form leagues on a major/minor basis within any or all of its divisions.
- Retention of Players on a team from the previous season to the new season is prohibited, **with the exception of U16 and U19 which observe Area 11L Rules.**
- Once teams have been formed, Players will be transferred from one team to another only due to exceptional circumstances, and then only with the permission of the Regional Commissioner.
- Coaches may drop players from their teams if the Player cannot be reached before the first game of the season. **Multiple** attempts will be made to call all phone numbers listed on the registration form. **It is the responsibility of the Parents to update eAYSO should their contact information change.** The Coach must notify his Division Manager **and Registrar** of the drop. A refund will only be issued if a written request is made by the Parents to the Treasurer (See Refund Policy on Page 5). If a wait list exists for that division, a new Player will then be added to that team.
- Players injured during the season should notify the Safety Director. A refund cannot be issued for injured Players.
- At all times we expect coaches to use their best judgment to ensure safety. We will not tolerate any “on-field” confrontations between Coaches. Should any questions or disputes arise, the Coaches will discuss the issue with the appropriate Division Manager. All coaches are to provide positive role models for Players and spectators.

V. FIELD POLICY

- Directions to field locations will be given to Coaches and posted on our website once we secure field permits.
- All practice field assignments will be determined by each Division Manager. Throughout the season, the Division Manager will keep records of when each team is practicing. **ALL PRACTICE CHANGES MUST BE FIRST APPROVED WITH THE DIVISION MANAGER PRIOR TO INFORMING THE TEAMS OF PRACTICE CHANGES.**
- Fields will be shared between teams. If two teams are present, each will have ½ of the field; if three teams are present, each team will have 1/3. Scrimmages do not take precedence over regular practices.
- All Division Managers coordinate practice field usage with the Fields Director. Coaches are not allowed to practice on any field other than AYSO authorized fields.
- **NO ANIMALS will be allowed at any of our fields during practices and games.**
- A NO SMOKING policy will be in effect at all of our fields during practices and games.
- **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** will be allowed at any AYSO function where children are present.

VI. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

The Region will provide a uniform, consisting of a jersey, shorts, and socks. The uniform will be marked in accordance with AYSO guidelines. No uniform may bear the name of any registered Player or sponsors. Every Player must wear appropriate athletic footwear. Regulation soccer shoes, gym shoes, or sneakers (with or without rubber cleats) are permissible in all AYSO competition. Soccer shoes with removable cleats will be allowed, only if the cleat is screwed into the sole of the shoe. No toe cleats are allowed. Shin guards are REQUIRED in all AYSO competitions and practices at all levels. Players shall not be permitted to participate in any AYSO game or practice while wearing any jewelry, including bracelets, necklaces, any kind of earrings (including studs) or other body piercing jewelry. Earrings covered by bandages are not allowed. This rule applies regardless of how recently the body (ear or otherwise) was pierced and even if covered by a bandage or other material. Medical bracelets are allowed, but must be taped to the wrist. This is for the safety of all players and conforms to AYSO National Guidelines. Players shall not be permitted to practice or participate in any AYSO game with any type of hard cast or splint. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs provided that the brace is adequately covered and padded so as to eliminate the possibility of causing injury to other Players on the field.

VII. GAMES

All AYSO games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Board with the exceptions noted below:

A. COMPETITION

- In Divisions U7 through U19, Coaches and other Officials shall not enter the field of play, unless requested by the Referee. Coaches are to remain within 10 yards of the half line and one yard away from the touchline (Technical Area).
- A minimum of seven (7) Players shall constitute a team; a scheduled match shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field seven (7) eligible Players.
- A match shall not commence unless the Coach possesses the Player Registration/Medical Release Forms. The Referees will check to see that all Players have the proper equipment.
- Only the Referee in charge can abandon or suspend a match. No protests of match will be allowed.
- Divisions U5, U6, U7 and U8 are noncompetitive. (See special rules in Section Viii).

B. DURATION OF GAMES

Divisions U5 and U6 Two 15 minute halves (± 7 minute quarters)
Divisions U7 and U8 Two 20 minute halves (± 10 minute quarters)
Division U9 and U10 Two 25 minute halves (± 12 minute quarters)
Division U12 Two 30 minute halves (± 15 minute quarters)
Division U14 Two 35 minute halves (± 18 minute quarters)
Division U16 Two 40 minute halves
Division U19 Two 45 minute halves

C. SUBSTITUTIONS

Except as noted below, all Players must participate and play at least half of the game, excluding overtime periods, if any. Players must be recognized by the Referee prior to entry onto the field.

- Approximately halfway through the first half, and approximately halfway through the second half, the Referee will request required substitutions and note those on the lineup cards. Additional substitutions may be made at halftime. Everyone plays at least half of each game.

- **Players in Divisions U16 and U19 will follow Area 11L Rules and Regulations as posted on the Area's website (www.ayso11l.org)**

- Substitution for injury:

In division U5 - U14, if a Player is injured, the Coach may provide a substitute for the Player, in which case the injured Player may not return until at least the beginning of the next quarter. Only the injured Player is credited with a quarters play regardless of the actual time played. The Coach retains the option to play short-handed, thereby allowing the injured Player to return during the quarter which he/she was injured. The Player must first be recognized by the Referee in order to legally return to the game.

- Late arriving Players:

If the Player arrives during the first quarter, the Player must play a minimum of two (2) of the remaining three (3) quarters. If the Player arrives during the second or third quarter, the Player must play a minimum of one (1) quarter.

D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF REFEREES

The AYSO referee is a volunteer whose task and responsibility is to promote Player safety and administer the Laws of the Game. AYSO officials must be supported by Coaches, Players and Parents at all times. Verbal or any other abuse of Referees will not be tolerated.

- Be Safe Haven Certified prior to the beginning of the season.
- Administer FIFA Laws of the Game in the spirit of AYSO Rules and Regulations.
- At all times, place great emphasis on the welfare of the Players, and Officiate the match in a manner conducive to clean competition and good sportsmanship. If a Player is injured, the Referee may at his/her discretion, stop play to ensure the welfare of the Player even if the ball has not gone out of play.
- The Referee will suspend any games if lightning is seen or thunder is heard.
- Provide pre-game counsel to Players and Coaches of both teams regarding any special condition(s) that may have an impact on the match.
- Assure that both teams are in possession of their own Player I.D. Cards (applicable Division), and that lineup cards are properly completed before the start of the match.
- Provide a written referee report to the Regional Referee Administrator whenever a caution (yellow card) or send off (red card) is administered to a Player and to report misconduct by Coaches or spectators.

E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES

Be Safe Haven Certified prior to the beginning of the season, this includes Assistant Coaches. The Coaches are also responsible for the personal conduct of each team Player before, during, and after a game and at practices.

- Ensure that Players and spectators have the highest regard for Good Sportsmanship and respect for the game Official.
- Provide Positive team Coaching. Coaches are allowed one yard behind the touchlines and within ten yards either side of the half line (Technical Area). A Coach and one (1) assistant are allowed to Coach in the game.
- Train and Coach his/her team to the best of his/her ability.
- Uphold and understand the Rules and Regulations of AYSO and soccer as it pertains to the team's age.
- Only enter the field of play only when requested by the Referee.
- Encourage Positive team support & enthusiasm from Parents.
- Inform spectators of the requirement to stay two (2) yards away from the touchlines, between the 18 yard lines (Spectator Area). No parent or Coach may stand behind the goal lines or on the opposite side of the field.
- Provide a properly completed lineup card to the game Referee upon request prior to the start of the game, listing the Players in numerical order on the game card.
- Have substitutions ready at the half line so Referee may note the substitutions on the game card easily and quickly.
- Have possession of Player Registration/Medical Release Forms and Player I.D. Cards (applicable Division), during all practices and games, in case of injury. Call injury reports to the Safety Director for any injury to an AYSO participant within 24 hours. Make sure the Player has a Doctor/Parent approval before allowing the Player to return.
- Recruit Parent Volunteers to line the field in the morning or remove field equipment at the end of the day.
- Limit team practices for Divisions U9 through U19 to two (2) practice sessions per week or as coordinated by the Division Manager. Divisions U7 and U8 are limited to one (1) practice session per week as coordinated by the Division Manager.
- The team Coach, Assistant or Designated Parent MUST remain at practices or games until all Players have been picked-up by Parents.

F. POLICY REGARDING MISCONDUCT AT GAMES

IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ANY ABUSIVE CONDUCT OR OTHER DISPLAY OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF AYSO COMPETITION. Should abusive conduct occur, the referee has the authority to:

- Suspend the competition if influencing the integrity of the play.
- During such suspension, he may issue a warning to the abusive party or request the Coach to do so. He may elect to issue a caution in accordance with the Laws of the Game if warranted by the infraction(s).
- If the referee judges the abuse to be excessive, he may send off the party involved and request that they leave the area for the remainder of the competition (See FIFA Laws of the Game for red cards issued to the Players).
- If a Coach, Spectator, or Player is sent off they will have to leave the sight and sound of the match and may not participate or be present at the next match. The Referee must

consider the Players safety before ordering a sent off Player to leave the field. Sent off Players are not allowed to participate in the next match.

- **Anyone** can be sent off without first receiving a caution.
- The Referee will start play when he/she is satisfied that the situation is under control.
- If the Referee considers that he cannot regain control of the match he/she may abandon the match and report the circumstances to the Regional Commissioner and Regional Referee Administrator for further determination.

G. RAIN AND BAD WEATHER POLICY

In an effort to maintain the playing fields and work closely with local homeowners associations and school districts the following policies are issued:

- The Fields Director, Regional Referee Administrator and the Regional Commissioner shall have overall responsibility of the fields.
- Mudline: 709-2239 or www.ayso630.org.
- Before commencing a game or at any time during a game, the Referee always has the final decision to suspend the match if in his/her opinion the safety of the Players are in jeopardy.
- The Referee will suspend any games if lightning is seen or thunder is heard.
- In the event of rain during the week, please check the mudline for field closures.
- Make up games may be scheduled for Divisions U09 through U19 during the season if possible. This may include Sunday play.
- In the event that an entire Saturday is rained out, games will not be made up. Divisions U5, U6, U7 and U8 will not make up games.

H. SIZE OF BALL

Divisions U14, U16 and U19 Size 5 Ball
Divisions U09, U10 and U12 Size 4 Ball
Divisions U5, U6, U7 and U8 Size 3 Ball

I. FIELD OF PLAY

Dimensions of the field of play, marking of goal area, penalty area, corner areas, and goal will be at the discretion of the Region. The coaches, substitutes and spectators of the two teams will watch the match from opposite sides of the field of play unless the Referee gives permission for them to be on the same side, in which case they will remain on opposite ends of the field. Spectators are to stay between the 18 yard lines and at least three (3) yards back from the touch line. No spectators shall be allowed behind the goals. Home team will have choice as to side of field unless marked otherwise.

J. AYSO PLUS PROGRAM

Boys and Girls in Divisions U12 and U14 are invited to participate in a program called AYSO Plus Program. This program is designed for players with exceptional soccer skills who are interested in an advanced level of competition. The season begins in August and continues until January 2007. Teams play against other AYSO Plus teams throughout Orange County. These teams also have the option of participating in tournaments apart from their regular scheduled games. Players participating in AYSO Plus cannot

participate in the fall or All-Star programs, but may participate in the Spring Select program. Players are chosen during a series of try-outs held in late May and early June. The tryout dates and times will be posted on our web site, www.ayso630.org, once they have been established. Try-outs are only open to players registered in divisions U12 and U14.

IF YOUR CHILD IS SELECTED, SUNDAY PLAY IS REQUIRED.

VIII. SPECIAL RULES

DIVISIONS U5 and U6

- Team size limited to 5 Players.
- Practices on scheduled game days beginning 30 minutes prior to game.
- Limit the number of Players on the field, for each team, to 4 Players. This allows for the three quarters playing time. All players shall play three quarters of each game.
- One Coach is allowed on the field (to aid in POSITIVE Coaching) from each team in the U5 and U6 division.
- No goalkeeper allowed (no camping out in front of goal).
- Length of game - Two (2) halves of 15 minutes each, with a break in the middle of each half at approximately 7 minutes for substitutions.

DIVISIONS U7 and U8

- Team size limited to 10 Players.
- No more than one practice per week for a length of not more than 60 minutes.
- Limit the number of Players on the field, for each team, to 8 Players. This allows for the three quarters playing time. All Players shall play three quarters of each game.
- No player may play the goalkeeper position for more than ONE quarter in each game.
- Length of game - Two (2) halves of 20 minutes each, with a break in the middle of each half at approximately 10 minutes for substitutions.
- No scores or standings will be kept. These are non-competitive divisions for instructional purposes only. All Players will receive participation awards at the end of the season. Coaches shall ensure that all parents understand the non-competitive nature of play for this age group. All spectators shall conduct themselves in the most Positive manner possible towards all teams, Referees, etc.
- Since the purpose of play in these divisions is to focus on learning, Referees will be instructed to assist in instructing the Players (i.e. improper throw-in's should be retaken).
- Referees will not be scheduled. Home team will provide the Referee (center) and two Assistant Referees (linespersons).
- No slide tackles (considered as dangerous play).
- Offside will not be called, but Players will be warned not to remain "camped out" in front of the opponent's goal.
- All fouls are to be restarted by the taking of a direct free kick. No penalty kicks will be awarded.

DIVISION U9 & U10 - SPECIAL RULES

- Limit team size to twelve Players, nine Players a side for games.
- All Players must play three quarters in each game. If they display disruptive behavior or regularly miss practice then, subject to the prior written approval of their Division Manager, they can be limited to play two quarters a match. Playing a Player for only two quarters without the Division Manager's written permission will result in a forfeiture of the match.
- No Player may play the Goalkeeper position for more than TWO quarters of each game.

IX. PHOTO DAY

Photo day is for all Players. Each Player will receive a team and individual photo. Coaches will pick up their teams' photos at team rating night or as arranged by the Division Manager.

X. PLAYER RATINGS

Player rating forms are filled out by the Coaches for Divisions U8 through U19. Coaches will turn in their player rating forms in late October to their Division Managers. Player ratings are to be kept confidential.

XI. SEASON TOURNAMENT/CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

SEASON TEAM STANDINGS

- Team standings during tournament games will be determined by a point system; 3 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; 0 points for a loss.
 - Teams may earn an extra .5 bonus point each week by providing an Assistant Referee for the match immediately before theirs on the same field of play or, if playing the first match of the day, by providing an Assistant Referee for the last match of the day on the same field. To qualify for the bonus point, the Assistant Referee must meet the following standards:
 - Certified as a Basic (Regional) Referee or higher.
 - Referee Safe Haven certified.
 - Perform their Assistant Referee duties in full Referee uniform which includes referee shirt, shorts, socks (which will be provided by the Region) All Referees will provide their own appropriate footwear. Cleats (preferably soft) are recommended. Flip-flops and sandals are not allowed.
 - Show up at the designated field at least 15 minutes in advance of the designated match time and remain during the entire assigned match.
- NOTE: Questions regarding Referee certification should be directed to the Regional Referee Administrator rra@ayso630.org or Referee Director of Assessment (see Referee Directory at our web-site www.ayso630.org).
- All tournament game scores must be reported by the Coach (regardless of win, loss, or tie) to the Division Manager within 48 hours of playing the game.
 - In case of forfeit (lacking Players) the score will be considered 1 - 0. However, no team shall be allowed to benefit themselves from their own forfeiture in the determination of final standings.

- In case of game suspension, the outcome will be determined by the Regional Commissioner, Regional Referee Administrator and Division Manager. They can then decide whether to reschedule the game or assign game point totals to each team involved.

TIE BREAKING:

When a tie for a playoff position exists at the end of regular season play involving 2 or more teams, for those teams involved in the tie, the following 4 step sequence will be used. At any point in the tie breaking process, if a single winner is determined, the tiebreaker is concluded for that tie and remaining team's position in the tiebreaker will determine their final regular season standing. If Teams A, B and C are tied for 3rd place and A wins the tie breaker with B second and C third, then A becomes the 3rd place finisher. B is in fourth place and C in 5th place. The team that was not involved in the tie breaker at 4th place would then be the 6th place finisher in pool play.

1st TIE BREAKER - HEAD TO HEAD PLAY

The team which has the best regular season record of tournament games against all other teams involved in the tie will be awarded the higher playoff position. Therefore if 3 teams are involved in a tie, all tournament games involving only those 3 teams will be counted to determine the tie breaker.

2nd TIE BREAKER - GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

For each regular season tournament game, a team is awarded points for the number of goals FOR (1 point per goal) minus the number of goals AGAINST (1 point per goal). For any single game a maximum goal differential of 3 points shall be allowed. The team with the higher number of cumulative goal differential points will be awarded the higher playoff position. If 2 or more teams are still tied at this point, those teams will go on to the 3rd Tie Breaker - Goals Against differential points will be awarded the higher playoff position.

3rd TIE BREAKER - GOALS AGAINST

If 2 or more teams reach this level of tie breaker, the team which has allowed fewer goals to be scored AGAINST them during regular season tournament games will be awarded the higher playoff position. If 2 or more teams are still tied at this point, those teams will go on to the 4th Tie Breaker - Goals Scored

4th TIE BREAKER - GOALS SCORED

If 2 or more teams reach this level of tie breaker, the team which has scored the higher amount of goals in regular season tournament games will be awarded the higher playoff position. In the event the above procedures fail to resolve the tie or due to any unforeseen circumstances, a final decision after a meeting with the Division Manager, Coach Administrator and Regional Commissioner will be made. This decision will be final and not be subject to appeal.

REGION 630 SEASON PLAYOFFS

- All playoff games must have a winner. No tie games.
- All playoff games will be of normal duration.

All playoff games will use 'regular' season Region rules during regulation time.

- In case of a tie at the end of regulation time, two overtime periods will be played. The duration of the overtime periods are as follows:

Division U09 & U10: Two (2) periods, seven (7) minutes each

Divisions U12 and U14: Two (2) periods, eight (8) minutes each

- The overtime periods will be conducted by the following rules:

- a) At the end of regulation play and the score is tied, the two teams will then have a coin toss with the team winning the toss deciding which goal it will attack in the first overtime period. There will be only 5 minutes allotted between the end of the regular scheduled game and the start of the first overtime period. At the end of the first overtime period, the two teams will then change ends of the field and the team that did not kick-off in the first overtime period will kick-off.

- b) There is no break between the first overtime period and the second overtime period.

- c) The Coaches will have free substitution during all overtime periods.

Free substitution policy is as previously stated in Section VII,C.

- If neither team scores during the two overtime periods, penalty kicks will be used to determine a winner as follows:

- a) At completion of the second overtime period, the captains of the two teams will meet the Referees in the center of the field for a coin toss. The team winning the toss will choose to shoot first or second in the shootout. (To comply with FIFA).

- b) At completion of the second overtime period, only those players on the field at the time will participate in the shootout. All players on the field shall go to the center circle. No player is allowed to leave the field and no substitutions are allowed. 16

- c) First portion of each shootout will be conducted as follows:

Each team shall alternately take five penalty kicks at the same goal, the goal will be determined by the Referee.

2. Each shot or kick will be taken by a different player. The team scoring the most goals after five penalty kicks shall be declared the winner. The Referee can stop the shootout any time during this portion or the tie breaking procedure if a clear winner has been established.

3. The Coach will determine the order in which the player will shoot their penalty shot. He will give the order to the Referee at the end of the second overtime period. He can only use the players that were on the field at the end of the second overtime period.

- d) Second portion of the shootout will be conducted as follows:

1. If tied after both teams have completed five kicks, the kicks shall continue in the same order until such time as both teams have taken an equal number of kicks (each kick will be taken by a different player until all players have been used) and one team has scored one more goal than the other team; that team will then be declared the winner.

- The goalkeeper may be changed after any penalty kick.

REGION 630 FALL SEASON TEAM CHAMPIONS

The winner of the championship game will represent our region in Area play.

XII. AREA III POST SEASON PLAY

To be eligible to participate in the All Star or Spring Programs the player must have played 50% of the Fall Season games.

Selections for All-Star and Spring Select teams are made at the discretion of the selected Coaches who are approved by the Regional Board of Directors. Post-season play is ONLY available for Players who played in Divisions U09 through U19 in the fall season.

Players must be available to play on BOTH Saturdays and Sundays. Coaches for these programs are nominated by their respective Division Managers and approved by the Regional Board of Directors. All prospective Coaches should have Intermediate or Advanced coaching certification. Post-season play is funded solely by the parents/players participating in these programs, therefore, no scholarships are available. Each player must pay for their share of the expenses for these post-season programs. Expenses include the registration fee, jacket, bag, tournament fees, etc. These expenses will vary from team to team depending on what each team decides they want to purchase (such as jackets/bags) or how many tournaments in which they will participate.

A. ALL-STAR PROGRAM

The intent of the All-Star program is to extend the AYSO season for those recreational players whose soccer ability and attitude are above average. This may or may not include club soccer players. All players selected must be willing to give priority to the AYSO All-Star program practices and games over any other activity. Selections are made at the discretion of the selected Coaches who are approved by the Regional Board of Directors. Each regular fall season team must be represented by at least one Player and no more than four Players from any

one team. All-Star games are played on Saturdays and Sundays in January (and possibly into February depending upon rain). Area All-Star Champions continue playing into March. The All-Star season ends at the conclusion of Area playoffs, with the exception of those teams that qualify to play Section playoffs in March. Selection to an All-Star team does not give any player priority or guarantee of placement on a Region 630 Spring Select team.

B. SPRING PROGRAM

The intent of the Spring program is to provide an ongoing soccer experience for those Players with average to above-average soccer skills. Not all children desiring to play will be chosen. The number of players chosen in each division will depend on the amount of certified coaches willing to Coach in the Spring Program and the availability of resources, such as field space. Children of volunteers that donate a substantial amount of their time to AYSO (Board and Staff Members, Referees who have centered 10 or more matches during the fall season, Coaches who have coached in the Fall in the same division their Spring player is playing in) will be given priority when forming teams. Next priority will go to parents who have a confirmed volunteer position during the Spring season. Following the fall season, eligible players in Divisions U10 through U19 will receive a Spring Season Registration Flyer in the mail. REGISTERING DOES NOT ASSURE THAT THE PLAYER WILL BE PLACED ON A TEAM. All interested fall season, All Stars and AYSO Plus MUST register to be eligible for spring. All players will remain in the same division they played in during the Fall Season.

There are three categories of teams formed:

Teams entered in the Orange County Spring League (OCSL) are part of the Select program and consist of mostly All-Star, AYSO Plus or similar caliber players. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays mostly throughout Orange County, but may include travel to regions within Section 11.

Tournament teams consist of mostly All-Star, AYSO Plus or similar caliber players. Teams are not part of OCSL and participate in tournaments only. Recreational teams must follow guidelines set by Area in establishing which players can be selected for their teams. All Spring Rec teams formed in Region 630 will be balanced in comparison to each other in preparation for Area play. No standings are kept in the Recreational league, although coaches may enter teams into competitive tournaments (funded entirely by the participants). Teams are chosen in mid January, players are notified in early February, and practices begin in mid February. The season begins in March and continues until May or June, depending on the number of tournaments a team enters. The Regional Commissioner shall have the final approval of team placement in either Select, Tournament, or Recreational.

PARENT CONCERNS

We want to make sure that your child is enjoying their soccer experience. If you have a concern or problem involving your child, please use the following guidelines to resolve the situation:

A. Discuss the situation with your team coach.

B. If the situation is not resolved, or you feel you cannot discuss the situation with the team Coach, contact the Division Manager for your Division. Your Division Manager is listed on the website www.ayso630.org listed under the Board Directory. In most cases, you will find that the Division Manager will be able to resolve the situation.

C. If the situation is not resolved after contacting the Division Manager you then can contact one of the Assistant Regional Commissioners, Division's U5-U8: arcu5u8@ayso630.org, Divisions U9-U19: arcu9u19@ayso630.org or the CVPA (Child Volunteer Protection Advocate) cvpa@ayso630.org.

AYSO SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM

Congress passed the Child Protection Act of 1993, and the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997. In doing so, AYSO has adopted these rulings into the Safe Haven Program. This program provides the appropriate training required to all Coaches, Referees, and other Volunteers, for their protection as well as for the protection of your child. All Volunteers are asked to provide identification and consent to a background check.

REGION 630 PLAYER SCHOLARSHIPS

Fall registration fee scholarships are available for families needing financial assistance. For an application or information about our scholarship program, please contact the Treasurer: treasurer@ayso630.org.

COACHING CLINICS AND TRAINING

Our Coaching program is completely dependent upon Volunteers. Since most adult in America have very little prior soccer experience, AYSO offer a number of Coaching programs to develop and train Coaches.

BEGINNING COACHING CLINIC

This clinic is geared towards the younger divisions (U6 and U8) and is designed for the first time AYSO Coaches and Assistant Coaches who have little or no prior experience Coaching youth soccer. This is a 3 hour class and normally is followed by a 'Safe Haven for Coaches'

Certification Course.

YOUTH COACHING CERTIFICATION

This one day clinic provides a solid foundation for AYSO Coaches involved in the competitive divisions (U10 and above). The course covers Basic Skills and Techniques of Soccer, running a successful practice, Team Management and Game Day Management. All first time U10 and above Coaches are required to attend this course. All first time coaches who plan to Coach U12 - U19 teams are required to complete this course and the Safe Haven for Coaches Course prior to beginning team practices.

INTERMEDIATE COACHING CERTIFICATION

This course builds upon the Youth Coach Certification course and all Youth Certified Coaches are encouraged to attend. The course consists of 4 hours of classroom training and 12 hours of Field work. This course is recommended for coaches who are interested in Coaching an All Star team or a Spring team.

ADVANCED COACHING CERTIFICATION

This program is for AYSO Coaches who want to learn more about coaching and qualify to become a Regional Course Instructor. This clinic focuses on tactical situations, advanced tactics, observation evaluation and implantation techniques. This course builds upon the Youth and Intermediate Coaching Courses. This course consists of 4 hours of in class training and 15 hours of field work.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The Region's Coaching staff holds courses throughout the season covering a variety of game type situations, soccer skills and techniques.

REFEREE CERTIFICATION

Our Referee Program is also completely dependent upon volunteers. There is a continual need for more trained Referees because of the growing number of players and teams. To meet this demand and provide qualified Referees, training clinics are available for anyone willing to help. No previous soccer experience is necessary. We also encourage youth (ages 12 to 17) to enter the Referee Program. Referees are usually scheduled for games at times that do not

conflict with their children's games. Referee certification requires classroom and field training, plus a written examination to ensure understanding of the laws of the games. Training, uniforms and mentoring are provided by the Region.

The National Referee Commission of AYSO has established the following Referee categories:

Basic Referee: Qualified to officiate Regional AYSO games

Intermediate Referee: ...Qualified for Regional and Area level games

Advanced Referee: Qualified for Regional, Area and Section games

National Referee: Adult referee for all levels of AYSO competition

TOUCHLINE ETIQUETTE

AYSO soccer encourages positive self-esteem, discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, perseverance, and acceptance of learning from both disappointment and success. It is an enjoyable game to watch as well as play. We believe that quality soccer can and should be developed to be fun. Therefore, the emphasis of our program is not on who wins, but on how well the individuals and teams develop. We want all participants to reach their full, age appropriate potential, while enjoying themselves in the progress. Please allow the Coach to be the SOLE source of coaching during the game. Spectators on the sidelines are not to be communicating any tactical or technical adjustments to the players. You must realize that the players are trying to put into play lessons learned during practice. When players hear conflicting instructions from the sideline, it only confuses them and thwarts their ability to "think on their feet". An important aspect of the AYSO program is Sportsmanship. The players need to experience:

- The fun of hard fought but fair competition
- Learning how to be gracious winners
- Accepting a loss with dignity
- The ability to improve through practice
- Acknowledging good plays by teammates as well as opponents
- Learning the social skills involved in becoming a member of the team
- Stay two (2) yards away from the touchlines, between the 18 yard lines (Spectator Area). No parent or Coach may stand behind the goal lines or on the opposite side of the field.

One of the ways our children learn good sportsmanship is by our demonstration of good sideline behavior. Our children will learn by taking the clues from our conduct. Negative comments have no place on the field or on the sidelines. Offer your support and encouragement. Keep a positive outlook and demonstrate it by supporting the Players, the Coaches and the Referees, in spite of any mistakes they may make during the course of the game. Give them your respect... because without the Players, the Coaches and the Referees, there wouldn't be any AYSO soccer.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!



MYTHS OF THE GAME

Common questions from parents, coaches, and players

Question: Isn't it always a "handball" when a field player touches the ball with her hand?

Answer: No. What the referee is looking for is, did the player handle the ball deliberately. If, in the opinion of the referee, the contact wasn't deliberate, then no foul has occurred. A good way to remember this is: "Did the hand play the ball, or did the ball play the hand?"

Question: Can a player play the ball while lying on the ground?

Answer: Of course they can, as long as they are not presenting a danger to themselves or others.

Question: Why don't referees always call "high kicks"?

Answer: There is no such foul in soccer as a "high kick"! A referee can call a foul for "dangerous play" if they feel a kick presented a danger to another player (it doesn't even have to be an opponent!)

Question: If a throw-in has sidespin, isn't that a sign that the throw was illegal?

Answer:: The only requirement on a throw-in is that 1) the player faces the field, 2) both feet need to be on or behind the line, 3) both hands are used, and 4) the throw needs to be delivered from behind and over the head. The flight of the ball is not looked at in determining a legal throw-in.

Question: What is offsides anyway?

Answer: Technically it's "offside" (no 's') and it's pretty easy once you get the hang of it. When a teammate plays the ball, if you are closer to the goal line than the ball and two opposing players, you are in an "offside position". But don't scream for a whistle just yet! It is NOT a foul to be in this position! The referees must always wait to see if the player then gets involved in the play. Only then is a foul called, and this is why it always seems like the call is delayed.

Question: Why don't referee's call more fouls, especially on the one's that seem obvious?

Answer: Soccer laws are unique from other sports in that the referee is not required, and in fact in some cases discouraged, from calling every single offense that they see. Soccer is a game that needs to flow, and calling a foul every minute of the game would ruin the game for both the players and the spectators. For this reason, a soccer referee has the latitude to allow some trifling offenses to go unpunished. The referee is there to keep the game Fair, Safe, and FUN!!



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