

10. National Coaching Program

Purpose

The AYSO National Coaching Program is designed to develop good soccer players who have a positive image of themselves, their teammates, coaches, match officials, and opponents. Coach training is the key. It is the goal of AYSO that every coach be a trained and certified coach. This shall be accomplished by providing coaching expertise through clinics, manuals, videos, online courses and reference materials. A full coach training program has been developed for each division of play.

Coaching Structure

The AYSO National Coaching Program is administered by the AYSO Player Development Department.

Section Coach Administrators, are appointed by their respective Section Directors, and direct and implement the programs established by the National Coaching Program within their respective Section.

Each Section is comprised of several Areas, each with its corresponding Area Coach Administrator. The Area Coach Administrator provides support and training opportunities to the Regions and the coaches in the Area. The Area Coach Administrator should assist new Regional Coach Administrators in conducting Regional coach clinics

For questions, consult the Area and Section staffs, along with the resources of the AYSO National Office.

Materials Available

*AYSO National Rules & Regulations**

Section Rules and Regulations (does not apply to some Sections)

AYSO Playground Soccer Manual

AYSO Schoolyard Soccer Manual

6U Coach Manual *

8U Coach Manual *

10U Coach Manual *

12U Coach Manual *

Intermediate Coach Manual and instructor notes*

Advanced Coach Manual and instructor notes*

National Coach Program Manual*

Coach Administrator Manual*

AYSO's Safe Haven Manual*

* Available from the AYSO Supply Center – 1 (888) 297-6786 or supplycenter.ayso.org.

Holding an AYSO Coaching Course

Step 1:

All training courses must be registered on AYSOU.org. Coach Administrators and certified AYSO Coaching Instructors may register a course in AYSOU.org. Call the National Office, Player Development Department if you have any questions, (800) 872-2976.

Step 2:

To register a course online or fill out the Coaching Course Request Form, you will need to have the following information:

- Section, Area, and Region
- Course Name (Safe Haven, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, Intermediate or Advanced)
- Name of the Certified Instructor, qualified to lead the course (see the matrix at the end of this chapter)
- Course Date
- Course Location

Make sure to include contact information so course attendees are able to contact you with any questions!

Step 3:

Conduct the course and have all attendees fill out the course roster completely and legibly.

Step 4:

Have course attendees keep their tests, once graded for future reference.

Step 5:

Coaching Course rosters can be input directly online via AYSOU.org. We strongly encourage all instructors to enter their own rosters into AYSOU.org.

Note: If the roster is not entered into AYSOU.org, attendees will not receive credit for the course. If a roster is outstanding more than sixty (60) days, it can cause the course instructor to be ineligible to conduct further coaching courses. If you do not hold the course, please cancel it in AYSOU.org or notify the Player Development Department (800) 872-2976 for further assistance.

For our volunteer's protection, every course must be registered with AYSOU.org. Thank you for your cooperation and thank you for taking the time to provide quality coaching courses to AYSO coaches.

Accreditation

The AYSO Coaching Program and our Safe Haven certification are fully accredited by the United States Center for Coaching Excellence (USCCE). The essential function of USCCE is to review the quality of coaching education programs and encourage continuous improvement of coaching education. The Council endorses The National Standards for Athletic Coaches.

A trained and certified coach who keeps his or her education current with changing standards is the best vehicle for delivering a positive, quality experience to the players of AYSO.

Our goal is to have every AYSO coach trained, certified, and keeping up-to-date through continuing education for the welfare of players and volunteers alike.

Required Coach Training

Beginning August 1, 2010, coaches and assistant coaches in the 6U age division in every AYSO Region were required to have AYSO's age-appropriate training and AYSO's Safe Haven certification when they take the field.

The coach training policy will roll forward each year adding one additional level of required age-specific coach training until, by the 2015 membership year, every AYSO coach and assistant coach, at every level, will be appropriately trained for the team they will coach.

This policy was approved and adopted by the AYSO National Board of Directors at their July 2009 meeting and is supported by the AYSO National Coaching Advisory Commission.

Coaches will continue to be required to be currently registered AYSO volunteers and have AYSO's Safe Haven certification. AYSO's Safe Haven certification, which is designed to protect both volunteers and children alike, is available as an online or in-person class.

Following is the training that will be required for each of the age levels in all AYSO matches and the schedule for implementation:

Division	Minimum Training Requirement
6U	6U Coach (beginning 8/1/2010)
8U	8U Coach (beginning 8/1/2011)
10U	10U Coach (beginning 8/1/2012)
12U	12U Coach (beginning 8/1/2013)
14U	Intermediate Coach (beginning 8/1/2015) Including all pre-requisites
16U/18U	Advanced Coach (beginning 8/1/2015) Including all pre-requisites

To schedule training for any of these courses, contact your Regional Coach Administrator for more details or contact the Player Development Department at the AYSO National Office for more information, (800) 872-2976, ext. 7974.

Certification/Training Policy - National Games and AYSO Sanctioned Tournaments

The following policy was approved and adopted by the National Board of Directors at their October 2006 meeting in Hawthorne California:

Effective August 1, 2009, all AYSO coaches and assistant coaches who wish to coach in the AYSO National Games, or nationally sanctioned AYSO Tournaments must, at a minimum:

1. Be a registered volunteer in AYSO's system of record for the current year.
2. Be Safe Haven certified and trained.
3. Be trained per the National Coaching Program Guidelines at the age/skill level of the team they wish to enter/coach.

Many Sections and Areas have already adopted this requirement for those coaching in Area and/or Section sponsored competitions. This policy is also supported and backed by the National Tournament Advisory Commission and is to be included in the Tournament Handbook.

To schedule 'age appropriate' coach training and AYSO certification please contact one of the following:

- **Regional Coach Administrator** (10U & 12U Training)
- **Area Coach Administrator** (Intermediate Training)
- **Section Coach Administrator** (Advanced Training)

Contact information for any of these administrators can be accessed through the Regional Commissioner or by contacting the Player Development Department via email to coaching@ayso.org or by calling the AYSO National Office (1-800-USA-AYSO).

Although only the age-specific course is required to meet the new requirement at the 10U and 12U levels, it is best for the players if each coach at 10U and 12U has the full range of AYSO coach training (6U, 8U, 10U, and 12U). Please note, however, there are prerequisites that must be met before taking the Intermediate, Advanced or National Coach courses. *For those who are coaching (or are going to be coaching) at the 14U level or above, please see the following "Coach Course Catalog" for the prerequisites for Intermediate, Advanced or National Coach Training.*

Coach Training Matrix					
Course	Description	Length	Attendee Prerequisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Minimum Authorization Required
6U Coach	This training presents information and skills to be taught relevant to the small-sided match (4v4) of the 6U age group.	2 hours	None	Coach Instructor	Regional Coach Administrator
8U Coach	This training presents information and skills to be taught relevant to the small-sided match (4v4) of the 8U age group.	2 hours	Completion of 6U Coaching Course is recommended	Coach Instructor	Regional Coach Administrator
10U Coach	This training presents information and skills to be taught relevant to the small-sided match (7v7) of the 10U age group.	3 hours	Completion of 8U Coaching Course is recommended	Coach Instructor	Regional Coach Administrator
12U Coach	This training presents information and skills to be taught relevant to the small-sided match (9v9) of the 12U age group.	5 hours	Completion of 10U Coaching Course is recommended	Coach Instructor	Regional Coach Administrator
Intermediate Coach	This training focuses on tactical situations and set pieces. This course builds upon the 12U Coaching Course.	8 hours	Completion of the 12U Coaching Course, AYSO's Safe Haven, The CDC Concussion Course, Intermediate Coach Online, AYSO's Online Summary of the Laws of the	Advanced Coach Instructor	Area Coach Administrator

Coach Training Matrix					
Course	Description	Length	Attendee Prerequisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Minimum Authorization Required
			Game And Training Plan Design are required .		
Advanced Coach	This training focuses on tactical situations, advanced tactics, and observation, evaluation, and implementation techniques. This course builds upon the Intermediate Coaching Course.	18 hours	Completion of the Intermediate Coaching Course is required .	Advanced Coach Instructor	Section Coach Administrator
National Coach	This training provides training in advanced levels of play and requires 25 hours of mentoring in local Section, Area or Region upon completion of the course.	56 hours	Completion of the Advanced Coaching Course is required .	AYSO National Coach Instructor	Director of Player Development
Coach Administrator Training	This training presents the duties and responsibilities of Coach Administrators with tips to enhance performance and enjoyment.	1.25 hours	None	Advanced Coach Instructor	Area Coach Administrator
Annual Coach Update	This training provides continuing education for coaches in the Region. Program updates and program requirements are reviewed in this training session.	1 hour	None	Coach Instructor	Regional Coach Administrator