



SECTION 11- FLEX PROGRAM **EXTRA PLAY GUIDELINES**

(Effective April 1, 2010)

I. PROGRAM

The FLEX (Side by Side) program is a pilot program, for U10 – U14 players (Boys & Girls), currently offered in Areas 11-E, 11-K, 11-L, 11-Q and 11-Z and is available to other areas with the Section Director's approval. This program is designed to provide a more competitive level of play to those players who possess the appropriate skills and abilities.

II. JURISDICTION

The program will be administered by the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator, who will be responsible for providing general administrative oversight and direction of the program. This will include managing dispute resolution on behalf of, and or through the Section Eleven Director or his designee. The program Administrator will be authorized to appoint staff to assist in managing the program through AYSO volunteers or third party contractors in the best interest of the program.

Each Area Director is responsible for overseeing/verifying that the EXTRA Program requirements are met as pertain to player eligibility, coach eligibility, team formation, field support and referee support by those Regions within their Area that elect to participate in the EXTRA program.

Issues requiring special jurisdiction will be evaluated and handled by the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator in the best interest of the Section and AYSO. This *may* include appointing a three-member committee of Area Directors or Section Staff Members to resolve matters of disagreement. Any appeal of discussions handled by the above identified process will be adjudicated by the Section Eleven Director or his designee.

Each Region will ensure appropriate monitoring and measurement reports, as established by the National Board of Directors under the EXTRA Pilot Program, are completed and submitted as requested. Authorization to continue participation in the EXTRA program is subject to completion and timely submission as requested. We must ensure compliance with all AYSO philosophies, Rules & Regulations and By-Laws. It is critical to the success of the program that all Regions follow these guidelines to provide a common, consistent and positive experience for all players, parents and volunteers.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Each Regional Commissioner of a Region electing to participate in the EXTRA program is responsible for his/her Region's compliance with player eligibility requirements. Player eligibility, as pertains to age requirements to participate in a specific gender/age bracket, shall be as defined by the AYSO National Support & Training Center.

Eligible players must have registered with AYSO and have participated in a scheduled Regional team tryout. **[As defined by National regulations, An EXTRA Side by Side player may not play on another AYSO standard primary program team during the same season, nor will they be eligible for All-star play.]**

In order to satisfy the commitment required by the S11 EXTRA program, players may not be enrolled/participate in other, non-AYSO/Club soccer programs during the EXTRA primary play season. Non compliance shall result in the player being removed from the EXTRA program.

The AYSO National Support & Training Center player database shall be the source of determining the players' current registration status.

Gender/age bracket placement of players shall be based on their age as of July 31 of the current registration year. The EXTRA program permits placement based on single year age increments as approved by the Section Director.

Failure by a coach to prove eligibility of a player placed/playing on a team and/or placing/playing an ineligible player on a team may result in the expulsion of the player, coach and/or the entire team from the EXTRA program, or such other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the applicable Area Director, who shall, in conjunction with the Section "FLEX" Program Administrator, be responsible for evaluating and resolving disputes and allegations of the above described actions. This may include appointing a Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) made up of Area Directors or other Section Staff members in accordance with AYSO due process guidelines. Once a decision is rendered by the DRB, due process may include an appeal to the Section Eleven Director or his designee. The applicable Area Directors shall also determine if any culpability on part of the applicable Regional Commissioner existed in such instances, with the possibility of sanctions being administered as well, as per the above-described procedure.

IV. COACH ELIGIBILITY (Coach/Assistant Coach)

EXTRA coaches/assistant coaches shall meet or exceed minimum training requirements, as stated below, prior to submitting the EXTRA Coach Application and/or selection to coach an EXTRA team.

All EXTRA coaches/assistant coaches need to have completed age appropriate coach training plus U-12 Coach training (U-9/U-10), Intermediate Coach training (U-11) and Advanced Coach training (U-12/U1-3/U-14). All EXTRA coaches/assistant coaches must be Safe Haven Coach certified. In addition, each EXTRA coach/assistant coach must be a trained and certified referee (Basic or higher badge level). Each Region is to attest to compliance, with Area oversight and submit their list of coaches, via their

respective Area Director, to the Section Eleven “FLEX” Program Administrator by June 1st of each year.

A minimum of one season (Fall/Spring) needs to take place between coach training upgrades. Coaches whose records indicate “back to back” upgrade training will not be considered eligible to coach EXTRA teams until such time as they have satisfied coach training requirements based on the aforementioned timing parameters.

In order to satisfy the commitment required by the EXTRA program, coaches are to be fully dedicated to coaching an AYSO EXTRA team only.

V. REGIONAL SUPPORT

Officiating –Referees will be assigned to games in divisions for which they are certified based on their badge level, as follows:

- U9/U10 – Basic Referee
- U11/U12 – Intermediate Referee
- U13/U14 – Advanced Referee
- U15/U16/U19 – National Referee

Hosting Regions are responsible for providing an adequate number of referees to cover EXTRA games. Regional Commissioners shall attest to compliance, with Area concurrence.

All EXTRA games shall be officiated using the Diagonal System of Control, i.e. one referee and two assistant referees.

The use of “club linesmen” is encouraged when an insufficient number of assistant referees are available. The Dual (two-man) System of Control is **not** allowed.

Regional Referee Administrators shall “validate” Referees have the appropriate certification levels to be granted access to the EXTRA program referee sign up system (website based). Referees shall meet the requirements of having a current Volunteer application (2010/2011) on file, documented in eAYSO and access rights for signups will be based on referee badge level as documented in eAYSO. Unless otherwise approved by the Area Referee Administrator, Referees shall be a minimum of two years older than the oldest players in the division to which they have been assigned.

Games that do not have a minimum of a (center) referee assigned by Thursday at 9:00 PM prior to that weekend’s play may be subject to cancellation. The objective is to have a three (3) person referee team assigned to all EXTRA Program games.

Fields – Regions must provide an adequate number of fields, based on a formula of .75 game slots per team entered. There is a requirement for Saturday and Sunday play. Fields/equipment need to be age appropriate. In cases where fields supplied are not adequate to support the total number of teams, schedule pairings may reflect a TBD in place of field location and game time. For those games to be played, the Regions [or Area] involved will have to make arrangements to provide a site, if possible, as well as referee support. Participating regions are responsible for properly preparing all fields used. Field set-up and take down is the responsibility of the hosting region. Regional Commissioners shall attest to compliance, with the respective Area Directors concurrence.

VI. PLAYER/COACH ID CARDS AND TEAM ROSTERS

Coaches shall prepare ID cards for each participating EXTRA player. The ID cards shall bear the name, player ID number, and a recent photo of the respective player and the signature of the Regional Commissioner. ID cards **must** be laminated.

Properly completed and laminated ID cards for all players and a team lineup card shall be presented to the Referee by each team prior to the start of each EXTRA match. **NOTE:** Referees are NOT to request team rosters and/or to use same as part of the team check-in process prior to a game.

Coach ID cards will be provided by the EXTRA program. They will contain a recent picture of the coach, the name of the coach, a Section/Area/Region designation, the coach ID number and coach certification level. Coaches shall wear ID cards visibly on their person; during pre-game check in and for the duration all games. NOTE: Any volunteer who is not provided with a Coach ID card, is NOT considered an EXTRA coach. If there is no "credentialed coach" present during the pre-game check in process, the referee shall cancel the game, with a 1-0 win by forfeit awarded to the "non offending" team.

Each participating Area Director will be responsible for providing a list of qualified coaches and digital photograph on or before August 1, 2010. The applicable process will be provided to the Area Directors.

Team rosters for teams participating in the EXTRA program are to be submitted via the participating Area Directors and must be received by the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator no later than July 15, 2010, in eAYSO format, and shall include:

- Regional and divisional identification.
- Coach's and Assistant Coach's names, address, home and work phone numbers, e-mail addresses, coach training level and Safe Haven certification date.
- Player information: name, address, phone number, birth date, AYSO Registration Number and date of registration.
- Team number, uniform colors and team name (if available).
- Signature of the Regional Commissioner certifying players and coaches.

No team without a properly completed eAYSO team roster submitted to the Area Director/Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator will be allowed to participate in EXTRA play.

Copies of all revised rosters shall be forwarded to the Area Director as soon as possible. Revisions shall occur when:

- A player drops from a team.
- The total amount of player drops, for whatever reason, lowers the number of permanent rostered players to seven (7) for U-9/U-10 or to eleven (11) for U-11/U-12/U-13/U-14. At that point, the team will be allowed to add **one (1) player**. This player cannot be drafted from another AYSO team

whose season is still in progress. The additional player must be approved by the Regional Commissioner and the Area Director.

The Area Director will in turn submit any revised rosters to the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator.

For each EXTRA team, a team representative must have a team roster and both ID cards and copies of AYSO Player Registration Forms (medical release forms) for each participating player and an ID card for the coach(es) at all AYSO sanctioned events **NOTE:** The referee shall NOT ask for the team roster and/or player registration forms as part of the pre-game check-in process.

VII. TEAM FORMAT

Participating Regions are allowed to enter teams in the U-9 through U-14 gender/age brackets.

Format of play – U-9/U-10 = 7 v. 7, with maximum of ten (10) players on the roster. No "play up" is permitted in these age brackets. No "combo" teams. U9 teams, if entered into EXTRA play, will be composed of "true" eight (8) year olds and U10 teams, if entered into EXTRA play, will be composed of "true" nine (9) year olds.

Format of play – U-11 – U-14 = 11 v. 11, with maximum of fifteen (15) players on the roster.

Single year age bracketing is permissible – and recommended. Regions may opt for "combo" teams (two (2) year gender/age brackets), except U9/U10), where they feel that such action may be in their best interest. In such cases, the age of the oldest player will determine the placement of the team as regards gender/age.

In order to enter a team in the EXTRA program, the Region must have a minimum of 75 players in that same gender/age bracket in their Fall Standard Primary program.

Each Region is limited to entering one (1) team in each (single year) gender/age bracket. This prohibition may be adjusted by the "FLEX" Program Administrator on a case-by-case basis upon the recommendation of the respective Area Director and following pre-determined criteria.

Teams must be formed according to the approved tryout procedures.

Guest players are not authorized in the AYSO EXTRA program.

At no time is inter-regional recruitment of players allowed without the prior approval of each of the Regional Commissioners and Area Directors concerned. Recruitment without prior approval may result in sanctions as described in previously illustrated disciplinary process by the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator, which may involve convening a DRB as per AYSO due process guidelines.

VIII. TRYOUT PROCEDURES

- Player selection opportunities must be widely advertised to all potential players
- **All participants** in a tryout **must be registered** with AYSO **prior** to the tryout session. On site registration may be done for anyone not registered prior to arriving to the tryout.

- **All players** in the gender/age bracket of the tryout being conducted are eligible to try out.
- A minimum of two (2) tryouts will be held.
- Regions are to notify all players who tried out as to their status, positive or negative, on the EXTRA team within a reasonable amount of time after the tryouts for that particular Region have concluded. Players who do not get assigned to a team will be notified first.
- All players will wear numbers for tryouts. Evaluations will be as “blind” as possible.
- Evaluators are strongly encouraged to use a short-sided game format to evaluate players. Coaches may also use additional skill tests.
- Advanced Coaches (at minimum) or those with higher level coaching licenses will conduct the evaluations that create raw scores. Regardless of coaching license held, a parent of a player trying out for EXTRA play may not participate as an evaluator for his/her child’s gender/age bracket. The Regional Coach Administrator also should be involved in the EXTRA program tryout process.
- The EXTRA coach may not be involved in selection of “Top 10”; however, the EXTRA coach should observe all players throughout all the tryouts
- When all tryouts have been completed, the Region will calculate scores for all participants and establish a rank order of participants.
- The Region will select the most capable players based on the rank order. The selection committee should consist of the Regional Commissioner, the Regional Coach Administrator, the Regional EXTRA program coordinator and any other designees by the Regional Commissioner.
- If the coach’s child clearly does not qualify based on the talent of the players participating in the tryout, the Regional EXTRA program Coordinator shall bring this to the attention of the regional selection committee. The EXTRA coach may continue as the coach without their child if he/she chooses, or the Regional EXTRA Program Coordinator may appoint a replacement coach of the team with prior Regional Board Approval.
- Evaluators are encouraged to select as large a team as allowed by AYSO rules (U-9/U-10 = 10 players, U-11/U-12/U1-3/U-14 =15 players).

The Region (with Area assistance if needed) will develop and provide to each AYSO EXTRA team the materials, numbers and method for conducting tryouts. Regions (with Area assistance) are encouraged to “share” those individuals qualified to be evaluators with other Regions.

IX. UNIFORMS

All uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

The Referee is the final authority on the safety of any player's uniform and equipment.

EXTRA teams should be provided with uniforms similar to those provided to other Fall Standard Primary Program teams. A second (traveling) jersey is recommended.

Regional funds are not be expended for any additional player uniforms, warm-ups, backpacks, etc.

All players must wear shin guards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any practice or game. .

AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field. EXTRA team members shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any game with any type of cast or splint.

The goalkeeper on each team must wear colors (jersey or scrimmage vest) that clearly distinguish him from other players on both teams to the satisfaction of the Referee.

The Home team in a match is responsible for wearing uniform jerseys (or scrimmage vests) that clearly distinguish them from the other team. In case of color conflicts, the Home team is required to change uniform colors.

X. PRACTICE/TRAINING

Teams are **NOT** permitted to begin practice or engage in any other training activity prior to August 1st. Only players on the official roster of the team are permitted to participate in team training. Practice games with non-EXTRA teams are permitted with the approval of the Regional Commissioner(s). A 1 to 8 ratio (adults to players) must be maintained and gender guidelines adhered to per AYSO Safe Haven Guidelines (i.e. – girls' teams coached by a male need to have a female adult present at all team activities and vice versa).

XI. GAMES

The gaming schedule/standings for the EXTRA 2010 season will be posted on the Section 11 website (aysosectioneleven.org). The participating Areas should post links to this website.

All games shall be played as scheduled (date, time and venue). Games not played, for whatever reason, will NOT be rescheduled by the EXTRA program, with the only exception being a re-schedule of games involving teams in a position to win an award.

In cases of games cancelled by adverse weather conditions (rain, poor air quality or act of God), if both coaches agree on a date, time and venue, games cancelled by rain may be rescheduled by coaches on a venue located in either team's region, with applicable referee support to be provided by the region (or Area) where the rescheduled game is to be played. The scores for completed games will be reported to the EXTRA website and will count in the final standings. To allow flexibility in rescheduling games, the final standings will be determined after November 21, 2010, which allows for an additional week and weekend (the open weekend of November 20-21, 2010) as an

additional opportunity to make up games previously cancelled by rain. The final standings will be determined based upon average points per game for each team (total points divided by number of games played) to account for any inequities in number of games played. Example: team A plays 10 games and has 61 points and team B plays 11 games and has 66 points. Team A wins because their point average is 6.1 (61/10) vs. 6.0 (66/11) for team B.

No team will be allowed to secure a place in positions 1 – 4 in the season standings as a result of not playing a scheduled game. In such case(s), the respective Area Director(s) will reschedule the match.

If a team does not appear for a scheduled game, their opponent will be awarded a 1- 0 victory by forfeit, i.e. 8 points to the winning team. **[The Section Eleven “FLEX” Program Administrator may impose other sanctions if the forfeiting team gains an advantage by the forfeit.]**

If either of the teams is not ready to play at the scheduled kick-off time, the Referee may allow a grace period of up to ten (10) minutes before canceling the game. A team not ready to play at the scheduled time shall forfeit that game and the team shall lose by a score of 1-0, i.e. 8 points to the winning team.

The coaches, substitutes, and spectators of the two teams playing the match shall be on opposite sides of the field of play unless the Referee gives permission for them to be on the same side, in which case they will remain on separate ends of the field. Home teams shall have the choice as to side of field. Teams and spectators will only be allowed in areas approved by the Referee.

Coaches are responsible for reporting game scores to the Section 11 website (aysosectioneleven.org). The Referee is responsible for reporting all misconduct, including the cautions or send-off of players, coaches, or spectators or any other area of concern including unsafe conditions etc. to the Misconduct Reporting email address within twenty-four (24) hours of the game. The Misconduct Reporting System will make appropriate distribution of the Misconduct Report.

If the Referee terminates a game before completion because of actions by players, coaches and/ or spectators, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by the offending team and shall be recorded as 1-0, i.e. 8 points for the winner.

If the game termination is due to actions by both teams, or if it is undetermined, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by both teams and points shall not be recorded in the standings. However, the game itself will be recorded as such and count in the computation of average points/game in determining standings.

If a game is suspended prior to completion due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, the game score will stand as recorded by the Referee, provided one half or more of the regulation game time had been played at the time of suspension.

If less than one-half of the regulation game time had been played at the time of the game suspension, the game will be rescheduled by the respective Area Directors and played in its entirety at a later date and time. If the game is not rescheduled for any

reason, the game shall stand as a NOT-PLAYED game, irrespective of the score at the time of game suspension.

If a coach or any other adult enters the field to attend to an injured player, that player must leave the field and may be substituted with a replacement player at that time. Any player who is substituted out of a game in this manner may be substituted back into the game at the next substitution opportunity. If the injured player is not substituted, he/she may re-enter at any time with the permission of the referee. Referees are urged to allow re-entry by such a player at the earliest time that will not interfere with the flow of the match.

XII. GAME SCORING

Standings will be determined by average points per game, of the regular seasons scheduled games per the Sectional website schedule (*total points earned in standings games divided by number of games played*).

For standings, points shall be awarded as follows:

- a. Win 6 points
- b. Tie 3 points
- c. Loss 0 points
- d. Shut Out 1 point
- e. Goals For 1 point per goal (3 point maximum)

A maximum of ten (10) points may be awarded to a team in any one game.

THREE POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH SEND-OFF (EJECTION) (Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Abusive Language) RECEIVED BY A PLAYER OR COACH.

A tie is an acceptable result in all games and shall be recorded as such.

No team shall be allowed to benefit themselves in pool play scoring by their own forfeit, such as assuring their final standing above another team over which they have a 9 point lead prior to the forfeit. If necessary, scores shall be adjusted to avoid such benefit.

Final season standings/awards (1st – 4th place per each flight in a specific gender/age bracket) shall be determined by rankings based on average points per game earned by each team.

Tie breakers for standings at the conclusion of “standings” play shall be as follows:

- a. Head to Head Play (outcome of the game involving the tied teams).
- b. Team with the lowest number of goals against.
- c. Goal Differential: goals scored, less goals allowed, maximum differential of three (3) goals per game.
- d. Team with highest number of goals scored, maximum of three (3) goals per game (counting no more than three goals more than their opponents in any game).
- e. Lowest point deductions for misconducts and send-offs.
- f. Coin toss.

XIII. POST SEASON PLAYOFF

The Section Eleven “FLEX” Administrator, in conjunction with the participating Area Directors, will establish a playoff format that will be published in a separate document. Player participation is limited to those who were on the roster of the entering EXTRA team during the regular season.

XIV. PLAYER SUBSTITUTION

All games shall have a substitution opportunity midway through each half, at half time and in the event of injury. The half time break will be five (5) minutes. Free substitution is not permitted.

XV. MISCONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the Referee in EXTRA games to submit a written Misconduct Report to the FLEX Program MISCONDUCT reporting system within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game at which the offence occurred.

There is **no** mandatory “cooling off” period for cautioned players. It is recommended that, at the coach’s request and with the Referee’s permission, a cautioned player, or any player having difficulty controlling his emotions, may be substituted at the earliest opportunity.

The Referee must also report any behavior by coaches and/or spectators on or off the field that seriously interferes with the game and/or proper standards of conduct.

Referees shall **not** retain any Player ID Cards from players who have been sent-off.

The penalty for a player, coach and/or spectator sent-off (Red Card) from the field for any reason in an EXTRA game shall be a minimum one (1) game suspension. Such suspension shall be served in the first game (not scrimmage) that is played following the game of the incident. The suspension for violent conduct or serious foul play shall be a minimum of two (2) games and the length of any suspension may be increased and other disciplinary measures applied if deemed warranted after a DRB has been convened, utilizing the AYSO due process guidelines as outlined in previous sections of this document.

If the player sent off is a minor (under 18 years of age), he/she must leave the field in the company of his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). Otherwise, the player must leave being accompanied by a Safe Haven certified adult. Otherwise, the player may remain in the proximity of the field, under adult supervision.

Should violators of the penalties set forth in this section refuse to immediately leave the field when requested to do so by the Referee, the game shall be suspended until the situation has been resolved. If it is not resolved, in what the Referee considers a reasonable amount of time, the game shall be terminated and the incident reported to the FLEX MISCONDUCT reporting system.

A player serving a suspension and not in uniform may attend the team’s next scheduled game as a spectator, but may not participate in any manner.

An adult serving a suspension may not be present at the game (including pre and post game activities) or participate in any manner.

In the event a suspended player or coach participates in a match for which he has been suspended, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 forfeit in favor of the opposing team. For each such event, the original suspension must be served at the next game played by the team, an additional 1 game suspension must be served at the following game, and the coach of such team must serve a 1 game suspension.

Send-Off's (Red Cards) and/or Cautions (Yellow Cards) issued in FLEX games **are not subject to appeal.**

Each player (Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play, Abusive Language) and Coach send-off carries a three (3) point deduction as detailed in GAME SCORING (above).

Disciplinary Review Hearings (DRB) shall be conducted by the home Area/Region in cases of EXTRA play send offs related to abusive language, serious foul play and/or violent conduct (player) and any adult send off. Outcome of these hearings, to include additional sanctions, may be shared between Area Directors and the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator only.

The 2010 EXTRA Program Code of Conduct letter shall be a governing document related to acceptable conduct for participants/spectators in/at EXTRA Play games. The section related to fighting will be strictly enforced.

The applicable Area Director(s), with the assistance of the Area Referee Administrator(s) and the Area Coaching Administrator(s), together with the respective Regional Commissioners, shall review all inter-regional disciplinary issues not resolved at the regional level. Any disciplinary action taken must be communicated within 96 hrs of the game in which the incident occurred. Disciplinary hearings may be called if deemed necessary by the Area Director(s) or the Section Eleven "FLEX" Program Administrator.

The EXTRA Program will publish a weekly Misconduct Report Summary – distribution to Area Directors, Area/Regional Referee Administrators, and the applicable Regional Commissioners. This report will list all cautions, send offs and information on other reports submitted by referees and shall also list those suspensions that are to be served (by gender/age bracket, player name, coach name, date and location).