

# AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION (AYSO Region 345/Okeeheelee Park)

Information can also be found on our website at [AYSO345.com](http://AYSO345.com)

AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) IS a Not-for-Profit 100% ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION-From Board Members, Coaches, Referees, and Team Managers. All the Volunteers you see giving their time are NOT PAID!

*We need volunteers in all positions to run our league!! What can you do?*

*Lend a hand. We always need volunteers!*

*There is lots to do. Anyone can help. There are lots of ways you can, Coach, Referee, field help, Team Managers, office help. Lots of opportunities.*

*Teenagers can earn community service for High School requirements and scholarships. AYSO has their own scholarships which are awarded to our outstanding Senior Volunteers, another great reason to help!*

*Garbage patrol! Please be sure to clean up your own and encourage the team to pick up their bench.*

*If you see us..... Carrying a bench or moving a goal we would LOVE help. It takes a lot to set up and take down fields every Saturday.*

*Needing a translator and you can help; we would appreciate it.*

*Stuffing folders in the office and you would like to beat the heat we have a job for you.*

*Any little thing makes a big difference to us. 😊*

*We are also looking for enthusiastic people to join the Board! So, if you would like to get more involved and have a little free time come and see us!*

\* AYSO abides by the 6 Philosophies- They are the core of our program and what separates AYSO from other sport organizations.

1. **Everyone Plays**-What does that mean?

Our program's goal is for kids to play soccer. It's no fun to spend the game on the bench...and that's no way to learn soccer! No player sits on the bench twice until all players have sat once.

2. **Balanced Teams**-Teams are balanced. What does that mean?

Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible because it's more fun and a better learning experience when teams of similar ability play. It allows each player to gain the experience of a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels.

3. **Open Registration**-What does that mean?

Our program is open to all children between 4 and 19 years of age who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing. There are no elimination try-outs, and nobody gets cut.

4. **Positive Coaching**-What does that mean?

Encouragement of player effort provides for greater enjoyment for the players and leads to better-skilled and better-motivated players. A coach can be one of the most influential people in a child's life, so AYSO requires they create a positive experience for every boy and girl.

5. **Good Sportsmanship**-This is a key philosophy for Players, Parents and spectators!

We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

We keep no standings here.

There is no championship, just the opportunity to play soccer and have fun.

6. **Player Development**- What does that mean?

We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

\* **Florida Weather**

The weather can change at any moment so PLEASE **DO NOT drop your children off!!** There is a lightening detector in Okeeheelee so when it sounds or if we see lightening first, we will sound an air horn. All fields must be immediately cleared including bleachers (which are metal a big **no no** for lightening)

- Sky must be lightening free for 20 minutes for an all clear to be given. If your child's game was at halftime or more, that game will not resume.
- If it was a 6U game at any point it will not resume due to shortness off game.
- We hate bad weather just as much as you but sometimes Park closure is beyond our control. The County may close due to field conditions.

\* **Injuries**

- Another reason NOT TO DROP OFF your child. Anything can happen at any time!!
- We need an adult there who can make a decision for the child. We care about our players!
- Each player that has a Social Security card (AYSO Nationals rule not ours) Is eligible for our insurance coverage.

It can be supplemental to yours or the primary if you have none. There is a \$500.00 deductible.

Be sure your coach or team manager fills out an accident report for any injury. If the child needs medical attention come to the office to get the needed forms and instruction. AYSO insurance pays after the fact so you will need copies of all bills to submit.

Many of the children are not properly hydrated for training or games!! We cannot stress enough WATER, WATER, WATER all season. The water they drink today doesn't help today. **Always Bring** a drink to every training and practice!!!!

\* **A few rules to follow;**

1. **No smoking anywhere in the field area. Smoking is allowed in parking lot.**
2. **No Pets! It's not that we don't love them, it's just we don't love what they leave behind.**
3. **No bad language in ANY language at any time! This is a Kid Zone!**
4. **No alcohol anywhere at any time in the park.**

\* **GAMES** are on Saturday's starting February 8 & ending March 29, 2025. **GAMES** are held between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm and are held at Okeeheelee Park

\* **PRACTICES** are MONDAY & WEDNESDAY or TUESDAY & THURSDAY

**6U (2019-2020 Birthdate) & 8U (2017-2018 Birthdate) practice 6:00-7:00 pm Age as of December 31, 2025**

**10U (2015-2016 Birthdate) & 12U (2013-2014 Birthdate) practice 7:00-8:00 pm Age as of December 31, 2025**

**14U (2011-2012 Birthdate) & 19U (2006-2010 Birthdate) practice 8:00-9:00 pm Age as of December 31, 2025**

Full Practices start January 27, 2025 (The Volunteer Coach picks the Day & Time for Practice)

\* **WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FULFILL REQUESTS FOR CERTAIN NIGHTS FOR SIBLINGS (IF NOTATED ON REGISTRATION FORM, OTHERWISE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PUT ON THE SAME NIGHTS OF PRACTICE AT OUR DISCRETION) FOR PRACTICE DAYS, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THIS. THERE WILL BE NO SWITCHING AFTER THE TEAMS ARE FORMED DUE TO UNBALANCING TEAMS. REQUESTS FOR NON-SIBLING CHILDREN TO BE ON THE SAME TEAM TOGETHER CANNOT BE FULFILLED. WE CAN ONLY GUARANTEE SIBLINGS IN THE SAME DIVISION AND GENDER TO BE ON THE SAME TEAM TOGETHER.**

\* **Coaches will notify you of your team by January 26, 2025, with practices starting January 27, 2025**

\* **Teams will be posted on the soccer building on January 26, 2025**

\* **If you have not heard from a coach by January 26, 2025, and have checked the posted teams on the concession stand and your child is not listed, please contact the registrar at [REGION345@aol.com](mailto:REGION345@aol.com)**

**Field Designations**-Fields are designated Field 10 (field to the west by the water, Field 11, Field 12, Field 13 (field to the east by road), Field 14 is by the golf course. Fields are designate to NW is A, NE is B, C is NW next to A, D is NE next to B, E is SW next to C, F is SW next to D, G is SW next to E, H is NW next to F

\* All children will receive a uniform consisting of a game shirt, short, and socks. They will also receive a practice shirt with their sponsor's name on it (if their team has a sponsor). **(We will need sponsors at varying costs for over 100 teams. If interested, please contact us at [Region345@aol.com](mailto:Region345@aol.com) or applications are available in the office)**

\* All children will receive a medal at the end of the season, a subscription to **PLAYSOSOCER Magazine**, and accident insurance.

\* **Equipment needed for practices & games - Shinguards, water bottle, soccer cleats, and ball to practice with. Balls are sized accordingly: Size 3 for 5- to 8-year-olds (6U's & 8U's), Size 4 for 9 to 12 year olds (10U's & 12U's), & Size 5 for 13 and older (14U's & 19U's)**

**What to Expect**-To have fun, cheer and enjoy watching your child play soccer.

To have helpful friendly volunteers keep the program running.

To keep in mind, we are all **VOLUNTEERS** that are here for the kids and appreciate a kind tone when you are speaking to us. Understand that there are nearly 1,500 players here and there will always be a bump in the road, but you can count on us to diligently try to solve any problem as soon as we can. That also means you need to make us aware ASAP. Don't let frustration get the better of your enjoyment of the program. We are not aware of every incident unless it is brought to our attention. So, Give us a chance and be fair in your expectations.

To have let the children play!! Let the coaches coach and let the referee officiate. Your job is to be a positive spectator and cheer for all our players that are there to play soccer and have FUN!!!