



REGION 84 PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK



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AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION MISSION STATEMENT

Key Objectives:

Purpose – To operate soccer programs where young people can learn to develop a positive self-image, self-confidence, and other positive character traits through their interest and participation in soccer based on our philosophy of:

Everyone Plays – Our goal is for kids to play soccer – so we mandate that every player on every team must play at least half of every game.

Balanced Teams – We require every Region at the start of each season to set up teams as evenly balanced as possible – because it is more fun where teams of equal ability play.

Positive Coaching –What makes winning kids is being built up, not down! We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism.

Open Registration – Our programs are open to all children between 4 and 18 years who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only requirements for playing. See our website for information - www.ayso84.org

Good Sportsmanship – We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win at cost attitude. All our programs must be designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

History of AYSO:

Five men dedicated to youth soccer and the development of caring and concerned American citizens founded the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in Torrance, California, in September of 1964. Ted McLean, Steve Erdos, Bill Hughes, Ralph Acosta, and AYSO's first President, Hans F. W. Stierle, became the first executives of an organization whose unique "Everyone Plays" and "Balanced Team" philosophies have generated a youth soccer program which has literally swept the country.

In 1964, AYSO's family included just nine teams. Today that number has grown to more than 50,000 teams with AYSO programs in 45 states and Washington, D.C. Today AYSO has more than 900 Regions throughout the country.

The division into geographic "Regions" has resulted in a grass-roots program with local leadership. A Regional Commissioner heads up each AYSO Region. The Regional Commissioner has the responsibility and authority to conduct the business of the Region within the framework of AYSO's Philosophy, Rules, Regulations and Bylaws. A Regional Board of Directors, appointed by the Regional Commissioner will govern the Region. Area Directors supervise several Regions and Section Directors are responsible for the general welfare and administration of a Section, which consists of a number of Areas.

AYSO soccer is a family affair, with 700,000 + players, ages 4 - 18. An average of one parent per family actively participates in AYSO, acting as coach, referee, team parent, administrator, or sponsor. AYSO currently has more than 200,000 unpaid volunteers.

Through AYSO, youngsters of varied backgrounds and athletic abilities are given the opportunity to participate in soccer. AYSO is the largest independent youth soccer organization in the country and it takes pride in providing quality programs for its youngsters and volunteers.

Today's AYSO program, although still concerned with expansion, now places an emphasis on the training and development of adult volunteers. That way we can be sure that the "quality" as well as the "quantity" of our program increases. AYSO, with the help of noted experts, is working to improve the education of our volunteers in the fields of child development, human behavior, sports psychology, ethics, and sportsmanship.

AYSO programs work because our volunteers work. They work because they believe in the AYSO program. Our phenomenal growth underlies AYSO's commitment to a healthy competitive atmosphere for youth soccer players and a concern for the development of caring, responsible individuals.

**Past Regional Commissioners Region 84
Charter Region Established in March of 1976**

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1976 – 1978 | Mr. Hernan Briggs |
| 1978 – 1979 | Ms. Shirley Shore |
| 1979 – 1980 | Mr. Ray Martineau |
| 1980 – 1982 | Mr. Edward Silva |
| 1982 – 1985 | Mr. Conrad Hopp |
| 1985 – 1988 | Mr. Art Richardson |
| 1988 – 1991 | Mr. Alan Gallup |
| 1991 – 1993 | Mr. Gert Jensen |
| 1993 – 1995 | Mr. Jack Minter |
| 1995 – 1997 | Ms. Debra Griffith |
| 1997 – 1999 | Mr. Mark Johnson |
| 1999 – 2001 | Ms. Diana Presta |
| 2001 – 2003 | Mr. Mark Spivey |
| 2003 – 2005 | Mr. Tim Reid |

PARENTS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Registration:

For more information - www.ayso84.org

Early Registration Day Player Fees = \$80/player – maximum \$200/family

Registration (after all walk in registration days) = \$110/player – no family maximum

All players must be registered with the region prior to participating in any practice or game. They must be approved by the Team Balance Coordinator prior to placement on teams – No Exceptions. If you know of a child who would like to register, please have them email the Registrar. Early registration closes after the walk in registration day(s). After July 13th players will be added on a space available basis only. Players may be added up to September 30th.

The Regional Financial Statement is available to all volunteers/parents on request. Please contact the Regional Commissioner.

The geographic area of AYSO Region 84 encompasses the city of Mission Viejo. AYSO recommends that players register within the Region in which they reside, although it is not mandatory. All players who are signed up on the announced day(s) of open registration are guaranteed to play in Mission Viejo on Region 84 teams. Players who are signing up late will be placed on teams only if space is available.

Address & Telephone Changes:

If your address and telephone number change, please keep us updated by sending your new contact information to AYSO Region 84, Registrar, P.O. Box 6080 – 178, Mission Viejo, CA 92690 or email Registrar@ayso84.org.

TEAMS

AYSO Division U10 through U19 teams are formed based upon team balance, i.e. players of different skill levels and experience are divided among teams in an attempt to ensure that all teams have an equal chance to win. In order to maintain team balance, we are unable to accommodate requests for placement on teams or placement with friends in these divisions. New players to the Region may be asked to attend a skills evaluation sessions to assist in team balancing. Teams in Division U6 – U8 will be based upon geographic proximity as much as possible with divisions being made up of equal amounts of older and younger players when possible.

Coaches will be selected and given their team information in late July/early August. Players should hear from their coaches by the first week of August. If you have not heard from your coach by August 25th, please contact the Program Director for your child's age division. (See the Directors link on our website for your Program Director's e-mail address.)

Once your child has been placed on a team, the coach will have a team meeting to distribute uniforms, game schedules, practice information, and request regional volunteers. In addition, coaches often request money from parents at the beginning of the season to pay for the team banner (not required), parties, and award (participation trophies are given to all Division U6, U7, U8 and VIP players). Our Region does not monitor these funds and we strongly encourage coaches to limit this dollar amount.

Who to contact:

Your main contact is your coach; however, if you should need to talk to someone on the board, we suggest you first direct your e-mail through the correct Program Director for your child's division.

Fall season: Practices may not begin prior to September 1; however, coaches may hold their team meeting prior to that date.

Divisions U6, U7 & U8 & VIP: Will have games every Saturday until the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. There are no makeup games.

Divisions U09 - U14: Games will be held every Saturday (and likely some Sunday or weeknight games in most divisions) through October. November will begin playoffs, with final rounds completed before the first week in December.

Division U16 & U19: The season runs from September through November. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays in order to allow playoffs in these Divisions before High School CIF regulations take effect.

U9, U10, U12 & U14 Season Format

The Fall season, for all U9, U10, U12 & U14 teams will consist of a regular season and a post season. All teams play regular season games, but only those teams that earn the minimum required Team Volunteer Points from the regular season (see separate policy) can participate in the post season Playoff games. The regular season consists of no-standings, Inter-League games and League games that have standings. The League games utilize standings with a 10 point scoring system. The 10 point system earns 6 points for a win, 3 points for a tie, 1 point for each goal (3 maximum) and 1 point for a shutout (opponent scores no goals). A score of 0 – 0 earns 4 points for each team.

The post season consists of Playoff games where all teams will qualify for the Playoffs if they earn the minimum number of Team Volunteer Points. The top 3 teams of a League from the regular season standings are automatically seeded into the League top 4 teams as 1st, 2nd & 3rd. The 4th place team will be determined by single elimination playoff games for regular season team standings in 4th place or lower; this allows for any team below the top 3 to be the wildcard team for 4th place. For a vacancy due to any team that does not earn the required Volunteer Points (applies to ALL teams), all teams below that point will move up in standings by 1 place.

Because of Region 84's large size, each Division (e.g. Boys U12) is broken down into Leagues with a specific number of teams. The team count of each league is dependent upon the number of kids registered to play and can vary between leagues or Division. Standings will be kept for teams during the regular season where teams will play all the teams within their league where the game

outcome counts. These standings will be used to seed the teams for the post season Playoffs as described above.

As an example, a league team count with 8 teams will have the regular season consist of 2 or more games of inter-league play which are no-standings games. 7 games are played amongst teams of that league where the game outcome earns points as described above. The Inter-league games are used so that teams can play all regular season games against a different team.

Most games will be scheduled for Saturdays, but games for both the regular season and the post season may include some Sunday or weeknight games. However, any regular season games not scheduled for Saturday are planned to be Inter-League, no standings games. This could change primarily dependent upon the weather.

The League Playoff Games between the top 4 teams will have Semi-Finals (1) and Finals (2) which means any of the top 4 teams could become the League Champion. The League Champions advance to the Division playoffs. The Division Champion represents Region 84 in the Area Playoffs.

Once team standings take effect, standings reports will be published on the Region website together with Team Volunteer Points earned. Each team is responsible for reviewing their points earned; any discrepancies need to be promptly reported to the League Manager.

(1) Semi-Finals = 1st vs 4th (A), 2nd vs 3rd (B)

(2) Finals = Championship (1st & 2nd Place) - Winner (A) vs Winner (B); Consolation (3rd & 4th Place) - Loser (A) vs Loser (B)

CONDUCT CODE - PLAYERS / PARENTS / SPECTATORS / COACHES / REFEREES

Too often many of us forget the real reason for being out on the fields; encouraging and supporting our children, promoting fair play and good sportsmanship, teaching the kids how to have fun while competing, and learn that there is more to winning and losing than just the final score.

Our Coaches and Referees are unpaid parental and youth volunteers, who are doing their best to ensure our children's safety, while upholding the spirit of the laws of soccer. The coaches and referees cannot and will not tolerate any abusive behavior (from parents and players). In addition to setting a poor example for the children, derogatory comments or constant complaining about the referee's calls, will jeopardize our ability to attract and retain volunteers without whom we cannot play. In instances where parents / coaches / players cannot control their comments or behavior, they will be requested to leave the game area and, in extreme situations, may not be allowed to watch or participate in further games.

Misconduct will be handled by FIFA Laws of the Game and Region 84 Exceptions to Laws (Specifically, Misconduct and Disciplinary Policy).

Please help us ensure all our games are positive experiences for our children, and all of our hard working volunteers.

Player's Conduct Code:

- Play for the "fun of it," not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with or complain about the referee's calls or decisions.
- Control your temper and most of all; resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work equally hard for your team as yourself.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether it is your team or your opponent's.
- Treat all players, as you yourself would like to be treated.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and feel good. Don't be a show-off or a "ball hog".
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents, and the referees – there cannot be any soccer games without them.

Parents / Spectators Code:

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- 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.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Set a good example. Children learn best by examples.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the Referee's judgment and **never** their honesty.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches, referees, officials and give them due respect. Without them there would be no AYSO soccer.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
- **Alcohol is not permitted at any city park or school facility.**
- **To present a healthy environment for players, coaches, referees and parents shall neither consume alcoholic beverages nor use tobacco products during practices, games, or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.**

Coaches Conduct Code:

- Coaches will be a positive example to both the players and all spectators.
- Coaches will apply positive coaching during the game.
- Coaches understand that they set the tone of the spectators on their side of the field (if they are positive so will their spectators).
- Coaches understand and accept that they are responsible for all actions and comments that come from their side of the field.
- Coaches will not excessively and repeatedly question the referee's calls or actions during the game. You will wait until the end of the game if you feel you have a need for clarification on a certain call or action. But at all times maintain your composure and approach the referee from a logical not an emotional perspective.
- Coaches have the right to submit to the Regional Coach Administrator a written report on the game. Game reports should be on anything out of the ordinary and not on the referee, or any judgment calls.
- Coaches understand that the referee is the final authority on the safety and the laws of the game. Their decisions are final.
- Coaches understand that there is no appealing the game results.
- Coaches understand that failure to act in a positive and responsible manner, may lead to immediate removal from the game and possible disciplinary actions against them.
- Coaches, please wear proper attire, i.e. no shirt, no shoes – No Coaching.
- **Alcohol is not permitted at any city park or school facility.**
- **To present a healthy environment for players, coaches, referees and parents shall neither consume alcoholic beverages nor use tobacco products during practices, games, or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.**

Referee Conduct Code:

- Referees will present themselves in a positive and friendly manner to players and coaches at all times.
- Referees will do their best to start all games on time.
- Referees will keep team check-in short and to the point.
- Referees will accept normal sideline comments and noise that is not questioning of their calls, judgment, or authority. Positive and encouraging comments are what we want to promote.
- Referees understand that the number one responsibility is to keep the game fair, fun, and safe for the players.
- Referees have the right to submit a written report to the Regional Referee Administrator concerning any team, coach, or spectator that has been less than positive.
- Referees are not to touch any player under any circumstances, injured or not.
- Referees will submit a written report to the Regional Referee Administrator for any serious misconduct, i.e. any game ejections.
- **Alcohol is not permitted at any city park or school facility.**
- **To present a healthy environment for players, coaches, referees and parents shall neither consume alcoholic beverages nor use tobacco products during practices, games, or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.**

VOLUNTEER POINT SYSTEM – BE A VOLUNTEER!

Region 84 has a **Team Point Policy** for the Fall and Spring seasons. For the Fall season each U10, U12 & U14 teams are eligible to participate in the post season Playoffs (see Fall season format procedure) if they meet the point requirements. Each team needs to earn at least 10 (ten) team points in standings and non standings games. During the Spring season teams are eligible for tournament approval if the team has provided the required volunteer points

All teams must have at least one Referee represent their team and ALL teams are expected to earn at least 10 Team Points. All U10 and up regular season games are eligible to earn points where 1 point is earned for each Center Referee or Asst Referee position (3 points possible per game). Games in the U6, U7 and U8 age groups are NOT eligible to earn points. Only games published by the Region 84 Referee Staff for Referee assignments are eligible for earning points and will posted on the Regional website.

Referees **MUST** be at least a Basic badge to officiate U10 or up games and **MUST** be a **registered Volunteer** with AYSO National via eAYSO at www.eAYSO.org to earn volunteer points.

Referees **MUST** be in full uniform to earn points. No Referee representing a team is to Center or Asst Referee officiate that team's games by signing up in advance. If however, there is a need for a Referee at game time, points can be earned provided the Referee is in full uniform. Referees who are spectators at games are to remove their jersey or cover the jersey. Basic badge Referees wanting to Center officiate BU12 or higher games must be approved by the Referee Administration prior to signing up for games. Newly trained Basic Referees may not sign up to officiate U14 games as an Asst Referee without Referee Administration prior approval.

Coaches or spouses of coaches who are Referees are discouraged from officiating **standings** games in the same League as their respective team.

Team points are tracked by the Team number the Referee is representing; this team number must be provided when signing up for games and also be on the completed game cards (these will be used to audit confirm games). A Referee can represent more than one team, but the team minimum point requirement still applies.

A report showing how many points each team earned will be published on the Region's website. The Referee game assignments will be published for the entire regular season on the website so that each team can audit their points as needed. It is the team's responsibility to promptly report any discrepancies to the Referee assignor for the game in question. Once points are assigned to a team after the game is played, they can not be moved to a different team.

All Referees who officiate 10 or more games in the Fall season for U10 and higher games will have their child receive priority for a Spring U10, 12, or U14 Recreation team selection. Playoff games are eligible for the 10 game requirement. Note: U16 and U19 teams are considered Tournament Teams. Referees who officiate 10 or more games in the U8 division and higher will have their child receive priority for a Spring U8 team selection.

FAQ's

Q – What games can a newly trained Basic badged Referee sign up for?

A – Ctr or Asst Referee for any U10 or GU12 game. Asst Referee for BU12.

Q – Why do you have this restriction?

A – Games above these levels are faster and more challenging where new Referees need to gain experience with the less demanding games.

Q – Can I take the Referee training class at Regions other than Mission Viejo?

A – Yes.

AYSO works because our volunteers work! Our program is run entirely by volunteers. Parents, when you sign up your child, ask us how you can help. There are many opportunities where our AYSO volunteers make a difference!

Help is needed for Picture Day, Field Set Up, Registration, Tournaments, and Special Events. Coaches and Referees are always needed.

Division U6 through U8 will be required to provide two of their own-trained referees for all games. Please see Referee section for information on clinics, and how little time it takes to learn the game of soccer!

AYSO DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS- FALL 2007

Any requests to play a child up a division must be made in writing at the time of player registration. **Under NO circumstances will a child be allowed to play down a division.**

| <u>Year Player Born</u> | <u>Division #</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 8/1/2003 – 2004 | U5 |
| 2002 – 2003 | U6 |
| 2001 – 2002 | U7 |
| 2000 – 2001 | U8 |
| 1998 – 2000 | U10 |
| 1996 – 1998 | U12 |
| 1994 – 1996 | U14 |
| 1992 – 1994 | U16 |
| 1989 – 1992 | U19 |

There is no VIP in Division U6. Players are divided into different playing divisions based upon their birth dates. Girls and boys, at all ages, play with/against only players of the same sex (exception: VIP Program). The VIP Program is split into two levels – Upper VIP and Lower VIP.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

Each player is responsible for providing athletic footwear, shinguards (**shinguards are required & must be completely covered by socks**), and a correct size ball as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Division U14, U16 & U19 | Size 5 |
| Division U9, U10 & U12 | Size 4 |
| Division U5, U6, U7 & U8 | Size 3 |
| VIP – Upper | Size 4 |
| VIP – Lower | Size 3 |

Uniforms shall be provided by AYSO Region 84, consisting of a jersey, shorts, and socks. Such uniforms shall be properly marked in accordance with AYSO guidelines. **No uniform may bear the name of any registered player or team name.** Any problems with uniform sizing should be handled through your coach, who will then contact the appropriate League Manager / Program Director.

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 metal cleats or toe cleats are allowed. **Shin guards are required in all AYSO competitions and practices at all levels and must be completely covered by socks to prevent injury.** Referees are authorized to prohibit a player without proper equipment from playing in any AYSO game. Please see additional information under safety.

AYSO PLUS

The AYSO *PLUS* Program was established in 1994. It was formed as a competitive experience for AYSO players whose skills qualify them to participate. As in every other AYSO program, the National Rules and Regulations will be enforced, and the AYSO philosophies are upheld in this program. In order to participate, all participants must be registered in Region 84 for the regular fall season. The AYSO+ program will run during the fall season with a post-season tournament. For teams to be eligible to participate in the post-season tournament, each team must earn at least 10 Volunteer Points by Refereeing games (see procedures above for the details). Games will likely be played between Areas L (Saddleback Valley), Q (Irvine/Newport/Tustin), and K (Huntington Beach). The AYSO *plus* Program will follow the Rules and Regulations as provided under the AYSO *plus* program. A copy of these Rules and Regulations will be distributed to the AYSO *plus* coaches. AYSO National, at the Annual General Meeting, will make final changes to existing rules.

The AYSO *plus* program will be restricted to Division U11, U12, U13 & U14 boys and girls. Open tryouts will be held for all those who have registered for the fall season. **The tryout dates will be advertised in advance of the tryouts.** Qualified neutral coaches under the supervision of the Region Coach Administrator will run the tryouts. Tryouts will include assessments of individual skills and performance in game-like situations as specified by the National Coaching Commission.

Interested coaches must be Advance Coach certified and poses a Regional referee badge. AYSO *plus* coaches will be chosen by the Regional AYSO *plus* Committee, headed by the Regional AYSO *plus* Director, Regional commissioner, Regional Assistant commissioner and the Regional Coach Administrator.

AYSO *plus* teams are being required to provide a 3 person referee team. Please see Referee section for information on clinics, and how little time it takes to learn the game of soccer!

VIP (VERY IMPORTANT PLAYER) PROGRAM

The VIP Division of Region 84 provides children with physical and mental disabilities, the opportunity to play soccer at their own level. It embraces the "Everyone Plays" philosophy of AYSO in both widening the number of children participating in soccer and guaranteeing each child will play at least half of each game. The VIP Program is split into two levels, Upper VIP and Lower VIP. The Upper VIP will follow Division U8 rules and the Lower VIP will follow the Division U7 rules for short-sided games.

VIP Exceptions to Rules and Regulations:

- No scores or season standings are kept.
- Coaches are allowed on the fields at all times.
- At least one parent or guardian must be present at all games.
- Flexibility in adjusting game to children's abilities.
- Every participant receives an award at the end of the season.

COACHES - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Our Coaching Program is completely dependent upon volunteers. Our Regional Coaching Staff conducts training programs throughout the year. Player participation has increased dramatically in our youth programs. Along with the explosion in soccer participation, has come the need to develop more and better-prepared coaches. Our program reflects the most recent approaches to teaching soccer techniques and tactics. We believe that our program is tailored specifically to provide a solid foundation for the novice to advanced coach, offering the best planning resources for organizing worthwhile practice sessions for a successful and fun season.

U5, U6, U8 & U10 Certification: These clinics are geared to the younger division and are age specific. These clinics are conducted in a single day in an informal classroom and field environment. The course content is based upon the new AYSO age specific course guidelines. New coaches are strongly encouraged to attend.

Intermediate Coach Certification: This clinic provides a solid foundation for coaching young players and is highly recommended for all team and assistant coaches (4.5 hours classroom and 10.5 hours field sessions). Coaches who are interested in coaching All Stars or a Spring Select team must be at least an intermediate certified coach.

Advanced Coach Certification: This clinic focuses on a variety of complex drills and tactics through a series of demonstrations and soccer theories contributed by successful coaches. Instruction is provided by the AYSO National Coaching Staff and is required to become a Regional Instructor. (This includes three full days of instruction).

Safe Haven Certification Course for Coaches: SAFE HAVEN is a mandatory certification course for all coaches, assistant coaches, referees and administrators. All such volunteers are required as of January 1, 2000, to be SAFE HAVEN CERTIFIED. The course is a 3 hour course and is offered in conjunction with some of our other coaching clinics.

Our Region has an extensive video library, which we have available to all intermediate and above certified coaches.

Coaching Administration: see our website – www.ayso84.org

TEAM FORMATION

1. Team names shall bear no resemblance to any religion or nationality.
2. Teams shall participate only in games approved by the Regional Commissioner.
3. Each Division U16 & U19 team shall have a maximum of twenty (20) players registered. Each Division U12-U14 team shall have a maximum of fourteen (14) players registered. Division U10 teams shall have a maximum of twelve (12) players registered. Division U8 teams shall have a maximum of ten (10) players registered. Division U7 teams a maximum of Twelve

- (12) players registered. Division U6 teams a maximum of eleven (11) players registered. VIP Upper Division teams shall have a maximum of sixteen (16) and VIP Lower Division teams shall have a maximum of fourteen (14). Division U6, U8, U10 and VIP teams will play small-sided games (See Special Rules).
4. Every effort will be made to balance team strengths within any one age division with the exception of Division U6, U7 & U8 as noted in Special Rules.
 5. A Region or Area cannot form leagues on a major/minor basis within any, or all, of its divisions (exception see Plus Program).
 6. Retention of players in the regular season is prohibited. In Region 84, a Head Coach and an Assistant Coach may work together for more than one year with their accompanying children only.
 7. 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 and Team Balance Coordinator.
 8. Coaches can only drop players from teams if after the second week of the season the player cannot be reached. Attempts must be made to call all phone numbers listed on the registration form. The coach must notify his/her League Manager of all drops. A refund will only be issued to the player if the parents make a **written request** to the registrar (See refund policy).
 9. Coaches may not add players directly to their teams. The Team Balance Coordinator must approve all additions of players to teams. Division U6-U8 player approval may be made by the Program Director.
 10. Players injured during the season **must** notify the Safety Director. A refund cannot be issued for injured players.
 11. **The Region closes registration as of September 30 and no players will be added to teams after this date.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES

1. A Coach is responsible for the personal conduct of each team player before, during, and after a game or practice.
2. Ensure that players and spectators have the highest regard for sportsmanship and respect for the game official. **Therefore, verbal or any other abuse of referees will not be tolerated.** Please see Conduct Code.
3. Provide **positive team coaching**. Coaching is allowed only from within the coach's box (within ten yards of either side of the half line and one yard away from, and parallel to the touch line). Coaching is limited to one (1) Coach and one (1) Assistant Coach in the game, and they will remain on the same side of the field with their team.
4. Train and coach his/her team to the best of his/her ability.
5. Uphold the Rules and Regulations of AYSO.
6. **Enter the field of play only when requested by the referee.**
7. Encourage positive team support and enthusiasm from parents (See Conduct Code).
8. Inform spectators of the requirement to stay behind the spectator's line (See field diagram).
9. Provide a properly completed lineup card to the game referee, upon request prior to the start of the game.
10. Have substitutions ready at the half line during Substitution (quarter) breaks, so the referee may note the substitutions on the game card easily and quickly.
11. **Maintain possession of player registration and medical release forms during all practices and games (with an original signature), in case of injury.** Any and all injuries (no matter how minor you feel they might be) must be reported immediately to the Safety Director. Make sure the player has a doctor/parent approval before allowing the player to return. **IMPORTANT:** Region 84 AYSO co-insurance requires that the injured party submit a claim form within 90 days of the injury.
12. Recruit parent volunteers as necessary. **Important:** Each Division U6, U7 & U8 team is required to provide two certified small sided game referees. The Referee Course (U6-U8) = approximately 5 hours of training. The Basic Referee Course (U10 and Up) = approximately 9 hours of training. Exception, a Referee class (U6 – U8) taken in July 2003 or later will have those hours count towards the Basic Referee course 9 hrs = only need to take the 4 additional hours). See the separate section about the Team Volunteer Point Requirement for all U10 – U14 teams with Referee participation.
13. Limit team practices to a maximum of four (4) hours per week for Divisions U10 – U19 (No more than 2 days per week). Limit team practices to a maximum of three (3) hours per week for Divisions U6, U7, U8 & VIP (No more than 2 days per week).

CONSEQUENCES

The rules and regulations of our Region are in place to help insure fair play and safety for all players. Coaches who fail to follow the required guidelines will be brought before the Regional Board for possible disciplinary action. Some of the items, which continue to be of great concern to the board, behavior of the coach during games, behavior of the spectators at games (the coach is responsible for all sideline behavior), teams practicing more than the maximum times per week, starting practices prior to the

week following Labor Day, and improper dress at practices (no shin guards – socks not covering shin guards).

When a coach does not follow any guideline, rule, or policy, the Region will have the right to first warn the coach, and second, suspend the coach for one or more games. The suspension will be similar to an ejection issued by Referees during games. Please see "Policy Regarding Misconduct at Games."

In addition, it is mandatory that every Division U5 through U14 team provides at least two trained certified referees.

No team shall receive medical release forms or uniforms until the Region has received their volunteers. No practice or game will take place without medical release forms. Any coach practicing without medical release forms will face disciplinary actions.

REFEREES, AN ESSENTIAL PART OF SOCCER

Under AYSO National policy, we are not allowed to hold a game without a trained, certified referee present. If you are concerned about the safety of your children and believe in contributing something to your community, consider volunteering as a referee. We will train you to be a referee, provide a uniform, and provide mentors to work with you at the field to ensure your development and enjoyment. **Your help is critical at this time!**

There are three programs in our Region for referees. These are U6 – U8 Officials, Regional Referees, and the Player Referee Organization (PRO) Referees. Referee certification requires classroom and field instruction. See the Regional Calendar for course dates and types. Courses are offered by Region 84 and other regions within our area. Additional information about referee instruction is available on our web page at www.ayso84.org.

PRO Referees is open to all girls and boys ages 12 and up. This is an excellent way for youth to earn required service hours for graduation. PRO Referees must meet all the requirements of the course they select and be at least two years older than the players in a game that they officiate at the center referee position. All courses are provided free of charge to our youth volunteers.

U8 Official Course (U6 – U8) is designed as an entry level referee course for those wishing to referee games with players ages under 8. The course contains approximately 5 hours of instruction material and is offered free of charge. The course is offered several times as fall season teams are being formed and as the season begins.

Basic Referee Course (U10 and older) is designed as a required entry level referee course for those wishing to referee games with players ages 8 or older. The principal player age targeted by this course is the U10 Division. The course contains approximately 9 hours of instruction material and is offered free of charge. The course is offered as fall season teams are being formed and as the season begins. Region 84 requires referees at this level to wear a referee uniform and provides this uniform and other required equipment free of charge to those who successfully complete this course.

Intermediate, Advanced and National Referee courses are offered for those referees wishing to further their understanding and application of the Laws and Spirit of the Game. They are offered on selected dates throughout the year in various locations within our area or section. Visit the Region's web site at www.ayso84.org to learn more about these courses.

Safe Haven Certification Course for Referees: SAFE HAVEN is a mandatory certification course for all coaches, assistant coaches, referees and administrators. The Referee Safe Haven course is one hour and is incorporated into the U8 Official course and the Basic Referee Course schedules. All such volunteers are required as of January 1, 2000, to be SAFE HAVEN CERTIFIED.

All referees who officiate at least 10 games during the season in U10 and up Divisions will be given priority for their child for placement on a Spring Select Recreational team. Referees who officiate at least 10 games in U8 and up Divisions will be given priority for their child for placement on U8 Spring Recreational teams.

Referee Administration: see our website – www.ayso84.org

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF REFEREES

1. The AYSO referee is a volunteer whose task and responsibility is to promote player safety and administer the Laws and spirit of the Game. AYSO officials must at all times be supported by coaches, players, parents and spectators.
2. Administer FIFA Laws of the Game in the spirit of AYSO Rules and Regulations (See Law 5, Laws of the Game).
3. At all times, place great emphasis on the welfare of the players, and officiate the game in a manner that is conducive to clean competition and good sportsmanship. If a player is injured, therefore, 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.
4. Provide pre-game console to players and coaches of both teams regarding any special conditions that may have an impact on the game.
5. Assure that both teams (U10 and up) are in possession of their lineup cards, and they are properly completed and submitted at the end of the game to the appropriate League Manager or Division Representative.
6. Perform a pre-game safety check to ensure that players are wearing appropriate uniform, footwear, and safety equipment.

PRACTICE FIELD POLICY

We expect coaches to use their best judgment to ensure safety at all times. We will not tolerate any "on-field" confrontations between coaches at any time. Should any questions or disputes arise; the coach will elevate the issue to the appropriate League Manager(s) who will involve the appropriate Program Director(s). All coaches will ensure that they are positive role models to all players and spectators.

1. Whenever/Wherever possible, teams will practice where they play.
2. Fields will be shared between teams. If two teams are present each will have half the field, if three teams are present each team will have a third of the field. If a fourth team shows up, they will wait for one of the teams to vacate and then utilize the third of the field vacated. Scrimmages **do not** take precedent over regular practices.
3. To "hold" a portion of the field requires a coach and 5 players (from that team) to be present. If another team arrives prior to the first team having a coach and 5 players present, the members of the first team will vacate the desired portion of the field.
4. Division U6, U7 &, U8 & U10 teams may practice on "big" fields only **if no other team is present**. Should a Division U6 - U8 team begin practice on a "big" field and an upper Division team arrives, the Division U6 - U8 team will vacate the field immediately.
5. Should a Division U6-U8 "small" field be empty, an upper Division team may practice on it. If a Division U6 – U8 team shows up, the upper Division team must either vacate or post players on the halfway line to ensure no balls go through to the younger team. If two Division U6 – U8 teams show up, the upper Division team shall vacate the "small" field immediately.
6. Lighted fields may be scheduled for practice time slots. A schedule will be distributed through the Program Directors (from the Regional Commissioner and the Field's Director) for the appropriate fields. If your games are played on fields with lights you may be required to practice on a different field. Upper division teams will be given priority on lighted fields for practice.
7. **Reminder: Shin guards are to be worn at all practices and must be completely covered by socks. Coaches must have possession of their player's Medical Release Forms at all practices.**

THE SOCCER GAME

The Officials – AYSO strongly encourages the use of three game officials, one referee and two assistant referees. The referee is the ultimate authority during the game. The referee's chief responsibility is the safety of the players. The referee enforces the Laws of the Game by calling fouls and determining if goals have been legally scored. Two assistant referees assist the referee in all aspects of the game including indicating offside violations, ball out of play, and fouls.

Playing The Ball – Each player may use their feet, head, thighs, and chest to stop, control, pass the ball, and to move with it, or score. Only the goalkeeper is allowed to use their hands and arms and can do so only within their own penalty area. When goalkeepers are playing outside their own penalty areas they may not use their hands.

The Laws of the Game (Rules) – Soccer rules are called "Laws." There are 17 Laws of the Game. Their purpose is simply to make the game safe and fair. Officials call fouls or misconduct violations based on the Laws of the Game. A good rule of thumb, if it's unsafe or unfair, it's probably a violation. If you are interested in learning more about the Laws of the Game by becoming a volunteer, see the Referee portion of our web page at www.ayso84.org. The Laws of the Game and additional information about the Laws of the Game can be found at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/referees>

For all information regarding AYSO National rules, regulations and policies

<http://www.soccer.org>

Interpretation – The Laws of the Game are interpreted by volunteer AYSO referees during the matches. Their interpretation, and only theirs, is valid. The referee has the authority to suspend or terminate a game if, in his/her opinion, conditions warrant such action.

AYSO REGION 84

EXCEPTIONS TO FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

All AYSO games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game with the exceptions as follows (See Special rules Division U6 – U8): Division U16 & U19 will follow all Area Guidelines.

When a game is played in the Region, the Region rules are used. Area rules are used when the game is an Area game (Area playoff, Division U16 & U19, All Stars). When a Section game is played (Section playoffs, All Stars Section Playoffs, Spring Select & AYSO+), the Section rules are used. Teams participating out of the Area will be provided with copies of the appropriate rules.

I. Competition

- A. In Division U10-U19, coaches and other officials shall not enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee. Coaches are to remain in coaching boxes. Spectators are to remain in the spectators' area.
- B. In Division U12-U19, a minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a team; a scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field seven (7) eligible players.
- C. In Division U10 a minimum of five (5) players shall constitute a team; a scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field five (5) eligible players.
- D. A game shall not commence until the coach is in possession of all Player/Medical Release forms (with an original signature).
- E. A game shall not commence until the referee has checked to see that all players have the proper equipment and issued uniforms.
- F. A game shall not commence until a properly completed game card is presented to the referee.
- G. Only the referee in charge can cancel or suspend a contest. Region 84 will not consider protests of games.
- H. No changes of games schedules or rescheduling of games will be made unless approved by the Regional Commissioner.

II. Duration of Games:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. Division U5 – U8 | See Special Rules for Division U5 –U8 |
| B. Division U10 | Two 25 minute halves |
| C. Division U12 | Two 30 minute halves |
| D. Division U14 | Two 35 minute halves |
| E. Division U16 | Two 40 minute halves |
| F. Division U19 | Two 45 minute halves |
| G. VIP-Upper | Two 25 minute halves |
| H. VIP-Lower | See Special Rules Division U6 –U8 |

A break is called at approximately midway through each half so that substitutions may be made in compliance with Region 84 policy that all players must play at least three-quarters of the game. There is no overtime during seasonal play; ties stand.

III. Fields

- A. The coaches are responsible for field set up (setting up goals/nets/corner flags and properly lining the field). The field set-up schedule will be distributed to the coaches with their fall season schedule. It is the policy of this Region, to have the first team of the day set up the field, and the last team of the day takes down the field. Each team is responsible for removing its own trash at the conclusion of each game. **No trash is to be left at any facility.**
- B. The field shall be properly marked with a spectator area designation and coach's box. The spectator area shall be parallel to the touch line at a distance of at least three (3) yards from the touch line, and from the penalty area to penalty area in length. The coach's box will be parallel to the touch line and at a distance of one (1) yard from the touch line and ten (10) yards each side of the half line. All coaches, referees, assistant referees, and other league officials are asked to ensure that spectators remain within the spectator area. Do not leave any paint cans unattended on the field. **After marking fields, Place all paint cans (used and unused) in your car.**
- C. Dimensions of the field of play, marking of goal area, penalty area, corner arcs, and goals will be at the discretion of the Region, except during post-season play-off games wherein the field must conform to all FIFA Laws of the game requirements, including the size being no less than 100 yards in length and 50 yards in width.

IV. Substitution

- A. Division U6 – U14 players **must** play at least **three** quarters of each Region 84 Fall scheduled games, including the Division Playoff games.
- B. Players may sit out more than 1 quarter due to injury, sickness, late arrival or if the child or parent desires it. If a player sits out more than 1 quarter for one of these reasons, it will be noted on the game card and if a parent requests it, the parent will be requested to sign the game card.
- C. Plus and Upper Division (U16/U19) games still follow the National/Area requirement of all players play at least 1/2 of all games (also subject to the above exceptions).
- D. 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. Region 84 requires that players in Divisions U6 – U14 play at least three quarters of each game.
- E. Players in Division U16 & U19 will be allowed "free" substitution. It will be the responsibility of the coaches to see that players play one-half of each game. Free substitution is as follows:
 1. Before a goal kick or throw-in.
 2. Between periods.
 3. After a caution – cautioned player only.
 4. After an injury – injured player only, when referee stops play.
 5. Substitution for injury:
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 quarter played regardless of the actual time played. The coach retains the option to play shorthanded, thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter in which he/she was injured. The player must first be recognized by the referee in order to legally return to the game.
 6. Players arriving late to a game:
If the player arrives during the first quarter, the player must play a minimum of (2) two of the remaining (3) three quarters. If the player arrives during the second or third quarter, the player must play a minimum of one (1) quarter.

V. Policy regarding misconduct at games

It should be remembered that at no time, during the course of AYSO competition should any abusive conduct or other display of poor sportsmanship be tolerated. Should abusive conduct occur, the referee has the authority to:

- A. **Suspend** the competition if the abusive conduct is influencing the integrity of play.
- B. **Yellow Card** – During such suspension, the referee may issue a warning to the abusive party or request the coach to do so. The referee may elect to issue a Caution (Yellow Card) in accordance with the Laws of the Game if warranted by the infraction.
 - 1. Divisions U10, U12 & U14 players receiving a Yellow Card should be talked to by their coaches, and counseled to ensure that they learn from their mistakes and do not repeat the offense.
 - 2. The Referee shall prepare a written “Misconduct Report” for all cautions (yellow card) issued.
- C. **Red Card** – If the referee judges the abuse to be excessive, he/she may “red card” the player involved, and request that they leave the area for the remainder of the competition. Players can receive a red card without first receiving a yellow card. **A judgment by the Referee to issue a red or yellow card is final; no appeals allowed.**
 - 1. A player ejected from a game (i.e. given a red card) shall not participate further in that game, and shall leave the immediate vicinity of the field before play is resumed. The Referee shall have discretion in determining what constitutes “immediate vicinity.” The ejected player is not to be permitted to play in his/her team’s next scheduled game, and is not permitted to be present at the field during the next scheduled game. Coaches are responsible to ensure that any player who has received a red card does not play in the team’s next scheduled game. Any failure to do so will result in a disciplinary hearing before the Region 84 Disciplinary Board, with discipline up to and including removal as coach.
 - a. The referee shall report all ejected (red card) players via telephone to the Regional Referee Administration on the same day as the occurrence.
- D. **Restart** play when he/she is satisfied that the situation is under control.
- E. **Terminate** the game, and report the circumstances to the Regional Referee Administration if the referee considers that he/she cannot regain control of the game.
- F. **If a coach or assistant coach is ejected** from a game, they must leave the vicinity of the field, and may not participate or be present at the team’s next game. A Referee is authorized to suspend a game in order to gain compliance. (Note: The Referee only shows red (and yellow) cards to players. Coaches/Assistant Coaches may be cautioned or ejected, but the Referee will not show them a card.)

VI. Discipline Policy – Region 84

- A. **Guidance to Coaches/Parents/Spectators:** The Referee’s primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the players. The authority of the Referee team (hereafter referred to as “the referee”) to administer Region 84 Disciplinary Policy, begins when the Referee enters the park or school grounds where the game will be played. The opinion of the Referee on points of judgment, as well as points of fact concerning the Laws of the Game (and AYSO modifications of the Laws) before, during, and after the games, shall be final. The Referee is authorized, as the official AYSO representative at the field, to enforce the policy set forth herein. The judgment of the Referee, concerning the need to apply disciplinary measures as provided for in this policy, shall be final. Similarly, within the guidance provided by this policy, the judgment of the Referee concerning his/her choice of what disciplinary action is taken is also final. In those instances where the Referee has caused a disciplinary matter to be brought before the AYSO Region 84 Disciplinary Board, the decision of the Disciplinary Board is final.
 - 1. **The scope of this disciplinary policy is intended to encompass not only the application of the Laws of the Game, but also Region 84 Disciplinary guidelines relating to players, coaches, parents, and other spectators.**

2. **Coaches** are expected to have reviewed the Region 84 Conduct Code with players, parents, and spectators and instructed them on their expected behavior. Most importantly, coaches are expected to model the positive philosophy and behavior which is the core of AYSO.
 3. **Parents** are required to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to a youth activity, and consistent with the philosophy of AYSO. The Referee has the duty and authority to carry out disciplinary policy so as to ensure the safety and enjoyment of both players and non-players alike. Parents will remain within a "Spectator Area" and should remain on the same side of the field as the team of their player. If a coach objects to a parent with ties to the opposing team being on his/her team's side of the field, the Referee will require those individuals to return to their own side of the field. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their "team parents" (i.e. a parent of a player). If a disciplinary problem is caused by a "team parent," the Referee should tactfully discuss the nature of the problem with the appropriate coach and require the coach to obtain compliance from the offending individual.
 4. **Spectators** are required to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to a youth activity, and consistent with the philosophy of AYSO. The Referee has the duty and authority to carry out disciplinary policy so as to ensure the safety and enjoyment of both players and non-players alike. Spectators will remain within a "Spectator Area" and should remain on the same side of the field as the team of their player. If a coach objects to a spectator with ties to the opposing team being on his/her team's side of the field, the Referee will require those individuals to return to their own side of the field. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their "team spectators" (i.e. a relative or friend of a player or member of the coaching staff of their team). If a disciplinary problem is caused by a "team spectator," the Referee should tactfully discuss the nature of the problem with the appropriate coach and require the coach to obtain compliance from the offending individual.
 5. **Casual Spectators** (i.e. someone with no ties to either team) – If a disciplinary problem is caused by a "casual spectator," the Referee should tactfully discuss the individual's behavior directly with the offending individual(s). If the Referee is unable to obtain the individual's cooperation, the Referee is authorized to suspend the game until the offending individual either ceases the offending behavior or leaves the vicinity of the field.
 6. This policy including the distinction between "team spectators" and "casual spectators," is intended to hold coaches responsible for the behavior of spectators where it is appropriate to do so. Simultaneously, the intent is to avoid holding coaches responsible for the behavior or actions of spectators who have no ties to their team, and are beyond their control.
- B. **Guidance to Referees:** Within the context of AYSO's principles, Referees shall administer the FIFA policy regarding discipline. Players, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to refrain from behavior or language that is in any way detrimental to the maintenance of a positive, enjoyable environment for all participants, or which violates FIFA law and/or AYSO modifications of the laws. To achieve this goal, Referees will, wherever possible, utilize the following progressive seven-step discipline management system in administering disciplinary policy: **talk – whistle - verbally warn - caution – eject – suspend game – terminate game**. These seven steps will be applied according to the division applicability (See special rules for Division U6 –U8). Referees are authorized to use these seven steps if, in the opinion of the Referee, the circumstances of the situation warrants it. The referee's decision to apply these measures is final. In unusual circumstances, taking into account the seriousness of the situation and the age level of the players, the referee has the authority to skip steps and proceed directly to that step which he/she feels is necessary and appropriate to control the situation. The referee is not obligated to apply these seven measures in sequential order.
- C. **Player Discipline:** Regional policy applies to Division U6 – U14. Area policy applies to Divisions U16 & U19 and any area playoffs or post season play. See special rules for disciplinary guidelines for Division U6 –U8. Regular FIFA policy shall be enforced for Divisions U10, U12 & U14. The Referee shall utilize all "Seven Steps." As noted previously, however, it is not mandatory that the steps be applied sequentially.
- D. **Persistent Disciplinary Problems:** Persistent disciplinary problems will be addressed by a Disciplinary Board comprised of the Regional (or Assistant Regional) Commissioner, the Referee Administrator(s), the Chief Coach, and the appropriate Program Director, or their designee.

- E. **Assaults on AYSO Volunteers:** Any player, coach, assistant coach, parent, or spectator who is alleged to have committed any type of assault on a referee, assistant referee, or any other AYSO volunteer shall immediately be suspended from participating in all AYSO games and/or practices. Such suspension shall remain in effect until a disciplinary hearing has been completed. An assault may result in a lifetime ban from AYSO.
 - 1. The California Penal Code (Section 243.8) provides serious criminal penalties against individuals convicted of assaulting a "sports official;" the definition given in the law clearly encompasses AYSO Referees.
 - 2. In addition to the sanctions deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Board, AYSO Region 84 will vigorously support prosecution of any and all individuals who have committed an assault on an AYSO Volunteer.
- F. **Feedback Forms:** Coaches and Referees may use feedback forms to report any attitudinal, behavioral, or educational deficiencies of either coaches or referees.

VII. Rain Policy

- A. **Field condition information:** see the region website - www.ayso84.org
- B. Due to stipulations of our contract for field use with the Capistrano and Saddleback Valley Unified School Districts and the City of Mission Viejo, **AYSO may not conduct games or practices for a minimum period of 24 hours after rain** because of the damage such activity causes to the turf. Current field conditions are posted on Region 84's website. (Fields maybe closed longer than the 24 hour period. Please check the Region website for updated field conditions).
- C. Coaches should insure that all team members are notified of cancelled games/practices.
- D. **The League Managers shall have responsibility for their field(s).**
- E. **Practices/Weekdays:** In event of rain during the week, the League Managers will make every effort to get to the field to inspect the field and make a practice/no-practice decision, and communicate that to coaches who practice there.
- F. **Game Day:**
 - 1. In event of rain on a game day, the League Manager will check the field and call the Program Director with a play/no play recommendation by 7:00 a.m.; if play is called for morning games only, then a second recommendation must be made by 10:30 a.m. for the afternoon games.
 - 2. Program Directors will make decision to cancel some or all games for that day, and they will then notify the Field/Equipment Director of any cancellations.
 - 3. The Field/Equipment Director will notify the Regional Referee Administrator and Regional Commissioner.
 - 4. League Managers will notify coaches. In the event that afternoon games are to be played, the League Manager will notify the home team in the first game of the day and that team will be responsible for field set up.
 - 5. The referee always has final decision to "no-play" if in his/her opinion the safety of the players is in jeopardy.
 - 6. Makeup games may be played on Sunday one week from the original scheduled playing dates (weather and field conditions permitting). Do not reschedule your own games.
 - 7. Division U5 – U8 will not play makeup games.

Do not abuse our fields. Please follow these guidelines in order that we may all continue use of city and school district fields.

VIII. Division U6, U7, & U8 Special Rules

- A. The following are exceptions to the Region 84 Guidelines and FIFA Laws of the Game. These are specific to Division U6 – U8 play of the game. Coaches will be provided with any updates to these rules prior to the start of the fall season. Teams shall be formed based upon geographic proximity of the players, i.e. by neighborhoods, and shall not be coed. Division U8 will have a maximum of ten (10) players per team. Division U7 will have a maximum of twelve (12) players per team. Division U6 will have a maximum of eleven (11) players per team.
- B. Practices will be no more than once per week for U6 and U7, and twice per week for U8, for a length of not more than 90 minutes each. At least one practice per week is strongly recommended.
- C. No scores or standings will be kept. These will be noncompetitive leagues and for instructional purposes. All players will receive participation trophies at the end of the season.
- D. Field – Division U6-U8 field dimensions and markings will be per the field layout. All fields will include a coach's box, and spectator's line. Coaches and spectators must remain in these areas so as to not interfere with the Referees.
 - 1. Division U6: Goals 3 1/2 feet high x 6 feet wide. Fields 30 x 25 yards.
 - 2. Division U7: Goals 3 1/2 feet high x 6 feet wide. Fields 40 x 30 yards.
 - 3. Division U8: Goals 6 feet high x 12 feet wide. Fields 50 x 45 yards.
- E. Each team will be responsible to provide two Referees per game. Referee instruction courses will be available before the start of the season. See the referee portion of the Region 84 web page at www.ayso84.org.

IX. Rules for Divisions U6 & U7

- A. **Game:** Two (2) games of 20 minutes each. Each team will split into two squads with a maximum number of five (5) players on each field for Division U7 and four (4) players for Division U6. Substitutions are made at a point midway through the first half and midway through the second half with a five (5) minute half-time water break/substitutions at the end of the first half. There will be a five (5) minute break between game one and game two. All players must play three quarters (3/4) of the game.
- B. **Start of Game (Kickoff):** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that opponents must be four (4) yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.
- C. **Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- D. **Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that a second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on their initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method in a positive and instructional manner before allowing the player to re-throw.
- E. **Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Goal Kick may be taken from any point inside the penalty zone (see diagram above).
 - 2. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.
- F. **Scoring:**
 - 1. Goals cannot be scored by a throw-in.
 - 2. Goals cannot be scored directly by an indirect free kick.
- G. **Handling the Ball:** Handling the ball is the deliberate, non-protecting movement of the hands to advance or stop the ball. The penalty is an indirect free kick from the location of the foul.

- H. **Fouls:** All fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick (see Fouls & Misconduct).
 - 1. **Offside:** There shall be no offside penalty called.
- I. **Goal Keepers:** No goal keepers are allowed.

X. Rules for Division U8 Games

- A. **Game:** One game of 40 minutes (two 20-minute halves). Substitutions are made at a point midway through the first half and midway through the second half with a five (5) minute half-time water break/substitutions at the end of the first half. A maximum of seven (7) players will be allowed on the field (including a goalkeeper). All players must play 3/4 of the game.
- B. **Start of Game (Kickoff):** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that opponents must be six (6) yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.
- C. **Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- D. **Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that a second thrown-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on their initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method in a positive and instructional manner before allowing the player to re-throw.
- E. **Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Goal Kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
 - 2. The ball must cross the 12-yard line before the ball can be played.
 - 3. Opponents must be outside the 12-yard line area.
- F. **Scoring:**
 - 1. Goals cannot be scored by a throw-in.
 - 2. Goals cannot be scored directly by an indirect free kick.
- G. **Fouls:** All fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick (see fouls & misconduct).
- H. **Goalkeepers:** Division U8 teams will have a goalkeeper on the field. The goalkeeper can handle the ball anywhere within the 12-yard line area. Players may play no more than one half (1/2) of each game as goalkeeper.

XI. Fouls & Misconduct – Division U6, U7 & U8

- A. Fouls & Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
- B. The use of red and yellow cards is not permitted in Divisions U5 – U8.
- C. All fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick with the opponents five (5) yards away for U6 & U7 and six (6) yards away for U8. An Indirect Free Kick means that the player cannot score directly by way of the kick. The ball must touch another player (any player on the field) before it goes into the goal for a score.
- D. The referee must explain all infractions to the offending player.
- E. **No slide tackles are allowed in Division U6, U7 & U8.**
- F. No penalty kicks are to be taken.

XII. Discipline – Division U6, U7 & U8

- A. A Disciplinary Policy has been set for all divisions (See Regional Discipline Policy). The items listed here specifically apply to Division U6 – U8.
- B. AYSO Region 84 does not schedule certified Referees for Division U6 – U7 games. Region 84 will schedule Referees for Division U8. These games are officiated by parent volunteers who have completed the proper training. These “parent referees” are **certified AYSO Referees**, they are authorized as referees as provided in this policy for purposes of ensuring player safety and enforcement of this disciplinary policy.
- C. Division U6 control, is to be maintained through positive verbal communication. Children in this age group typically will view the Referee as an authority figure and will generally make every effort to promptly follow instructions. Referees should be particularly careful to be positive and encouraging; the Disciplinary Policy has been set for all divisions. The Referee at this level is in large part that of an on field “mentor.” In the most extreme cases, the coach (and if necessary the player’s parents) should be asked to resolve disciplinary or behavioral problems. The Referee is not to administer negative disciplinary measures directly to a Division U6 player.
- D. Division U7 disciplinary/behavioral problems are to be managed through talking, whistling of fouls, and verbal warnings. In extreme cases where a player persists in engaging in inappropriate behavior, the Referee should request the coach’s assistance or intervention to permit the game to continue without further disruption. In extreme cases, if warranted in the Referee’s judgment, the Referee shall send a written report to the Division U7 Program Director (or designee) for evaluation of possible further disciplinary action.
- E. **Division U5 – U8 coaches shall ensure that all parents understand the noncompetitive nature of play at these ages, and that all spectators conduct themselves in the most positive manner possible towards all teams, referees, etc. Everyone associated with Division U6–U8 must understand the AYSO philosophy and ensure that we all “live” it continuously.**

XIII. Rules for Division U10 Games

- A. **Game:** One game of 50 minutes (two 25-minute halves). Substitutions are made at a point midway through the first half, midway through the second half and halftime. The halftime break will be five to ten (5-10) minutes. A maximum of nine (9) players will be allowed on the field (including a goalkeeper). All players must play three quarters (3/4) of the game.
- B. **Field:** Goals 7 feet high x 7 yards wide. Fields 75 yards x 45 yards
- C. **Start of Game (Kickoff):** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- D. **Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- E. **Throw In:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- F. **Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- G. **Scoring:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- H. **Offside:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.
- I. **Fouls:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game. Referees will work cooperatively with the coaches and eliminate the need for cautions and send-offs. Do not show yellow or red cards.
- J. **Goalkeepers:** Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game. The goalkeeper can handle the ball within his own penalty area.
- K. **Division U10 coaches shall ensure that all parents understand the noncompetitive nature of play at this age, and that all spectators conduct themselves in the most positive manner possible towards all teams, referees, etc. Everyone associated with Division U10 must understand the AYSO philosophy and ensure that we all "live" it continuously.**

PLAYOFF GAME REGULATIONS

All U10, U12 & U14 Playoff games must have a winner. If a tie exists after a regular length game, 2 Sudden Victory, golden goal (the first team to score wins and the game ends) overtime periods are played as follows:

- U10 - 5 mins each
- U12 - 6 mins each
- U14 - 7 mins each

The first overtime period is started by a coin toss just like a regular game where the Home Team tosses and the Visitor Team calls it. The winner of the toss determines which goal they will attack; the loser of the toss kicks off. **There is only a 5-minute break** between the end of regular play and the start of the overtime periods. There is no break between the first overtime period and the second, but player substitutions may be made. **First goal ends game.** Players switch sides of the field to begin play for the second overtime period. Free substitution rules apply during the Overtime periods; see the rules on this below. Please note that as long as all players play at least 2 quarters of the regular length game, there is no need to keep track of player substitutions thereafter (coaches are free to play whomever they want).

If after the 2 full team overtime periods are played, a tie still exists, a **“California Style” shoot out** will be conducted as described below. A coin toss is made using the same method as for a regular game to start a game.

For **U12 and U14**, both teams take to the field with only 10 players and **NO GOALKEEPER** and play for 5 minutes under a “Sudden Victory”, golden goal approach (the first team to score wins and the game ends). For **U10**, only 8 players and **NO GOALKEEPER** take to the field and play for 5 minutes under a “Sudden Victory”, golden goal approach (the first team to score wins and the game ends).

- Offside rules apply.
- Player substitutions are only allowed for injuries.

If a tie still exists at the end of the first 5 minute period for **U12 and U14 teams**, play is stopped and the teams switch field half’s and 3 players from each team are removed so that each team fields 7 players. Player substitutions may be made. The kickoff is taken by the other team and play for a 2nd 5 minute period under a “Sudden Victory”, golden goal approach.

- Offside rules do NOT apply
- Player substitutions are only allowed for injuries.

If a tie still exists at the end of the first 5 minute period for **U10 teams**, play is stopped and the teams switch field half’s and 3 more players from each team are removed so that each team fields 5 players. Player substitutions may be made. The kickoff is taken by the other team and play under a “Sudden Victory”, golden goal approach **until a team scores.**

- Offside rules do NOT apply
- Free substitution of players is allowed; see free substitution rules below.

If a tie still exists at the end of the 2nd 5 minute period for **U12 and U14 teams**, play is stopped and the teams switch field half’s and 2 more players from each team are removed so that each team fields 5 players. Player substitutions may be made. The kickoff is taken by the other team and play under a “Sudden Victory”, golden goal approach **until a team scores.**

- Offside rules do NOT apply
- Free substitution of players is allowed; see free substitution rules below.

Free substitution rules - players may be substituted only at the following game stoppages:

- **Prior to Throw-In** on possession of the ball. If substituting, opposing team may also substitute.
- **Injured player** - if substituted, the opposing team may substitute also on a one for one basis.
- **Goal Kick** - Either team may substitute.

Penalty Kicks - because there are NO goalkeepers for the "California Style" shootout, if a Penalty Kick offense occurs, one defending player (from the players on the field or may be substituted) takes the position of goalkeeper (no goalkeeper shirt needed) and retains this privilege only until the Penalty Kick is competed. The kick is completed if:

- A goal is scored
- The ball rebounds off the:
 - Goalkeeper
 - Goal crossbar or uprights
- A goal kick is awarded
- The goalkeeper controls the ball and puts it back into play

PLAYER RATINGS

Player Rating forms are filled out by the coaches for Divisions U8 - U19 at the player rating night held at the end of the season. Coaches will receive the team photos when their rating form is turned in. **Player ratings are confidential and are used to balance teams for the following season.**

PHOTO DAY

Photo day is for all boys and girls. Each player will receive a team and individual photo. Coaches will pick up their teams photos at team rating night in October. Teams will be assigned times for pictures. If you miss your photo date, you should send an e-mail to the coordinator for information on individual photo makeup dates.

POST SEASON PLAY

Division U9-U19: All Star Program, Spring Select Division U8: Spring

Divisions U6 through U7 do not participate in Post Season Play. U8 players may participate in the U8 Spring program. Player selections for Spring Select (Recreational & Tournament), and Cultural Exchange teams are made at the discretion of the selected coaches and must be approved by the Regional Commissioner. The Post Season Play Committee or the Cultural Exchange Director with approval of the Regional Commissioner approves coaches. Post season play is available for players from Division U10 through U19. No general funds are used to support these special programs; therefore, there is a charge to participating players selected for all Post Season Play.

All prospective coaches must be Intermediate or Advanced certified and must have coached a team during the prior fall season.

Additional rules and regulations have been set for Post Season Play. Coaches will receive a copy of these guidelines at the Post-Season Play meeting. Players who wish to participate in these programs must have participated in one-half of the fall season games. Players who have not displayed a positive AYSO attitude during the Fall Season may not be eligible for any Post Season Play.

Some Post Season Teams will be allowed to do fundraising to help cover costs of tournament expenses. The Post Season Play Committee must approve all fund raising.

Spring Select Soccer (Recreational & Tournament):

There are two types of spring teams formed, recreational and tournament. Tournament teams are allowed to participate in and travel to one or more tournaments during the spring season and summer. Recreational teams will play other teams within AYSO Area 11L. Tournament teams participate in the Orange County Spring League. All U16 and older teams are considered Tournament teams.

The intent of Spring Soccer 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. This is a select Program – The spring coaches select players, this is not an open Registration. The number of children chosen in each division will depend on the amount of qualified coaches willing to coach in the spring, and field availability. Children of AYSO volunteers (Coaches, Referees, Board Members, etc.) will be given priority when forming recreational teams.

An interest form is on our website for players who are interested in the Spring Select season. The form must be returned to the Spring Select Coordinator, and those names will be passed on for consideration for spring team placement. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that the form is returned to the Post Season Play Coordinator. This is not a guarantee that your child will be placed on a team, and you will only receive a telephone call from a coach if your child is chosen to play on a spring team.

The season begins in early March and continues until early May. Games are played on Saturdays, with approximately 8 to 10 games in the spring season. Games will be played in Mission Viejo, and surrounding cities. As the intent of Spring Select is to continue soccer training and to have fun in soccer, no official standings are kept and no official awards are distributed. Players on Recreation Teams **must** play at least **three** quarters of each game. No fundraising will be allowed without the prior approval of the Regional Commissioner.

SPONSORS

Platinum Regional Sponsors - \$1500 and over

Gold Regional Sponsors - \$1,000 to \$1,499

Silver Regional Sponsors - \$250 to \$1,000

Bronze Regional Sponsors - \$150 to \$249

Team Sponsors - \$100

Fall Sponsors of \$100 or more will receive a picture plaque of the team and additional recognition items from the Region.

Team Sponsors: Each team is requested to obtain a sponsor and contribute \$100.00 toward the Regional expenses. The contributions from each team are used to reduce the overall expenses of the Region, including equipment, maintaining the playing fields, and providing training for coaches and referees, and additional supplies. Although our organization is run entirely by volunteers, the expenses of running this outstanding program exceed the registration fees collected. Therefore, we truly depend on your support.

If you choose to have a team banner, you are encouraged to display the name of your Team Sponsor on your banner. (This is not required by the Region).

Player Sponsors: Region 84 is dedicated to "Everyone Plays" and we are often asked to help with the registration fees of players. If you would like to help another child, please consider becoming a player sponsor. All funds collected will directly offset player participation fees and allow someone play, who might not otherwise be able to play.

Please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator: see our website for contact information – www.ayso84.org



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