

# REGION 57

## REGIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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## **I. GENERAL**

### **A. WHAT IS AYSO**

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization. Our motto is "Everyone Plays." Our objectives are to teach, promote, and develop Youth soccer; to develop our youngsters in body and character and to facilitate a positive experience of soccer competition for such youths. Providing every youth the opportunity to PARTICIPATE is uppermost in our minds. AYSO's philosophy must be uppermost in every coach's mind:

- **EVERYONE PLAYS;**
- **POSITIVE COACHING;**
- **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP;**
- **OPEN REGISTRATION;**
- **BALANCED TEAMS; AND**
- **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT.**

### **A. TEAMS**

1. Players will be assigned to each team under the direct supervision of the appropriate Division Coordinator and at least one of the following: Regional Commissioner, Assistant Regional Commissioner, Registrar, or Regional Coach Administrator. No new players will be added to teams beyond the midpoint of the regular league schedule. Teams shall be limited to:

#### Competitive Divisions:

- 18 players in Division U19
- 16 players in Division U16
- 15 players in Division U14
- 12 players in Division U12
- 10 players in Division U10

#### Non-Competitive Divisions:

- 10 players in Division U8

- 8 players in Division U6

A team will not play with more than the above limits of players unless the team has prior approval from the Regional Commissioner.

1. To encourage more player participation, teams (players on the field) will be limited to:

- 11 players in Divisions U14 through U19
- 9 players in Divisions U12
- 7 players in Divisions U10
- 7 players in Divisions U8
- 4 players in Divisions U6 (2 teams of 4 playing simultaneously on side-by-side fields)

1. The only players guaranteed to be on the same team are limited to the Head Coach's child(ren), the child(ren) of the Assistant Coach and the child(ren) of the certified team referee. In forming teams, there is no guarantee that a child will be assigned to a team with his/her schoolmates or friends. The assignment of a child to a team is at the discretion of AYSO and is final. Reasons such as favorite coach; most hated coach; carpool needs; time/day of practice; time/day of games; swapping similarly rated players; how good the team looks; how bad the team looks; and a host of other issues are **insufficient** reasons to support parent/player requested team placement.

2. A player may be a member of only one AYSO league-team at any one time.

#### **A. TEAM NAMES**

Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion or nationality. Team names will be subject to the approval of the Regional Commissioner. There shall be no duplication of names within a division. Approval is on first come, first serve basis.

#### **A. TEAM PLAY**

Teams shall participate only in games approved by the Regional Commissioner and/or AYSO Special Games Committee.

#### **A. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Each registered player shall be issued a uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts and socks. Uniforms are to be worn during the games or as authorized by the Regional Commissioner.
2. The AYSO uniform may not bear the player's name or team's name by any application (lettering, silk screening, etc.)
3. Regulation soccer shoes, gym shoes, or sneakers (with or without rubber cleats) are permissible in all AYSO competition.
4. If cleats are worn, these soccer shoes may NOT have a toe cleat and cleats may be no more than 1/4 inch in length. No metal cleats (including metal caps) are allowed.

5. Players shall not be allowed to participate in any game or practice unless they are wearing shin-guards. The shin-guards must be worn completely under the uniform sock.
6. Players shall not be allowed to practice or participate in games or practices wearing jewelry (earrings or studs are not allowed even if covered with tape), any type of cast or splint, hard hair bands, barrettes, pony tail holders with decorative ball, or anything on wrists. Players shall not wear anything which is dangerous to either themselves or other players.
  - **Earrings must be removed during all games and practices. NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Earrings may not be taped.**
  - Fingernails of excessive or dangerous length will not be allowed (one may either cut the nails, or not play). **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
- **NOTHING MAY HANG BELOW THE UNIFORM SHORTS OTHER THAN APPROVED BIKE SHORTS.** Bike shorts, all black or all white in color, or the same color as shorts of the uniform will be allowed, but all members of the team must wear the same color shorts.

#### **A. TEAM REFEREE(S)**

1. Each team shall provide a minimum of:
  - one (1) **AYSO CERTIFIED (and currently registered)** team referee for all U8 and above division teams
2. By the first game of the season, the referees must be AYSO certified. The Team Referee should be from within the framework of their team (i.e. Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt, Legal Guardian, Friend, etc...).
3. For U8 and younger, the Team Referee may center their own team's game.

For U10 and older, during the Regular Season and Spring Season, the Team Referee may be Assistant Referee for their own team's game. The Center Referee for U10 and older should be independent. A Team Referee may Center his/her own team's game in the absence of an independent referee.
4. **If no AYSO Certified Referee is present for the game, the game is canceled. If the coaches choose to play the game anyway the game is still considered canceled and will not count in the standings. It is recommended the coaches get the referee certification. This ensures that coach's games will never be canceled.**
5. For competitive divisions (U10 and above), referees (including Youth Referees) during the regular season can earn points by being Center or Assistant Referee at any age level. Referee points may be earned in the following manner:
  - 1 point to center or assist any AYSO 57 game.
  - 1 point to Referee a U8 or younger game.
  - Minimum of 5 Team Referee Points are required to qualify for the Post Season Playoffs.

6. The following are restrictions on Referee Points for the Fall Season:

- To earn Points, Referee must sign up for the game on the [www.matchtrak.com](http://www.matchtrak.com) website or the applicable AYSO website. If a game is covered at the last minute without signing up on the web, the referee must send an email to [rc@ayso57.org](mailto:rc@ayso57.org) with the game information within 48 hours, to receive the credit for the game.
- If a Referee has additional points not needed for his/her designated team, the Referee can allocate the additional points to other teams.

7. Additional Ways to earn Referee Points:

- Referee Point will be awarded to a Referee who successfully completes the Basic Referee Course, 1 point.
- Referee Points will be awarded to a Referee who has successfully completed any of the following classes since the end of the prior Fall season:
  - Upgrade to Intermediate Referee (including assessment), 2 points.
  - Upgrade to Advanced or higher Referee (including assessment), 5 points.
  - Basic (or higher) Referee Instructor, 5 points.
  - Referee Assessor, 5 points.

8. The Regional Referee Administrator ("**RRA**") or designate is responsible for tabulating and reporting Referee Points. The RRA will make every effort to update Referee Points within 7 days after the game. With any disputes, the ruling of either the RRA or the Regional Commissioner will be final.

9. Being in the playoffs is an honor and NOT a right! If you fail to obtain the requisite number of referee points to qualify to be in the playoffs, you are out, subject to possible adjustments for equitable reasons as determined by the Regional Commissioner and RRA (with approval by the Executive Board).

## **A. CONDUCT AND SAFETY**

### **1. General Conduct and Safety Rules:**

To make the AYSO experience a positive one for all players, spectators, and volunteers, the following rules will be strictly enforced:

- No alcoholic beverages will be permitted at ANY AYSO site.
- No smoking at any AYSO event (games, practices, team parties, etc.)
- No foul or abusive language and/or behavior.
- No bicycles, mopeds, etc., shall be ridden inside the playing complex.
- **NO DOGS OR PETS** are allowed on any of the fields at ANY time. Many kids are frightened by them and provides a bad soccer experience for those kids. One point will be deducted from the team's standing for each violation of this rule.
- No climbing on fences, goal nets, school buildings or swinging from goal posts.

## 2. **“Zero Tolerance” Policy for Youth Referee Abuse**

Youth Referee Abuse violates the fundamental mission of AYSO and requires strong, immediate action. Region 57 will not tolerate any abuse of Youth Referees.

- A. The Regional Referee Administrator, upon receipt of any reported abuse of a Youth Referee, shall investigate the incident and, together with the Regional Commissioner and any other Board Member so designated by the Regional Commissioner, shall implement appropriate discipline, before the next game, if possible. The offending person and the coach of their child’s team, as well as the Regional Commissioner, Referee Administrator, Regional Coach Administrator, Regional Child Protection Advocate, and the Division Commissioner, shall be notified of the disciplinary action.
- B. The following sanctions will be applied:
  - 1. First Offense of Verbal Abuse of a Youth Referee, including serious, repetitious dissent to provoke an argument, criticism or demeaning language short of offensive, insulting or foul language: 1 game/week suspension.
  - 2. Serious Verbal Abuse of Youth Referee, using offensive, insulting, or foul language or repeated incident of less serious abuse: 2 game/2 week suspension. Executive Committee hearing to consider additional sanctions and/or remedial actions.
  - 3. Stepping onto the field or other serious threat to a Youth Referee, by word or action: 4 game/4 week suspension. Written apology required. Executive Committee hearing to consider additional sanctions and/or remedial actions.
  - 4. More Egregious Offenses: Immediate and continuing suspension pending hearing by Executive Committee. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension for the season or multiple seasons, “rehabilitation”, or expulsion of that person and/or their child from further participation in AYSO.
- C. General considerations and terms of discipline.
  - 1. Immediate and sincere remorse may be considered by Executive Committee in its hearings.
  - 2. A suspended parent or other non-coach may not attend a game during their suspension. A suspended coach may attend practice but not the game unless otherwise notified by the Executive Committee.
  - 3. The Regional Board of Directors will be notified of all suspensions at its next regular meeting.
  - 4. These sanctions do not limit, prevent, or replace any voluntary or required report or referral of improper conduct, by any adult toward and child, to any law enforcement or child protection agency.

### A. WEATHER CONDITIONS OR SAFETY ISSUE

1. Cancellation of games due to bad weather or any other safety issue:
  - a. The Regional Commissioner or designee will determine the cancellation of any individual game or complete day's schedule.
  - b. All teams will meet at the field at the scheduled time unless notified of cancellation through the Matchtrak Website [www.matchtrak.com](http://www.matchtrak.com)
  - c. If during the progress of a particular league game, the referee, City Park Patrol, Regional Commissioner, Field Administrator or Safety Director deems that weather and/or field conditions do not allow effective or safe play to continue, the referee, City Park Patrol, Regional Commissioner, Field Administrator or Safety Director may stop that game.
  - d. Games canceled prior to the start of the second half will, if the schedule permits and approval has been granted by the Regional Commissioner, be replayed in their entirety, regardless of the score.
  - e. Games canceled after the start of the second half will, if the schedule permits and approval has been granted by the Regional Commissioner, be replayed commencing from half time to its conclusion. The score and substitutions at the time the game is canceled will remain the same for the replay game.

### A. DURATION OF GAMES

- |                |                          |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Division U19 | Two (2) 45 minute halves |                          |
| • Division U16 | Two (2) 40 minute halves |                          |
| • Division U14 |                          | Two (2) 35 minute halves |
| • Division U12 | Two (2) 30 minute halves |                          |
| • Division U10 | Two (2) 25 minute halves |                          |
| • Division U8  | Two (2) 20 minute halves |                          |
| • Division U6  | Two (2) 10 minute halves |                          |
| •              |                          |                          |

If the game is tied after regulation time during a regular season game, the game is over. There will be no overtime period.

1. All breaks for substitution shall be designated by the referee.
2. Half-time periods shall be approximately five (5) minutes.

### A. COMPETITION

1. In determining league standings, a win will count as three (3) points, a tie as one (1) point and a loss as zero (0) points
2. It shall be mandatory to play all regularly scheduled regional league games. In case of failure to play such a game, the offending team shall lose the game by a forfeit score of 10.

3. **Except as otherwise provided in these rules, every player MUST play at least 75% of each and every game. No player plays the full game until all players play 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the game.**
4. Every team must play even during the regular season (non-playoffs), as long as they can adhere to the above rule of player participation. This does not apply to teams playing outside our region. Example: 9v9, U12 Division - if one team has 7 players and the other team 9 players, you play 7 v 7; if the other team only had 6 players, you will play 6 v 7 (due to the 75% rule). The minimum number of players that a team must reduce (no reduction required in playoffs) to is:
  - U19/U16/U14/U12 – 7 Players
  - U10– 5 Players
1. A competitive team shall be subject to a forfeit of a game for the inability to field the following minimum number of players:
  - U19/U16/U14/U12 – 7 Players
  - U10– 5 players
1. **Coaches, spectators or other officials shall not enter the field of play unless specifically requested by the center referee.**
2. Games will be postponed and rescheduled only as authorized by the Regional Commissioner.
3. The end of season Playoff Tournament (for competitive divisions) will begin upon completion of league play in accordance with the league schedule and playoff format. For the purpose of determining a team's relative position in the standings for playoff seeding (and for any wildcard spot), tie breakers will be determined as follows:
  - a. Head to Head competition
  - b. Highest Number of Wins
  - c. Highest Goal differential (maximum of +/- 3 goals per game)
  - d. Least goals scored against (maximum of 3 goals per game)
  - e. Yellow and Red cards issued. Deduct 1 point for Yellow, 2 points for Red
  - f. Coin flip by the Division Coordinator (if a 3-way or greater tie, then drawing of straws)
  - g. The Regional Commissioner has the authority to make the final decision with regard to tie breakers

If every team in a division did not play the same amount of games, then we use the following formula to "normalize" the games points for each team:

**game points earned ÷ games played x maximum games played by any 1 team = weighted game points**

**weighted game points + ref points = total points**

1. Awards will be given to the Regional playoff Finalists in Divisions U10 through U14.



2. Participation awards will be given to all players in Divisions U6 through U8.

**B.**

**A. BALL SIZE**

- Divisions U14 and above No. 5
- Divisions U9 through U12 No. 4
- Divisions U5 through U8 No. 3

**A. SUBSTITUTIONS**

1. For all registered players in attendance at AYSO games **No player shall play the full game until all players have played 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the game.** for Divisions U6 through U14, except as indicated below for our All-Stars, Select, AYSO EXTRA teams, or any other Area or Section program. Players must be recognized by the referee prior to exiting or entering the playing field. Such participation is controlled as follows:
  - a. Approximately midway through the first half and approximately midway through the second half, the referee halts the game and notes on the lineup cards those players substituted. Unless otherwise determined by the referee, time will continue to run through the substitution break. Additionally, substitutions may be made at half-time.
  - b. If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until the beginning of the next quarter. Only the player who is injured is credited with that quarter of play, regardless of the actual time played. The coach may choose to play short, thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter in which he/she was injured, only after being recognized by the referee.
1. Late arriving players shall be substituted as follows:
  - a. If a player arrives during the first quarter, the player must play a minimum of two (2) of the remaining three (3) quarters.
  - b. If the player arrives during the second or the third quarter, the player must play a minimum of one quarter.

It is the COACH'S (NOT THE REFEREE'S) RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that all players in attendance have met the above conditions.

- a. Should it become apparent at the conclusion of a match that a team did not utilize all players in attendance in accordance with the above rules, such a team, if it won the match initially, will automatically lose by a 10 forfeit.

**A. NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS**

1. **Division U8** will play seven (7) players on the field including the goalie. **No goalkeeper may play more than 50% of the game in the goal.** All free kicks are DIRECT (no penalty kicks). Heading the ball is not to be taught or practiced. NO COACHES ARE PERMITTED ON THE FIELD OF PLAY TO COACH.

2. **Divisions U6** will play short-sided games, four (4) players on the field. There is no goalkeeper. All free kicks are **DIRECT** (no penalty kicks). Heading the ball is not to be taught or practiced. One (1) coach per team is allowed on the field during the game. Coaches should train the players **NOT** to stand in front of the goal "playing goalkeeper". Fields may get marked with a painted arc around the front of the goal in which the defending team is not to enter.
3. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players to different positions during the game.

#### **A. LAWS OF THE GAME**

The rules and regulations of the soccer competitions shall be designated by F.I.F.A. (Federation of International Football Association), except as noted herein.

1. Game duration.
2. Substitution.
3. Fields as available.
4. Charging the goalkeeper shall not be permitted in the penalty area, nor shall the goalkeeper be harassed or interfered with while attempting to put the ball into play.

#### **A. FIELD/GOAL SIZE**

The size of the fields and goals for the various divisions will be approximately as follows (subject to field allocation/availability, size of space and modifications approved by the Region's Executive Committee).

<u>Division</u>	<u>Field Size</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
U6	30yd x 15yd	4-5foot pop-ups
U8	60yd x 30yd	6ft H x 18ft W
U10	65yd x 40yd	7ft H x 21ft W
U12	80yd x 50yd	7ft H x 21ft W
U14 & Up	110yd x 60yd	8ft H x 24ft W

#### **A. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

A player may transfer from one team to another after **ALL OF** the following conditions have been met:

1. Approval of Regional Commissioner
2. Approval of both coaches of the teams involved
3. Approval of player or parent.

#### **A. DROPPING OF PLAYERS**

In the event it becomes necessary in the interest of the Region to drop a player, such action shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Commissioner, with input from the player's coach, the Division Coordinator, the Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate, and the parents. All actions taken shall be documented in writing.

## **A. INJURY/DAMAGE/CONCUSSION AWARENESS**

Any injury to or damage involving an AYSO participant shall be reported to the Regional Commissioner and/or Regional Safety Director IN WRITING WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE INCIDENT.

Any player suspected by the coach, referee or parent to have a concussion must be removed from further participation for at least the remainder of the day, and parent/guardian are to be encouraged to seek professional medical treatment at the time of injury.

Coaches must require a signed AYSO Participation Release Form from the parent/guardian before a player having a concussion, or suspected of having a concussion, or illness or injury that required the care of a physician or a visit to an emergency care facility, is allowed to return to play. Coach shall forward a copy of this form to their Division Coordinator, who shall forward a copy to the Safety Director and Regional Commissioner.

## **A. GAME PROTEST**

**Protest on a referee's decision will not be accepted or heard.** The referee's decision shall be final as to the result of the game. If you feel additional training is necessary, notify the Referee Administrator in writing.

KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL REFEREES, LIKE COACHES, ARE VOLUNTEERS. THEY, JUST LIKE COACHES, MAY MAKE MISTAKES.

## **A. YELLOW CARD**

Three (3) Yellow cards accumulated by any one person anytime during the season equals one (1) red card. (Season includes playoff games.)

## **A. EJECTION OF PLAYERS, SPECTATORS OR COACHES FROM GAMES**

1. In the event a player, coach, or spectator is ejected (sent-off), with or without a caution, from the game by the referee, that player, coach, or spectator will leave the facility for the remainder of the game and is automatically ineligible to be on the facility for their next official AYSO game.
2. In the event the player, coach, or spectator does not leave the facility following the ejection (send-off), the referee must terminate the game. That game is subject to be forfeited by a score of 10 against the team with the offending player, coach or parent. In the event the player, coach, or spectator is on the facility during their next official AYSO game, the referee must terminate the game. That game is subject to be forfeited by a score of 10.
3. A player, coach, or spectator will be ejected from the game for any serious foul play, violent action and/or conduct, abusive language, and/or for striking an official. That player, coach, or spectator may be ejected for a minimum of 2 games in addition to the game in which the ejection occurred and the aforementioned actions may be cause for permanent suspension from the Region.
4. No caution is necessary prior to ejecting a coach or spectator.

1. Regional Commissioner or the Executive Board Members have the ultimate decision to call any canceled game a forfeit, reschedule, or keep the score as is.

#### **A. PRACTICES**

For U`0 through U19, Practices shall be kept to a maximum of two (2) practices and/or a total of 4 hours per week for competitive divisions. Non-competitive divisions (U6 through U8) may have one (1) practice per week that is required to run for a minimum of 45 minutes and must not exceed 1½ hours.

#### **A. REFUND POLICY**

All refund requests must be submitted using our “Refund Request Form.” The Refund Request Form may be found on the top of our website ([www.ayso57.org](http://www.ayso57.org)) or attached hereto as Exhibit A. Completed Refund Request Forms may be sent by:

- Mail to: AYSO Region 57, P.O. Box 1077, Corona del Mar, CA 92625
- E-mailed to: [treasurer@ayso57.org](mailto:treasurer@ayso57.org)

Players moving in from other regions must pay our registration fee and request a refund from previous region as necessary.

#### **Refunds for our Fall and Spring Seasons will be paid as follows:**

1. A full refund, less the AYSO Membership Fee of \$20.00 and the processing fee of \$2.75, will be paid to those who move out of region or for children who become medically unable to play prior to August 20<sup>th</sup> (for the Fall Season) or February 20<sup>th</sup> (for the Spring Season). Proof of new address or verification in writing from player’s doctor will be required before refund can be made.
2. All other refunds will be paid based on the date the written request is received:
  - Prior to July 10<sup>th</sup> Deduct \$22.75 from Fall registration fees.
  - July 11<sup>th</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup> – Will receive a \$50 refund.
  - After August 20<sup>th</sup> No REFUND of Fall registration fees.
3. Notwithstanding No. 2 above, there will be **NO** Refunds for a, All-Star or Select player or for Spring Recreational registration.
4. AYSO Membership and processing fees are **NOT** refundable at any time and will be deducted from any refund request.

#### **FIELD ETIQUETTE**

1. The home team is the first team listed and has choice of side.
2. Spectators must be located on the sideline between the penalty areas on their team’s side of the field. Nobody is allowed behind or near the goal area.

3. All coaches, players, parents, and spectators of each team must be located on opposite sides of the field.
4. Spectators and team members should be sure their field is clean after attending games and practices.
5. Mechanical or electrical audio devices (megaphones, walkie-talkies, etc.) or drones shall not be used at any game.
6. Respect the referees and players. Coaches coach and spectators watch and cheer the players in a positive manner.

## **I. COACHES' GUIDELINES**

### **A. DUTIES OF COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES**

1. All coaches are required to complete all **Volunteer Requirements**, see Volunteer tab on website, and be certified with **age-specific coach training**, prior to assuming any coach's duties.
2. It is the coach's responsibility to be on time and to attend the practices and games, as the coach is responsible for his/her players' prior to, during, and after their games and practices. If games and/or practices are canceled or rescheduled, it is the coach's responsibility to notify all players and parents. **IT IS ALSO THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY THAT NO PLAYER IS LEFT UNATTENDED AFTER PRACTICES AND GAMES.**
3. It shall be the duty of all coaches to conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of AYSO, as well as his/her players, and at all times encourage clean competition and **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. Coaches shall train their respective teams to the best of their abilities, and engage in **POSITIVE COACHING** that instructs and encourages the players during games and practices. Negative comments about players and verbal complaints about refereeing will not be allowed. Coaches must know and uphold all Regional Rules and Regulations as well as the AYSO Guidelines.
4. It is the policy of Region 57 that coaches, parents, and the team parents shall not purchase trophies, apparel, sports bags, or any other award item for individual team members or teams. (This does not include coaches', assistant coaches', team referees' or team parents' gifts of appreciation.) Any coach who promotes/allows this to occur may be ineligible to coach the following season. Post-season teams are excluded from this rule, with the prior approval of the Regional Commissioner.
5. Two (2) coaches per sideline are allowed. One head coach and one assistant coach will be allowed inside the designated area and coaching should be kept to a minimum. Designated area is ten yards from either side of the half-line. In Division U6 only one (1) coach from each team is allowed on each field.
6. Probably the easiest task for the volunteer coach is to learn the rules of the game and the basic skills. But what distinguishes really successful AYSO coaches are:
  - a. Impartiality to all team members.
  - b. Control of their emotions.

- c. Respect for each individual.
  - d. Respect for each individual's talent and differences.
  - e. Graceful acceptance of wins, and the use of losses to instill a "**NEVER GIVE UP, LET'S TRY HARDER NEXT TIME**" attitude.
  - f. A sense of humor.
1. The coach of each team will be held responsible for the behavior of his/her team, spectators, and parents. In the event a coach is unable to control his/her team, spectators, or parents during the AYSO game, the referee may caution or eject the coach and/or discontinue the game, in which case the offending team will automatically forfeit the game 10, regardless of the score at the time the game is stopped.
  2. Volunteer coaches often have a thankless yet very important job. To them, parents entrust their children's physical and emotional welfare. Winning is important, but it is only part of the game. Our youngsters are registered strictly on the basis of their enthusiasm for soccer, not their skill.
  3. No matter how teams are formed, some teams just end up stronger than others. When a team is leading a game by a 3 or 4 goal margin over its opponent, coaches should take the opportunity to give the less talented players more playing time and line-ups should be changed in order to give players experience in other positions. This is good sportsmanship and common sense. Coaches who find themselves unable to follow this philosophy should examine their reasons for being in the program.
  4. It is the coach's responsibility for Divisions U8 and above to complete the player rating form for his/her team. Care and thought must be put into the completion of this form, as it is the basis for team balancing
  5. **DISMISSAL/DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF COACHES:** Coaching contrary to AYSO philosophy, or disregard for Regional Rules and Regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action or removal by the Regional Commissioner (who may elect to receive input from the Regional Board). Disciplinary action may include forfeit of games and/or suspension from all AYSO activities.
  6. Coaches MAY enter the field of play during the game **ONLY** at the request of the referee.
  7. It is the coach's responsibility to see that accident forms are completed properly and **SUBMITTED TO THE SAFETY DIRECTOR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ANY ACCIDENT.**
  8. It is the responsibility of each coach to make sure your field is clean after each of your games and practices.
  9. For competitive divisions, it is the coach's responsibility to have a completed game card ready to deliver to the referee prior to the start of the game.

## **I. REFEREES' GUIDELINES**

A. To be a Referee in Region 57, you must have completed the following:

- Register as a new or returning volunteer each year;
- Safe Haven (on line or in-person class);

- Appropriate AYSO Approved Basic Referee Training Class, which may be completed one of two ways:
  - Complete the one day (8 hour) in-person AYSO Basic Referee Course; **or**
  - Complete the AYSO Basic Referee Companion in-person course (approximately 3 hours) **AND** complete the Online Basic Referee Companion course offered at [www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org).

- A. It is the Referee's duty to ensure that the game is Safe, Fair and Fun, and is played in accordance with FIFA, AYSO and Region 57 Rules and Regulations.
- B. Any misconduct (yellow or red cards) must be reported within 24 hours to the RRA. Likewise, any sanction of coaches or spectators must be reported within 24 hours to the RRA and the Regional Commissioner.

## **I. REGIONAL PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT**

- A. **TEAM ELIGIBILITY** - The requirements to qualify for the end of season playoff tournament are as follows:

1. The head coach has completed all the volunteer requirements - Safe Haven, Concussion, Cardiac, SafeSport, Background Check, Live Scan, and Coach License for the division they are coaching.

2. The team has accumulated 5 Referee Points

- B. **PLAYOFFS**

1. The home team is listed first on the playoff schedule. Home team chooses side of field and provides the game ball. If pennies (mesh or cloth jersey overlays) are required to avoid confusingly similar uniform colors, the home team will wear them.
2. Regular season regional rules regarding cautions and send-offs remain in effect for all playoff games. Cards will follow players and coaches from pool play to semi's and championship games.
3. The 75% play rule gets reduced so that each player **MUST** play **at least 50% of each and every playoff game.**

- **POINT SYSTEM FOR POOL PLAY**

Teams providing a certified referee for at least 3 pool games will receive additional points to be added to their total pool points. Game points in all divisions, within each pool, will be awarded as follows.

- A maximum of ten (10) points is possible in any one game
- Six (6) points for each win
- Three (3) points for each tie
- Zero (0) points for each loss
- One (1) point for each goal scored up to a maximum of three (3) per game

- One (1) point for each shutout
- One (1) point will be deducted for each goal in which the goal differential exceeds five (5) goals per game.
- A 0-0 tie will be scored as 4 points for each team (3 for tie, 1 for shutout)
- A three (3) point deduction for each red card (send-off) received by a player or each dismissal of a Coach and/or spectator (before, during, or after the match).
- A forfeit shall be scored as 1-0 (8 points) in favor of the team that did not forfeit. However, if the team that forfeits benefits from the other team receiving less than the maximum number of points, then the game shall be considered a 3-0 victory (10 points).
- A three (3) point deduction will be assessed to any team that does not show up to a scheduled game.

#### • **TIE BREAKERS FOR POOL STANDINGS**

If a tie exists in final pool standings, the following criteria will be used, in the following order, to determine final team standings based on pool play:

- Head to Head competition
- Highest Number of Wins
- Highest Goal differential (maximum of +/- 3 goals per game)
- Least goals scored against (maximum of 3 goals per game)
- Coin flip by the Division Coordinator (if a 3-way or greater tie, then drawing of straws)
- The Regional Commissioner has the authority to make the final decision with regard to tie breakers

If every team involved in a pool (or a pool vs. pool for a wildcard spot) did not play the same amount of games, then we use the following formula to "normalize" the games points for each team:

**Weighted Game Points = (Game Points Earned ÷ Games Played) Maximum Games Played by any 1 team**

**Total Points = Weighted Game Points + Referee Points**

#### • **REFEREES FOR PLAYOFFS**

In order for playoffs to run smoothly, all teams should plan on providing certified referees for the tournament.

1. If a team's referee officiates a minimum of three (3) playoff games, an additional three (3) tournament points will be added to the team's total pool points. It is presumed that a team's playoff referee shall be the person(s) designated to act as referee(s) on behalf of that team during the regular season.
2. If a coach wishes to designate a team referee for the playoffs who was not his/her team's referee during the regular season, with the consent of that referee, such coach must provide



the name of that certified referee to the Referee Administrator at least one (1) week prior to the beginning of regional playoffs. If that referee was another team's designated referee during the regular season, the coach shall also notify the coach of the team on whose behalf the referee acted during the regular season at least two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of regional playoffs in order to permit such coach to designate another referee to act as his/her team's referee during the playoffs.

3. A referee can only earn playoff points for one team. The maximum number of additional points, which a single team may receive for providing referees, is three (3), regardless of the number of referees designated by such team.
4. Parents should not referee their own child's game during playoffs.

- **FIELD CHECK-IN**

The region will be running on a very tight schedule during the playoffs, so please observe the following procedures for check-in.

1. REPORT TO YOUR FIELD FOR CHECK-IN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED GAME TIME.
2. The referees will check-in your team and conduct the coin toss during this time.
3. If the field is available, the referees will start the game early. BE EARLY!
4. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after scheduled start time! NO EXCEPTIONS! If a team forfeits, the opposing team will receive a 1-0 victory. If the team that forfeits benefits from the other team receiving less than the maximum number of points, then the game shall be considered a 3-0 victory.

- **GAME DURATION**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime (Final and Semi-Final)</u>
• Under 10	50 minutes	5 minutes
• Under 12	60 minutes	5 minutes
• Under 14	70 minutes	7 minutes

1. If the game is tied after regulation time during a semi-final and final playoff game, the game will proceed to the overtime periods.
2. Half-time periods shall be five minutes. If a game proceeds to overtime, there shall be a five-minute break prior to the first overtime period, and a one-minute break prior to each succeeding overtime period, if any.
3. During playoffs, we will be using a running clock during the quarter breaks, so please have your substitutes ready to enter the game.

- **OVERTIME**

The over time will consist of two (2) five minute overtime periods. There will be no “golden goal.” If the game remains tied after two overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the mark ("KFTM") in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

- **SUBSTITUTION**

For games with overtime periods, each player who does not play in the first overtime period **MUST** play in the second overtime period, if any. The clock will be running through substitution breaks even if there is no game following on your field.

- I. **KICKS FROM THE MARK**

The KFTM will start with 5 players from each team taking alternating kicks. If the teams remain tied at the end of the 5 alternating kicks, then one player from each team will alternate kicks until a winner is determined. Only players on the field at the end of the preceding period (or overtime) may participate in the KFTM. No player may take more than one kick until all other eligible players from the team, including the goalie, have kicked.

- I. **AREA, SECTION, AND TRISECTION PLAY**

- A. **REGIONAL CHAMPION TEAMS**

Regional Champions from each division are automatically invited to Area playoffs in December. Those teams shall play in Area, Section, and State Championships until eliminated.

- A. **ALL-STAR TEAMS**

1. The names of qualified candidates will be given to the Regional Commissioner and the Regional Coach Administrator. Along with the Division Coordinator, they will decide who will be the All-Star coaches.
2. All-Star coaches will be selected based on their qualifications as well as their willingness to accept the responsibility and commitment required. All All-Star coaches must be certified to the level required by Area Q rules.
3. Each All-Star team must provide at least one (1) certified referee on that team.
4. The commitment may include but is not limited to Area, Section, and State Championship play and participation in tournaments.
5. Each divisional coach will provide a maximum number (to be established each season by the Regional Commissioner and applicable Division Coordinator) of recommended players from their team for possible All-Star selection. In any division consisting of five (5) or more teams, the All-Star coach and assistant coach may not select more than two (2) players from any given team. In any division consisting of four (4) teams or less, the All-Star coach and assistant coach may not select more than three (3) from any given team. The highest priority should be given to those recommendations from the coaches' list. The coach's and assistant coach's children count towards the number of players per team. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Regional Commissioner. Once the teams are approved,

the All-Star coach will then contact the parents of the players who have been chosen, accepting to the team those who not only wish to be All-Stars, but who will commit to continue with the team through TriSection play. Player and family commitment is essential to team success. **ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.**

6. Any player selected as an All-Star who is still participating with his/her regional team must recognize that the Regional team has priority through State Championship play.
7. Players must have played at least 50% of their league games to be eligible for All-Star selection.

## **I. TOURNAMENT PLAY**

- A. Any coach with a team may participate in any sanctioned tournament. Some tournaments are for League teams only, some for All-Star only, and others for any team: League, Select, Tournament and/or All-Star.
- B. THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER MUST SIGN THE TEAM ROSTER which must include the AYSO ID numbers verifying the participants as AYSO players and coaches who follow the AYSO philosophy.
- C. Players must have parental consent: coaches MUST have in their possession a current official AYSO player registration form with the parent's **ORIGINAL SIGNATURE** at all times.
- D. Tournament fees are the responsibility of the teams.
- E. Participation in tournaments is allowed only upon approval by the Regional Commissioner. Should the All-Star coach decide not to take the All-Star team to tournament(s), another coach may take the team with the approval of the Regional Commissioner. All-Star players should not be asked by a coach of a different team to participate in tournaments in which that player's All-Star team is playing.
- F. It is the tournament team's responsibility to provide its own referees for all tournaments. The Referee Administrator upon request will give a list of qualified referees.

## **I. SPRING LEAGUE**

- A. Our Region offers a Spring league. The Region looks upon Spring league as a time for learning and training. The Spring season gives new coaches a chance to gain some experience and offers veteran coaches the opportunity to try different techniques in a non-stressful environment. Every effort will be made to place all registered Spring players on a team, but placement on a team will depend upon availability of a sufficient number of coaches.
- B. Spring soccer offers two levels of competition
  1. **Recreational Teams** – Spring season is an opportunity for all players who want to play recreational soccer without the stress of points and playoffs. These teams normally practice once a week. Scores are not kept during the games. The purpose of recreational teams is to offer a fun, positive soccer experience for the players, and to facilitate the learning of new skills. In Spring, U8 through U10 Recreational Teams continue to play 7v7 games and U6 teams continue to play 4v4 games. However, U10 through U19 Recreational teams may

participate in the Area Q's game circuit, in which case teams must adhere to Area Q's Guidelines.

2. **Select Teams** – Spring season also provides an opportunity for high caliber players to participate in tournaments and compete against other teams within Area Q. These teams normally practice twice a week and play competitive games (scores will be kept). Select teams are to be comprised of All-Star, AYSO-EXTRA or Club caliber players. Each Select team is limited to outside/guest players as set forth in the Area Q Guidelines.
  - A. For Select Teams, any coach is eligible to take a team comprised of pre-selected players to Spring league upon approval of the Regional Commissioner, but may be required to accept additional players, if deemed necessary or appropriate by the Spring Coordinator to accommodate the goal of placing all registered players on a team. Because we play inter-regionally in Spring select, the composition of teams is subject to the rules and regulations that may be handed down from the governing body of the spring select program (typically, this is Area Q).
  - B. Each Spring team must have a certified referee as part of the team's composition.
  - C. Spring Select coaches must have their roster submitted to the Spring Select Coordinator by January 21st.
  - D. These Spring Season rules are subject to change by agreement with other Regions for any division (Recreational or Select) in which we participate in inter-regional play during the Spring season.

#### **I. AYSO'S GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY**

AYSO carries a General Liability policy which applies to registered volunteers for injuries or damages with these Notable Exclusions:

- Adults participating in:
  - Soccer scrimmages or games with the players
  - Soccer games with other adults

#### **I. DECISIONS**

In the event a questionable decision is made by or under a given Board of Directors, it must be accepted as a learning experience and not as a matter of setting precedent or policy.

The Regional Commissioner or his/her designee reserves the right to: rule on, cancel, postpone, change, or modify, times, dates, number of games, and location of any and all games scheduled by Region 57.

#### **I. PRIVACY POLICY**

Any AYSO related information, contained in Region 57's databases or communicated via email or telephone, may not be sold, shared or used for purposes other than Region 57 use.

**I. METHOD OF AMENDING REGIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, by majority vote, may adopt proposed amendments to these rules so long as those changes do not interfere with/or change the intent of any AYSO Rules and Regulations for Chartered Regions.

**I. APPROVAL**

The Executive Board approved these Regional Rules and Regulations on July 7, 2022

**EXHIBIT A**

AYSO USE ONLY – Season: \_\_\_\_\_

**AYSO Region 57 Refund Request Form**

AYSO Region 57, PO Box 1077, Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Fax: 949-729-1042

treasurer@ayso57.org

Name of player: \_\_\_\_\_

Person requesting refund: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to player: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for refund: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration date: \_\_\_\_\_

# of players registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Payment (circle one):      Credit Card              Checking Account

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail refund to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

.....**AYSO USE ONLY**.....

AYSO volunteer handling refund: \_\_\_\_\_

Refund Approved:    Yes    or    No    Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of refund: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of refund: \_\_\_\_\_

Refund method: Credit Card      or      Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

DROP: Y / N