



Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate

Purpose

The AYSO volunteer position of child and volunteer protection advocate is intended to oversee the child and volunteer protection program in the region in accordance with the AYSO Safe Haven program.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

The child and volunteer protection advocate is expected to:

1. Support the AYSO National Safe Haven Program in both specifics and in spirit;
2. Support the regional commissioner in the promotion and implementation of the AYSO Safe Haven Program, including the three main elements of volunteer protection;
3. Be familiar with the Child Protection Act of 1993, the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, the Good Samaritan Laws of the State of _____, and that state's provisions for the reporting of child abuse and neglect;
4. Work to see that all volunteers complete, date, and sign the AYSO volunteer application form and its authorization to perform applicant screening, and be the screening liaison with the AYSO National Safe Haven Department;
5. Ensure all AYSO volunteers are duly registered in eAYSO;
6. Check references for all new coaches, referees, board members, team parents, and others who have direct supervision of players. Random reference checks for everyone else;
7. Be aware of AYSO's definitions of levels of risk, inform prospective volunteers that they are screened at a level appropriate to the level of risk, and maintain a copy of AYSO's screening policy;
8. Enforce AYSO protocols to protect privacy and privileged information;
9. Present to the regional board a motion to accept the list of coaches, referees, and other volunteers each membership year at a board meeting;

10. Ensure that the region keeps on hand the written position descriptions for each volunteer filling a regional position;
11. Serve as a resource and/or a facilitator to the region's members on the requirements for good faith reporting of abuse and molestation to law enforcement agencies and child welfare agencies;
12. Assist with the ongoing evaluation of volunteers;
13. Meet with the head coach of each team, either individually or in a group with the coach administrator, to review child protection and supervision responsibilities prior to each membership year;
14. Meet with the referees, either individually or in a group with the referee administrator, to review child protection and supervision responsibilities prior to each membership year;
15. See that the region's supervision ratio is enforced; and
16. Promote the region's standards of behavior and conduct as laid out in the child and volunteer protection policies, procedures, and guidelines of the AYSO Safe Haven program.

Qualifications and Desired Skills

To be considered for the position of child and volunteer protection advocate, the applicant must:

1. Annually submit a Volunteer Application Form and be approved as a volunteer in an AYSO region;
2. Complete the AYSO Role of Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate Safe Haven certification and training;
3. Attend CVPA annual update, when offered;
4. Successfully pass a screening, including a background check;
5. Be nominated by the majority of the regional board and appointed by the regional commissioner;
6. Achieve an overall reputation of respect, fairness, and trustworthiness in the community; and
7. Register as the child and volunteer protection advocate by ensuring the regional commissioner lists you on the regional board in eAYSO or by providing the AYSO Member Services Department an Information Form signed by the regional commissioner.

Supervision Protocols

While performing as the child and volunteer protection advocate, the volunteer is:

1. Subject to the bylaws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines of AYSO;
2. Under the overall authority of and directly supervised by the regional commissioner; and
3. To maintain the recommended adult to child supervision ratio of 1:8 or less; that is one adult for every eight or fewer children and two adults (one of whom may be the coach and one of whom should be of the same gender as the group) present at all times. For the protection of both the children and the volunteer, no volunteer should permit himself or herself to be alone with any child or group of children (except his or her own) during AYSO-sponsored activities.

Time Commitment

The anticipated time commitment for a child and volunteer protection advocate is a full year. The estimated hours to fulfill duties by month shall be filled in by the regional commissioner:

Jan:	hrs.	Feb:	hrs.	Mar:	hrs.	Apr:	hrs.	May:	hrs.	Jun:	hrs.
Jul:	hrs.	Aug:	hrs.	Sep:	hrs.	Oct:	hrs.	Nov:	hrs.	Dec:	hrs.

Orientation, Training, Certification, and Continued Education Provided

To prepare a volunteer for the position of child and volunteer protection advocate, AYSO will offer the following educational opportunities which child and volunteer protection advocates are expected to take advantage of and participate in, as appropriate.

1. Orientation by the regional commissioner;
2. The Role of the Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate workshop at the annual Section Conference;
3. CVPA annual update, when offered;
4. Kids Zone workshop;
5. Child protection workshops;
6. Volunteer protection workshops; and
7. Be familiar with Safe Haven educational resources and materials.

Activity Locations

While performing the duties of child and volunteer protection advocate, the volunteer is limited to the following locations, unless expressly authorized in writing by the regional commissioner to hold activities in another location.

1. Regional board meetings;
2. Area meetings;
3. Section conferences ;
4. Assigned field locations;
5. Assigned classroom locations; and
6. Independent work at home alone, in committees of adults, or in a properly supervised situation with children.