

2011 - 2012  
AYSO REGION 92  
EL SEGUNDO



PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK

AYSO Region 92 • El Segundo, CA 90245

⚽ Hotline: 310-322-9760 ⚽ [www.ayso92.org](http://www.ayso92.org) ⚽

**Welcome to AYSO Region 92!**

Please take time to review this handbook as it will answer (almost) any question about this program.  
We hope you have a great season!

## 35 YEARS - AYSO REGION 92 EL SEGUNDO, CA

Welcome, AYSO family. A new season, our 35<sup>th</sup>, is upon us and as always I thank you for your continued support to El Segundo's AYSO Region 92, a PLATINUM AWARD winner in 2011. The Platinum Award is granted to Regions that meet and exceed AYSO's National requirements and standards. That tells a lot about our volunteers, players, and families that support this program in El Segundo.

Can you believe we are now in our 5<sup>th</sup> year of playing at our City's state of the art Athletic Fields? And we are now in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our U5 program.

For the last three years, in February, our Region has hosted the Area 1D All Stars, which brought teams from other regions into our Campus El Segundo Athletic Fields.

This season will be another exciting one as we venture into new opportunities to improve our communications, streamline our registration process, expand our soccer camp program such as the spring and summer academies, and training programs in the Fall for coaches and players alike.

As we come close to the start of the season, I would like to encourage parents and youths (12 years and older) to come and join our volunteer program as a coach, assistant coach, team parent, referee, youth referee and possibly regional board member. AYSO is a purely volunteer based program and our success is attributed to the countless hours that our volunteers put in for our kids in the community. Our Region always welcomes volunteers that would like to take on a board position. Interested volunteers, please don't hesitate to contact me or check the board list in the Region's website at [www.ayso92.org](http://www.ayso92.org).

Thank you to the City of El Segundo for the continued support in AYSO in the use of city fields and facilities.

The goal of Region 92 and the AYSO organization is to encourage the growth of soccer and promote positive child development. Although everyone engaged in sporting competition should have a desire to win, this desire should not be pursued to the exclusion of good sportsmanship, fair play and participation. AYSO is a parent based volunteer organization providing a soccer program for all children regardless of experience or skill level. Registration of your child in our program implies responsibility to the team and adherence to the six principles of AYSO: **Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Positive Coaching, Open Registration, Good Sportsmanship and Player Development.**

We have another exciting season and let's make it a season to remember.

Yours in soccer,

Mike Doherty  
Region 92 Regional Commissioner

## AYSO PHILOSOPHY

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a volunteer based, nonprofit organization, founded in Torrance, California in 1964. Region 92 (El Segundo) was chartered in 1976.

AYSO was founded on community involvement. Volunteer staff members are encouraged to organize in ways best suited to their needs. The foundation of AYSO is the "Region", or basic community program. Each Region is headed by a Regional Commissioner who, with the help of a regional board, conducts business within the framework of AYSO's philosophies, Rules and Regulations and Bylaws. Depending on its stage of development, a Region may have as few as 200 players or as many as 5,000, grouped into boys and girls divisions based on age.

Several bordering regions compose an "Area". Each Area is headed by an Area Director who is responsible for the performance and growth of the Area.

Area Directors report to Section Directors, who are responsible for the general welfare and administration of a "Section". A Section may cover a portion of a state, an entire state, or several states.

A National Board of Directors governs the overall AYSO organization. Regional Commissioners, Area and Section Directors, along with the National Board members, serve as executive members with voting rights.

The staff at AYSO's national headquarters in Hawthorne, CA, works closely with these volunteer executive members and interfaces directly with each Region. The headquarters, called the National Support and Training Center or NSTC, provides many services: computerized registration; publications; liability and accident insurance; training for coaches, referees and administrators; and more.

Our vision statement: To provide world-class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives.

Our mission statement: To develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on the AYSO philosophies:

**Everyone Plays  
Balanced Teams  
Open Registration  
Positive Coaching  
Good Sportsmanship  
Player Development**

**Everyone Plays:** Kids have an opportunity to play soccer regardless of their skill level. Every player in Divisions U6 through U14 must play at least three-quarters of every game. Players in Divisions U16 through U19 must play at least one half of every game.

**Balanced Teams:** Team balancing is critical to the AYSO program. It's more fun for everyone when teams of equal ability play! At the start of each season, teams are formed as evenly balanced as possible. In the U10-U12-U14 divisions, player evaluations from the prior fall season are used in the team balancing process as well as the age of the players. In addition, the Program Commissioners may evaluate new players to the Region for division skill level to help improve team balancing. This would also include players from previous years in the Region who did not play in the Region last year. In lower Divisions, age and experience (if available) are used to balance teams as well as a less sophisticated level of player evaluations from the prior fall season.

**Open Registration:** There is no restriction on residency nor is there a skill level requirement.

**Positive Coaching:** Building kids up makes them “winners”, not tearing them down. AYSO Coaches make an extra effort to understand and offer positive assistance to their players. Negative criticism is not permitted.

**Good Sportsmanship:** We want to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-cost attitude. AYSO is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of the program.

**Player Development:** 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, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

**What is a Region?** Whether you are a veteran AYSO volunteer or you are new at this soccer business, you may be wondering what is this thing called an AYSO Region and how it works. Our Region is one of more than 900 local programs in communities nationwide. Each AYSO Region is the same, yet different.

That means AYSO Bylaws and Rules and Regulations standardize operational procedures and playing rules. But because community needs and characteristics may be different, Regions have the flexibility to satisfy their unique needs.

Our Region is identified by a number. El Segundo is AYSO Region 92. We belong to Area D in Section 1. The Region is managed by parents just like yourself. In fact, you may be one of those dedicated volunteers working to ensure the program is run effectively and AYSO philosophies are upheld.

The Regional Commissioner and Regional Board of Directors meet once a month during the season and sometimes more often for pre-season planning. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

Here's what you can expect from your Region:

- A fun experience for your child during games and practices
- Coaches and referees who understand AYSO philosophies and support them
- Technical training for coaches and referees
- Caring volunteers to manage the “business” of the Region
- A national organization for support and guidance
- Fiscal responsibility via a financial statement, published yearly

Our soccer season is comprised of five parts. Your child may have an opportunity to participate in all of them. These parts are the fall program, Area 1D playoffs, Section 1 playoffs, spring program and special tournaments.

**Fall Program:** This is the regular season and is the minimum season each child will play. The Region runs three player programs in the fall. This includes the program for our Regular fall teams (U6 thru U14), the U5 program, and VIP Programs for players with special needs. The Region participates in an area program at the U16 and U19 levels.

At the end of the regular season, in the U10 through U14 divisions, our Region holds playoffs the first two weeks of December for qualifying teams. The winners of the championship games will then represent the Region and advance to the Area 1D League Championship, with games played in January. Our Region also participates in the Area 1D All Stars Tournament in February.

In the past, the U6 division has been comprised of players who were at least 4-and-a-half years old as of July 31 to those who were still 5-years-old as of July 31. Beginning two years ago, the Region introduced a new division to our fall program. We split the U6 division into a U5 division and a U6 division to bring our Region in line with National AYSO guidelines. Now, we will be registering players who are 4-years-old as of July 31.

Each player is guaranteed to play at least three-quarters of every game, regardless of his or her level of skill or aptitude, **if the child:** arrives on time at the playing field for scheduled games, is prepared to play in the proper complete uniform, shoes, shin guards, etc, and is not handicapped due to illness or injury.

**Area 1D Playoffs:** Teams placing first in our regional playoff games will then represent Region 92 in the Area 1D League Championship games in January. For the past few years, the U10 divisions send two teams to the League Championship tournament. The team winning our girls and boys U10 Regional Playoffs and the runner-up teams represent our region at the tournament. There have also been times when the region has received a wild card slot and sent the top two teams in a division to the Area 1D League Championship for the U12 and U14 divisions.

**Section 1 Playoffs:** Region 92 League and All Star Teams successful at the Area 1D Championship level will advance to the Section 1 Tournament in March.

**Spring Program:** The Region provides the opportunity for players to continue playing soccer in the spring. The opportunities include playing on teams that are part of a spring league and/or on teams that play in tournaments. Players must have registered for the fall season and played in at least one half of their team's games to be eligible for spring soccer.

**Special Tournaments:** The Region has had coaches and players who have entered AYSO-sponsored tournaments during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Region will make information available to players and coaches about such tournaments so that those interested in gaining more game experience may participate. Tournaments are also advertised on the AYSO web site.

**Short-Sided Soccer:** AYSO's National Coaching program advocates small-sided soccer at ages U-12 and below (but it's also fun for players of all ages). Short-sided soccer is about what is best for young soccer players. It's for AYSO coaches, referees, administrators, spectators, and anyone else concerned with the development of 4 to 11 year old soccer players. In Region 92, we play short-sided soccer in the U5 (3 v 3), U6 (5 v 5), U7 (6 v 6), U8 (7 v 7, and we also introduce goalkeepers) and U10 (8 v 8) divisions. We must remember that:

- They are children playing a child's game.
- They must be regarded as young children, not mini adults.
- They are essentially self-oriented and relate naturally to one or two others, not to large groups.
- Fun and activity factors must be a central part of a child-centered program.

**Educators agree early learning experiences are the most important and produce the most retention.**

- Most children cannot sustain prolonged activity.
- They function best in suitable starts and stops (rest periods).
- Concentration span is limited, so frequent changes of pace and activity is essential.

**Children love to learn.**

- They learn a great deal more when the ratio of teacher (coach) to student (player) is reduced.
- With small numbers and the simple nature of the game, the best teacher is the game itself.
- With fewer players on the field, each player gets more touches of the ball and has greater opportunity to change location in a fast-flowing, fluid game.
- Playing short-sided allows players to make simpler decisions and develop an earlier, better understanding of organization of play.
- Smaller fields mean more players are directly involved in play, creating increased levels of both concentration and interest.

- The reduced field size encourages more shots on goal by all players; therefore, more goals are scored.

**Residual benefits.**

- Parents are introduced to the game in smaller, more understandable doses.
- Short-sided soccer is a great place to train new referees.
- The rest of the world is playing short-sided, and we are part of the soccer world. Young soccer players need special consideration.

Parents fight hard for small classrooms. They know that fewer students mean a better learning environment. Parents also know their children can't tackle calculus unless they've taken years of "real math": addition, subtraction, fractions, etc. Yet some of those same parents resist small-sided soccer. "It's not 'real soccer,'" they say of 3-v-3, 5-v-5 or 7-v-7 games, with small goals. Of course it is. The best players all over the planet -- as well as many who play simply for fun -- grew up playing small-sided. They understand that full-sided (11-v-11) soccer is really just a series of small contests -- small-sided soccer on a bigger field. In soccer, the game is the best teacher. And the best learning environment, whether on the field or in the classroom, involves smaller numbers. Just as adding and subtracting is "real math," small-sided is definitely "real soccer." And "real soccer" is always fun.

Playing small-sided soccer on small fields improves and speeds a player's development, both tactically and technically. Having more touches on the ball offers each youngster more opportunity to impact and control a fast-flowing, fluid game. It also encourages creativity, risk-taking and decision-making. Players run more, improving their fitness. Most importantly, fewer players share one ball, making small-sided soccer more fun.

The players will play full-field soccer when they are ready. When they get older, they will have the foundation to move into full field. It will be appropriate for them then, just like small-sided is appropriate when they are young. And just like calculus is appropriate after a youngster has already learned how to add, subtract and do fractions. Hopefully, it will be done in as small a classroom as possible.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**The Season:** Practices begin around the end of August. Most practices and games are held at fields in El Segundo Recreation Park, Richmond Street Elementary School, and the Campus El Segundo Athletic Fields. The Regular Fall season games begin the first weekend after Labor Day (September 10 this year) and conclude the Saturday before Thanksgiving (November 19 this year). Qualifying teams in divisions U10-U12-U14 continue on to the regional playoffs the first two weeks of December. The winners of the championship games will then represent the Region and advance to the Area 1D League Championship, with games played in January. Our Region also participates in the Area 1D All Stars Tournament in February.

**Division Assignments:** Players are divided into divisions based upon their age per the National Rules and Regulations and Regional Policy. The age of the player on July 31st of the year the season commences determines the child's division. A child younger than 4 years on July 31st is not permitted to play in Region 92. A child 19 years of age (or older) on July 31st is likewise not permitted to play.

In the case of a U14 player entering high school, the region will give the player the option of moving up to the U16 division, protecting their eligibility to play on a high school team. The player remains in U16 until they are age appropriate for the next division.

**Team Formation:** At the start of each season, teams are formed as evenly balanced as possible. The division commissioner forms teams with a balance of age and ratings. Players are allocated as evenly as possible to teams based on age and then by rating. Several other board members review the teams to insure that they are balanced and fair.

**Placement Requests:** The only request honored in the upper divisions (U10 and above) is that of placing siblings in the same division on the same team. Placement requests in the lower divisions are considered, but not guaranteed.

**Games:** All divisions generally have games on Saturdays and some divisions also play on Sundays. Due to field availability, some games in Divisions U10 thru U14 may be played on an occasional weeknight, so all teams in a division have the same number of games. Some of the upper divisions may need to travel to other Regions for some games. Games are to be played according to the schedule and will not be canceled due to inclement weather except at the game site shortly before game time.

**Practices:** As all of the coaches in AYSO are volunteers, practice times are scheduled at the coach's convenience during the week in the practice time slots assigned on a specific field to each division. This provides an equal opportunity for each team to practice at a time of day that is age appropriate for their division and the opportunity for practice time on a field with lights (important after daylight savings time ends). Additional practices may be scheduled at the request of the Coach. The U10 and above teams generally practice twice a week. The U7 and U8 team practices may vary according to the coach. The U6 teams generally practice once a week. The length of practice varies with the age of the players. Each player must arrange to arrive on time and be picked up on time. No uniforms are to be worn at practice. Shorts are better suited for the game of soccer than long pants. In cold weather, sweatpants are recommended as jeans can restrict motion. Cleats are best suited for most fields and should be worn at practices. It is recommended that each player bring an appropriately sized ball to practices. It is also recommended for players to bring a jacket or sweatshirt to practice.

**Uniform & Equipment:** Region 92 orders new uniforms for each team, included in the registration fee, which consist of a jersey, shorts and socks. The complete uniform is provided for your child's use at the beginning of the season and is yours to keep when the season ends. You are responsible for taking care of the full uniform. Do not iron the jersey. It must be worn to all games or the player will not be permitted to play. Uniforms should not be worn to practices.

Bicycle shorts may be worn beneath the uniform shorts but must be the same color as the predominant color of the shorts. Long sleeved shirts may be worn on cold or rainy days but it must be worn under the jersey and it must be the same color as the predominant color of the jersey.

**Headgear:** Players are permitted to wear their own soccer headgear if they choose, provided it is not dangerous to themselves or other players as judged by the Referee.

**Cleats (known as Boots) & Shin Guards:** Although studded shoes (rubber cleats) are not required, it is strongly suggested that they be worn to all practices and games. They provide better footing, especially on wet (or muddy) fields. Baseball/football shoes with a 'square-edged' cleat directly under the toe are not permitted. The cleats should fit comfortably with athletic socks. A National Rule makes shin guards **mandatory** and must be worn (under the socks) at all games and practices...**NO EXCEPTIONS**. It is only common sense to protect the vulnerable shins. Shin guards can and do protect the player.

Absolutely **NO JEWELRY or METAL HAIR ACCESSORIES** may be worn during games or practices as this poses a danger to all players. It can cause injury or cut off circulation in the case of swelling due to injury. This includes watches, necklaces, bracelets, rings, metal or plastic head bands/barrettes and earrings (including studs). It is highly recommended that a player does NOT pierce their ears (or anything else) just prior to or during the season as they will have to remove this jewelry during games and practices. **NOTE:** Tape over the earrings is not an accepted alternative.

**Casts or Splints:** Players will not be permitted to participate in a practice or game with any type of cast or splint nor are they permitted to arrive at the field and remove the cast or splint for play. Players are permitted to wear knee braces, when necessary, provided the knee brace does not pose a danger to all players (e.g., exposed metal hinges). It is the final decision of the referee to allow or not allow the knee brace in the game.

**Soccer Ball:** Your child should practice with a real soccer ball (not a rubber ball) to develop skill and coordination. Any time spent with the ball makes for a better player. They should bring their soccer ball, marked with their name, to every practice. The size ball Players use in each Division is as follows:

U5, U6, U7 & U8	Size 3 Ball
U10 & U12	Size 4 Ball
U14 thru U19	Size 5 Ball (adult size)

**Water:** Players should bring drinking water to their practices and games. Campus El Segundo field policy restricts bringing any beverages other than water onto the field.

**Refund Policy:** Information and a refund form may be found on the last page of this handbook or on our web site.

**Regional Policies:** The region does its best to keep policies available on the web site. If you do not have internet access or have a question on board policy, please contact the Regional Commissioner for discussion or a hard copy.

**VIP (Very Important Player) Program:** The region may run an additional program in the fall known as the VIP Program. This program is for our players with special needs, who often find it difficult or impossible to participate successfully on a typical soccer team/division. Our VIP Program offers these players the opportunity to play soccer at their own pace. There is no upper age limit. Teams will be formed based on program enrollment. The VIP teams are not limited to ambulatory players. Players using wheelchairs, walkers, etc are also welcome to register. The VIP Program runs concurrently with our regular program, with possible tournament participation in January. Players, Coaches and Spectators sharing the field with a VIP team are asked to respect their game time and field space. The VIP Program expands on the AYSO philosophy, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to play.

#### **PLEASE...THINK ABOUT YOUR BEHAVIOR!**



**KIDS ZONE PROGRAM:** Across the nation, the media has focused on the negative or violent behavior of players, coaches, and parents involved in youth sports. In a proactive effort to counteract this trend, AYSO initiated its Kids Zone Program. Kids Zone is a dynamic program targeted to eliminate negative sideline behavior. It is aimed at producing a thoroughly positive impact on everyone involved in youth soccer.

In support of this program, parents must sign a Kids Zone Pledge holding them to the Kids Zone Standards of good sportsmanship, promoting a positive environment and consideration of the coach, referee and other parents and spectators. A large yellow banner will be visible at game sites to remind all participants of their pledge. We need your help for this program to work!

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** We expect all our volunteers to be treated with respect and courtesy. The region is particularly sensitive to the manner in which our youth volunteers are addressed. Comments to a youth volunteer should be limited to thanks and praise. Issues with the way a youth volunteer is coaching (youth coach trainer) or refereeing, should be addressed to the Regional Coach Administrator or Regional Referee Administrator...NOT the youth volunteer. Otherwise, this behavior will be addressed immediately, under the Region 92 Zero Tolerance Policy. This policy can be viewed on the region's website or by request.

**THE SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM:** This program enhances the Kids Zone Program with the addition of player, coach and spectator responsibilities to behavior. Good sportsmanship should be practiced by everyone. In the upper divisions, poor sportsmanship may result in a deduction of points that may affect the team's standing.

In U10-U12-U14, each team starts each game with 25 sportsmanship points (the starting point in U16/U19 games is 23 points per Area 1D Rules). This includes 5 points in each of the following 5 categories:

1. Conduct of the Players
2. Conduct of the Coaches
3. Conduct of the Spectators
4. Uniform Appearance (maximum 3 points in U16/U19)
5. Courtesy towards the Referees

Teams strive to maintain their 25 sportsmanship points during every game. This is achieved by exhibiting good sportsmanship/behavior and fulfilling their team responsibilities. Such responsibilities may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The region encourages our coaches and players to demonstrate good sportsmanship by not “running up the score” when the situation presents itself. In fact, a team may lose sportsmanship points if they fail to do so. Note that this is an internal region policy, and not seen at playoffs, tournaments, or spring soccer.
- Teams must ensure that their sideline is clear of trash following their game. A team may lose sportsmanship points if they fail to do this.

**Number of Coaches:** A team may have more than one Assistant Coach during practices; however, there may only be one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach in the Coaches Area during game time (the names listed on the game card). Additional spectator coaching from the touch line is not permitted.

**Coaching Location:** During a game, coaches are to stay on their assigned side of the field and in the Coaches Area. The side of the field assignment is determined by home or visitor status. The home team is the first team listed on the game schedule. The home side is the East or North side of the field (along the touch line). The visiting team is the team listed second on the game schedule and is assigned the West or South side of the field (along the touch line). The Coaches Area is sometimes referred to as the “coach’s box”. Unfortunately, this box may not be painted on the field; however it is on the touch line, 6-10 yards (depending on the field size) either way from midfield. Use the diameter of the mid-field circle as your guideline/boundary. (It is suggested that spectators not sit behind this part of the touch line as the coach will be pacing back and forth within the coaches box, obstructing their view of the game.)

**Non-Authorized Personnel on the Field:** A coach or parent is not permitted on the field unless specifically invited by the Center Referee.

**Physical Contact/Injury:** Soccer is a “contact sport” and players will sometimes fall, get bumped and bruised without foul play being involved. Should foul play be involved, the Laws of the Game provide for the proper penalty. In the younger divisions, there are tears from time to time, mostly from being startled. Those tears dry quickly so please do not overreact when players “go down”. If a child is injured or “goes down”, the Center Referee will assess the situation and stop play if necessary. A coach should wait until called or signaled by the Referee to come out onto the field. Parents should not come onto the field. Please remember that our referees are trained to stop the game when a player is injured and (depending upon the age) startled enough to require attention. The safety of our players is always our primary concern.

**Laws of the Game:** U6, U7 & U8 are instructional divisions, so not all elements of the game are implemented. (For example, Offside and Penalty Kicks are not included in any of these divisions and the element of “a Keeper” is not added until U8). By U10 all aspects and laws of the game are introduced and followed. For further information you may access the FIFA (Federation International Football Association) Laws of the Game by going to [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com) (“Laws of the Game” link). Parents of U6, U7 and U8 players may obtain more specific guidelines on our web site.

**Quarter v. Half time:** AYSO soccer is not played in 4 quarters; it is played in two halves with a pause at a natural break in play, midway into each half. This is time for player substitution, not a mini half time. While the players may take water at this time (particularly on a hot day), they should not leave the field (unless being substituted) and should not hold up the game. Not only does the team run the risk of losing

sportsmanship points if the referee has to wait or call the team back onto the field, but the Center Referee is free to continue play without waiting for the team to take their positions...a definite disadvantage.

**Water:** A player may come to the touch line at ANY TIME for water. (Of course, this may put the team at a disadvantage, as play will continue.) The player must stay on the field. Spectators and coaches must remain OFF the field. NEVER THROW a water bottle to a player on the field as this could lead to injury.

**End of the Game:** At the end of the game each team should do a short cheer for their opponent. All players and coaches should then line-up and shake hands with the players & coaches from the other team. They should also shake hands with the referees and thank them for their time.

**Standings:** Divisions U6, U7 and U8 are “instructional” only with no standings or post-season playoffs. The U10, U12 and U14 division standings are determined by a point system of 3 points for the win, 1 point for the tie and zero points for the loss. The region encourages our coaches and players to demonstrate good sportsmanship by not “running up the score” when the situation presents itself. In fact, a team may lose sportsmanship points if they fail to do so. Remember...a win is worth 3 points, regardless of the score. Note that this is an internal region policy, and not seen at playoffs, tournaments, or spring soccer.

## SIDELINE ETIQUETTE

AYSO soccer encourages positive self-esteem, discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, acceptance of and learning from disappointment and success, as well as perseverance. It is also an enjoyable game to watch as well as to play. We believe that quality soccer can and should be developed, and that it can and should be fun. Therefore, the emphasis of our program is not on who wins but how the players and teams develop, and most importantly, did they have fun in doing so? We want all participants to reach their full, age-appropriate potential and to enjoy themselves in the process.

As spectators, we must realize that the players are trying their very best and deserve our very best in the way of support and encouragement. Negative comments have no place on the field or on the sidelines. We need to recognize that the effort of each player is 100% well intended and encourage each player to maintain that effort. It is also important to recognize all good play being demonstrated; regardless of which team the player is on.

The area off the field that the spectators occupy is on your own team’s side, no closer than two yards from the touchline, and between the penalty areas. Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed behind the goal lines. Familiarize yourself with these field markings and remain within the area defined.

Allow the coach to be the sole source of coaching during the match, communicating tactical or technical adjustments to the players. As a coach, be sure that your coaching during the match is limited to positive, instructional or encouraging comments. Giving play-by-play instructions to all players thwarts their ability to put into effect the lessons you have stressed in practices and disallows them the opportunity to think on their feet.

The area off the field that the coaches occupy is called the “technical area” and is on your own team’s side, no closer than one yard from the touchline, and up to ten yards from either side of the halfway line. The “technical area” is limited to the head coach and one assistant coach for that team. Not only are these to be the only persons occupying the “technical area,” they are the only persons who may coach (give tactical or technical information) during the course of the match.

An important aspect of the AYSO program is Sportsmanship. Our children need to experience:

1. The fun of hard fought but fair competition
2. Winning graciously
3. Losing graciously

4. Improving one's abilities through practice
5. Learning the social skills involved in being a member of a team, and
6. Acknowledging good play by teammates as well as opponents

One of the ways in which our children can learn and continue to have these experiences is by our demonstration of good sideline behavior. Our children learn by watching, and imitating our conduct. Keep a positive outlook and demonstrate it by supporting the coaches, players and referees, in spite of any mistakes they may make during the course of a match.

## **SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**

**Spectator Coaching:** Spectators are at the game to watch and have fun. Spectators are not to coach players from the touch line! Coaching is the function and responsibility of the Head Coach and Assistant Coach.

**Spectator Seating:** Spectators should sit on their assigned side of the field, but during the regular season, this is not mandatory. The team's assigned side of the field is determined by the team status of being "at home" or "visiting". The home team is the first team listed on the game schedule and sits on the East or North side of the field. The visiting team is the second team listed on the game schedule and is assigned the West or South side of the field. If a spectator chooses to sit on the opponent's side of the field, they should behave appropriately. Traditionally, the spectators are to stay between the 18-yard lines (between the penalty areas). Spectators also need to be at least 1 yard back from the touch line, maintaining an unobstructed and safe area for the Assistant Referee and players to run and perform throw-ins. A spectator should never sit or stand behind the goal or goal line. Photography from behind the touch line may be allowed with the permission of the Center Referee before the game.

**Spectator Comments:** Spectators may not make comments to the referee or opposing players. They may voice positive encouragement only. The Coach is responsible for spectator behavior and the team will suffer a loss of points as a result of poor spectator behavior.

**Positive Attitude:** AYSO is designed to be a positive experience! Be positive and supportive at all times. Parent's attitudes set the example for the way the players will conduct themselves on the field. Do not openly criticize the referees and coaches, or undermine their authority through your comments. Be supportive and understanding of the players; these are not professional players. We all want competitive and exciting games, but remember to give positive support to the players and avoid giving negative criticism.

**Inappropriate Comments:** Verbal abuse, the use of profanity or racial/ethnic comments (regardless of intent) will not be tolerated before, during or after the game by players, coaches or spectators! In fact, the Laws of the Game specifically prohibit the players from using such language, and lead to costly penalties and 'ejection'. If a spectator is guilty of such language, the referee will ask the coach to control the offender. If the abuse persists, the game will be terminated and the offender subject to corrective action by AYSO.

**Pets on the Field:** Regardless of postings, the AYSO Region 92 Board strongly requests that dogs NOT be brought to the field during practices and games. No matter how loving, well behaved and gentle your pet may be, the environment is one of a high degree of activity, excitement and noise. There is no way to know what player or spectator may be afraid or allergic to dogs. **PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DOGS AT HOME.** Your cooperation and consideration is greatly appreciated.

If practicing or playing on any of the school properties, according to ESUSD policy BP142.5, domestic animals or pets are NOT allowed on school grounds. This also includes animals confined to any vehicle parked within a school boundary. This policy does not apply to the use of a guide dog, signal dog or service dog specifically trained for assisting a totally or partially blind person, deaf person, person whose hearing is

impaired or physically handicapped person. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to ESUSD.

**Trash:** The spectators and team are responsible for picking up trash. Using these fields is a privilege that we do not want to jeopardize.

## TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

**Team Meeting:** Each Coach and team parent are asked to conduct a team meeting to discuss AYSO's philosophies, season activities and parent participation. This may be done as part of a scheduled practice with the team or scheduled for a different time.

**Parent Participation:** The Region and the children need your participation. Attend practices and games. Parental support is crucial. Learn about the rules (Laws) of the game by reading "The Rules of Soccer: Simplified". Above all, show tolerance of the players' mistakes and weaknesses. When attending games, cheer for all players on both teams as well as your own child. Every parent is requested to volunteer in some area of the program and there are various jobs available. Before attending your child's team meeting, read the section on volunteering in this handbook and offer to help.

**Photo Day:** The league provides one memory mate photo per player consisting of an individual and team photo. On "photo day", team, individual player and buddy, and referee pictures will be taken. While a make-up day may be scheduled, the player must be present on photo day to be included in the team picture. The make-up day is for individual photos only. No team photos will be taken on make-up day. If parents want an additional memory mate they may order/pay for one. If a team has a banner or other "props" they may to bring it for "background". Remember to wear a clean uniform and arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your designated photo time! The photographers are on a tight schedule and cannot wait for late arrivals (this includes coaches).

**Roster Book:** A roster book will be provided to each player. This will include the player's name and (one) phone number. If the team parent does not return the roster book information by the due date, the region will insert the information they have available or leave the information blank.

**Snack Bar Duty:** Region 92 is operating a snack bar at Campus El Segundo. The snack bar is a fundraiser and many spectators enjoy the availability of cold or hot drinks, pizza and snacks. A parent of each player is expected to work a snack bar shift during the fall season or during the Regional Playoffs. A snack bar shift is a minimal amount of time and is a very serious obligation. We hope all parents will set a good example for their children in meeting this obligation and supporting their children's AYSO activities. Each team will be scheduled for a specific date/time for Snack Bar Duty. The team parent will coordinate individual times for parents of each player. The snack bar should have a minimum of 3 volunteers at any given time. If the team no-shows or there isn't an adequate coverage during their scheduled time, the team will lose 5 referee points. The Team Referee Program is described below.

**Team Referee Program:** In an effort to motivate referee volunteers and promote referee coverage of all games, participation in the Regional Playoffs is open to ALL U10-U12-U14 teams who provide one or more referees who earn a specific number of points during the regular season. The number of points needed to qualify for the playoffs is different for each division. There are also differences in the number of points a center referee and an assistant referee earn depending on the division. Please refer to the Team Referee Program Guidelines document on the region web site for more information.

Parents and older siblings can provide their child/sibling's team with the opportunity to advance to the post-season playoffs by becoming an AYSO certified referee and officiating at games. This may be in the Center Referee or Assistant Referee position. Teams can also receive points from other referees who donate their points to that team. There is an explanation of the ways teams can earn their referee points in the Team Referee Program Guidelines.

Additional details and guidelines on this program are available on our web site and in the form of a summary handout. Copies of the program will be provided to all coaches and team parents at their meetings prior to the start of the season.

If you do not have web access, please contact the Referee Administrator, your coach, or the Division, Program or Regional Commissioner for a copy of the program guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact the Referee Administrator.

**U10-U12-U14 TEAMS NOT PROVIDING A REFEREE FOR THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF CUMULATIVE POINTS REQUIRED FOR THEIR DIVISION BY THE LAST GAME ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010 WILL NOT ADVANCE TO POST-SEASON PLAYOFFS REGARDLESS OF THE TEAM'S STANDING AT THE END OF THE REGULAR SEASON.**

Note: Referee Certification Classes will be posted on the region's website. Information may also be obtained by looking up Courses in eayso or by contacting the Referee Administrator.

**Trophies:** The region provides trophies to all U5, U6, U7 and U8 players. U10-U12-U14 teams who are in first place at the end of the regular season will also receive medals. Following their regular season, the U10, U12 and U14 teams taking first place in the Regional Playoffs will receive trophies.

## **POST SEASON PLAY**

**AREA 1D LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP:** The regular season is followed by the region's U10, U12, and U14 division playoffs. These games take place around the first week of December. All teams in U10-U12-U14 who have met the minimum requirement under the Region 92 Team Referee Program will advance to the playoffs. If a team has not fulfilled the Team Referee Program requirement, they will not qualify for participation in the playoffs, regardless of their regular season standings. Teams placing first in our regional playoff games will then represent Region 92 in the Area 1D Championship games in January.

For the past few years, the U10 divisions send two teams to the League Championship tournament. The team winning our girls and boys U10 Regional Playoffs and the runner-up teams represent our region at the tournament. There are times when the region has received a wild card slot and sent the top two teams in a division to the Area 1D League Championship for the U12 and U14 divisions.

**AREA 1D ALL STARS CHAMPIONSHIP:** All Star teams are selected in Divisions U10, U12, and U14 by each division coach's blind ballot and All Stars Coach selection. These teams represent the region at the Area 1D All Stars Tournament in February.

League and All Star Teams successful at the Area 1D Championship level will advance to Section 1 Tournament play in March.

**AREA 1D CHAMPIONSHIPS Check-in Table and Snack Bar Duty:** During the Area 1D Championship tournaments, each region in Area 1D is responsible for supplying volunteers to help facilitate the tournaments. During the Area 1D League Championship tournament, this involves providing volunteers to work the check-in tables at the tournament venues. Since our region hosts the U12 and U14 portion of the Area 1D All Stars tournament, Region 92 exchanges its league championship duties for manning the check-in table at our Campus El Segundo fields during the all stars tournament. Each all stars team will be responsible for working shifts at the all stars tournament. The check-in table should have a minimum of 2 volunteers at any given time.

As in the fall season, Region 92 operates a snack bar at Campus El Segundo during the all stars tournament. The snack bar is a fundraiser and many spectators enjoy the availability of cold or hot drinks, pizza and snacks. Each all stars team will be responsible for working shifts at the all stars tournament. A

snack bar shift is a minimal amount of time and is a very serious obligation. We hope all parents will set a good example for their children in meeting this obligation and supporting their children's AYSO activities. Each team will be scheduled for a specific date/time for Snack Bar Duty. The team parent will coordinate individual times for parents of each player. The snack bar should have a minimum of 2 volunteers at any given time.

League championship teams from our region who are advancing to the Section 1 Tournament may also be called upon to help with snack bar and/or check-in table duties during the all stars tournament.

**TOURNAMENTS AND SPRING SOCCER:** Region 92 does not have the Region 92 may participate in the Area 1D Spring Soccer program or other spring leagues and tournaments. If a Region 92 coach in good standing from the prior regular season wishes to form a team within the region, the Region 92 Board will review their request to select and coach a team for tournament or Spring Soccer play. Please see the Region website for information about Spring Soccer near the end of the fall season. Teams are generally formed in December/January. *Player recruitment in any form is not permitted until a coach has received board approval.*

Spring soccer is coach driven. Roster selection is solely up to the coach, pending RC approval. Spring soccer is generally a more competitive level of play, with additional travel and expense to the player. It is expected that players and parents will match the coach in their attitude and commitment to practices, games, and the referee program. Note that each team is expected to provide referees for their home games.

## AYSO VOLUNTEERS

AYSO is a national non-profit organization established in 1964 to teach the game of soccer and develop positive character traits in children through their participation in a quality sports program. Our local region administers this program strictly through the efforts of volunteers. In order to provide the quality program our kids deserve, we need YOU! All volunteers will receive instructions for selected jobs. Remember: **No Previous Experience is Necessary!**

AYSO is a volunteer organization with more than 250,000 parents and friends, many of them working as coaches, referees, team parents and administrators. It's not unusual to find two, three or more children in the same family playing soccer – while Dad serves as referee and Mom as coach. It can be a total family experience!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of AYSO. With over 1000 kids playing AYSO Region 92, we need as many volunteers as possible. We will supply training, support and encouragement. AYSO has developed special training that helps parents who may have little or no soccer experience quickly gain the age-appropriate knowledge and skills they need to be effective coaches and referees. It also has unique administrative and management training.

AYSO's volunteer foundation ensures that it's all about what's good for the kids. It also makes AYSO very affordable. AYSO operates in a business manner, but volunteers ensure its "profits" are happy, healthy kids playing a sport they can enjoy for life.

### Support your Coaches and Referees!

**Coaches:** Your coach has volunteered a great deal of his/her time on behalf of your child. Support the Coach's request that your child arrive on time for practices and games. If you do not stay for the entire practice session, pick up your child promptly at the specified time. Please keep in mind that Coaches make the coaching decisions. Be positive with your comments and remember that a coach has a reason for his or her selection of player positions. Don't criticize the coach because you think your child should play a different position. Offer help at practices. Remember that coaches volunteer their time and energy to instruct

and help your child and they need your cooperation and support. If you have questions, ask him/her to explain what you didn't understand at a later time, but do not openly criticize their decision in front of others.

**Referees:** Spectators tend to forget that our Referees are volunteers, giving up part of their weekend or weeknight so kids can play and they are entitled to the highest respect from coaches, players and spectators. Unlike coaches and team parents, our Referees are asked to officiate games when their own children are not playing. Often this means a different day and sometimes a different part of town. The referee's mistakes (and there will be mistakes) shall be accepted without complaint. Many of the referees have no children playing in our Region and all of them gladly give their time to help us. Please show our referees the respect and appreciation they deserve – they are volunteers – and express your appreciation for their commitment to our soccer program. If you disagree with a call, please consider that your child views your behavior and control (or lack thereof) as an example of appropriate behavior. Let's give them a great example to follow, by keeping things positive and respectful. The Region is always in need of referees. If you are interested, contact the Regional Referee Administrator.

## SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM & VOLUNTEER FORMS

The AYSO Safe Haven program is a child and volunteer protection program that was the first of its kind in youth sports. It was developed in response to the "Volunteer Protection Act of 1997". Designed to address the need for child and volunteer protection, there are four elements in the Safe Haven intervention cycle:

- Create Policies
- Screen Volunteers
- Train Volunteers
- Promote Education & Awareness

The child protection aspect includes steps that promote a positive, healthy environment for children.

Volunteer protection comes into play as a result of volunteer training, certification and continuing education. The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 provides certain legal protections for volunteers who have been trained and certified and act in accordance with a written job description. Safe Haven includes these three elements, giving volunteers the highest degree of protection available under the law.

**All** AYSO volunteers are required to complete a volunteer form each year and be Safe Haven certified. This is to ensure the safety of both children and volunteers. Safe Haven training focuses on safety and appropriate behavior with children as well as first aid and other on-field issues.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our youth may assist the region in many areas. The two key areas are as a youth referee and a youth coach trainer.

**Youth Referees have the fullest support of Region 92. The Region will exercise "zero tolerance" with regard to dissent, abuse, or other inappropriate behavior directed towards or in the presence of a Youth Referee.**

**YOUTH REFEREE:** We encourage our youth (12 yrs of age and above) to take a Regional/Basic Referee Course. In addition to the certification and opportunity to referee, completion of this course will make them a better player and spectator. The youth referee's team assignment (for refereeing) is based on their own age and the game division.

**U6, U7 & U8 Divisions:** In the U6, U7 and U8 divisions, a coach carries out the function of referee. Referees (youth or adult) are not assigned to this division.

**U10-U14 Divisions:** Youth Referees who have completed the Regional/Basic Referee Course are assigned as Assistant Referees or Center Referees (consistent with AYSO training certifications) under the following conditions:

- **Youth Referees** (under 18) assigned to a match (as either Center Referee or Assistant Referee) will be assigned in conjunction with at least one adult (over 18) Referee.
- **Youth Referees** (Certified as Regional Referees or higher) will be assigned to referee in Divisions that they are at least two years older (e.g., a 12 year old can be assigned to Referee a U10 match).

For additional information, contact the Regional Referee Administrator.

**YOUTH COACH TRAINER:** AYSO does not permit an individual under the age of 18 yrs. to be a coach; however, we do realize the benefit and desire of our youth to assist in coaching areas. Therefore, it is permissible for a youth 12 yrs. or older, to be a “youth coach trainer”. A Youth Coach Trainer is required to:

- Be approved by the Regional Coach Administrator and Regional Commissioner.
- Complete a volunteer form and signature requirements
- Be Safe Haven Certified
- Currently have (or successfully complete) coach certification for the age level in which he/she is acting as youth coach trainer.
- Must have a certified AYSO adult volunteer (with the same coach certifications) on-site and responsible for the team in which the youth is acting as a coach trainer at any practices or games.

For additional information, contact the Regional Coach Administrator.

**REGION 92 YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIPS:** Each year, if funding permits, Region 92 awards scholarships to graduating seniors from El Segundo High School. Generally, one young man and one young woman will be selected to share this annual scholarship. This is not an academic or skill based scholarship. It is presented in recognition of our AYSO Youth Volunteer’s contributions.

The criteria for being considered for this scholarship are:

- 1) A minimum 3.0 GPA
- 2) 5 years participation in AYSO
- 3) Documented volunteering of time by the applicant to the AYSO program
- 4) Plans to pursue a college education

Scholarship information and form will be available AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup> on the Region’s website, in the ESHS office or by contacting the Scholarship Coordinator or Regional Commissioner. The Region advises its youth volunteers to confirm their participation at the end of each season for future reference.

In order to qualify, the youth must have fulfilled all volunteer requirements of the position (Safe Haven, Volunteer form on file, certification classes, etc.). Individuals who meet these criteria are requested to mail a letter of application and an essay regarding their “AYSO Experience” to the Regional Commissioner by April 30<sup>th</sup> of their graduating year in order that recipients may be chosen at the May Regional Board Meeting. Presentation of the scholarship awards will be made at the high school awards ceremonies.

## **ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Without volunteers, we will not have a soccer program! Coaches, referees, team parents and administrators are volunteers. Parents, neighbors, relatives and friends lend their time and talents so that each child gets a terrific AYSO experience. AYSO Region 92 relies entirely on the efforts of its volunteers...from referees to

coaches to team parents to the board members. We all have responsibilities at home, work, etc. and it is a challenge to find additional time for volunteering but your help is needed! Please consider stepping up to help support our program, your kids and your community. It's worth it! We provide training and help to those who want to be a volunteer.

**BOARD MEMBER:** You don't need to be a soccer expert! Past volunteers will be there to assist or guide you through the board position responsibilities. All we need is your time and energy.

**HEAD COACH:** No experience is necessary for U6-U10. Experience is helpful for the U12 division. Experience is desired for U14 division and above. You're not out there all alone! The region provides certified coach classes and clinics as well as the support of its Coach Administrator and board. Age-specific coach certification is required for all Regular Season and Post-Season play (League, All-Stars, or Spring Select).

**ASSISTANT COACH:** Start off by assisting the head coach at practice and games and taking the age specific coach certification class.

**REFEREE:** No experience necessary. We provide training and on-field instruction in both the laws and the spirit of the game. Start as an Assistant Referee and advance to the Center Referee position when you feel comfortable. Game assignments are based on level of ability, experience and desire. Our Referee Administrator is always there to support your effort.

**TEAM PARENT:** Interfaces with parents on team administrative matters such as practice times, distribution and collection of uniforms, team party, coordinating the banner, assisting with picture day coordination, assigning snack bar times, etc.

**ON-CALL VOLUNTEER:** If the above positions are all too demanding for your schedule, but you want to "give back", please become an on-call volunteer. The on-call volunteer supports and fills in where needed. Help register players for our AYSO summer Camp, or get up early on one Saturday to help line a field, or put in a few hours at fall registration or a special event. Every effort helps if enough people contribute!

### **What are volunteers?**

People who give freely of their time and talent to a worthwhile group or cause. A volunteer is someone who believes that people make a difference and is willing to prove it.

### **What is an AYSO volunteer?**

A coach, a referee, a registrar, a fundraiser, a field marker, a publicist, a treasurer - many people, all contributing their time and efforts to make AYSO a great program for our soccer-playing kids.

### **Why does AYSO need volunteers?**

AYSO needs volunteers because people power runs AYSO. Volunteers strengthen AYSO by giving their time and energy, their ideas and ideals. Volunteers make AYSO happen.

### **Who can be an AYSO volunteer?**

Almost anyone can volunteer. Moms, dads, sisters, brothers, grandparents, even friends. We need women and men, young, middle-aged and "young at heart" folks. AYSO wants volunteers who want to help make our soccer program a fun experience for kids.

Everyone plays in AYSO, and everyone has something special to contribute to the program.

- They contribute a special skill or ability.
- They contribute their time.

- They contribute their energy.
- They contribute themselves.

What do AYSO volunteers do?

- They do what is needed to make the program work.
- They coach teams and stuff envelopes.
- They referee games and write checks.
- They line the field and work in the snack bar.
- They put up goals and take down nets.
- They take registrations and raise funds.
- They bandage knees and schedule games.
- They put up posters and take pictures.
- They buy equipment and go to meetings.
- They call meetings and run computer programs.
- They make decisions and make a difference.

#### **How do AYSO volunteers help themselves?**

AYSO volunteers gain satisfaction and growth from their experiences. They make new friends. They learn new skills. They develop creativity. They investigate new careers. They enrich their lives.

#### **How do I become an AYSO volunteer?**

It's easy. Talk to your child's coach, call your Regional Commissioner or any of the Region's board members. They will be most helpful - and happy - to find the right job for you.

## **PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING AN AYSO REGION 92 SPONSOR!**

**Sponsorship Program:** As a nonprofit organization, AYSO Region 92 is funded solely through registration fees, fundraising proceeds, sponsorships and private donations. Without this combined financial support, it would not be possible to provide our players with this unique experience.

Tax-deductible contributions for Sponsorships or Private Party Donations can be made out to "AYSO Region 92" as per AYSO National Policy. Sponsorship forms are available on our web site or by contacting the Sponsorship Coordinator or Regional Commissioner.

## **Codes Of Conduct -- Be A Good Sport**

AYSO has always encouraged good sportsmanship in its programs. In fact, "Good Sportsmanship" is one of the six philosophies listed in the AYSO National Bylaws. AYSO strongly recommends that its individual Regions promote good sportsmanship through dynamic programs. Elements of these programs may vary from Region to Region, but all define the conduct of players, coaches, referees and even parents. They explain the fundamentals of good behavior, which is simply showing courtesy and respect for all involved in the game.

### **Player's Code**

- Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play by the Laws of the Game.
- Never argue with or complain about referees' calls or decisions.

- Control your temper. Most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your team's or your opponent's.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve skills and feel good. Don't be a showoff or a ball hog.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents and the referees.

## **Referees Code**

- Always remember that the game is for the players. Player safety and fair play come first.
- Study and learn the Laws of the Game and understand the "spirit" of the Laws. Help fellow referees do the same.
- Encourage and enforce the AYSO philosophies of "Everyone Plays," "Positive Coaching" and "Good Sportsmanship."
- Respect other referees' decisions, and do not publicly criticize another official.
- Wear the proper uniform and keep it in good condition.
- Maintain good physical condition so you can keep up with the action.
- Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions from players, coaches and parents.
- Honor accepted game assignments. In an emergency, find a replacement.
- Support good sportsmanship with a kind word to players, coaches and parents of both teams when deserved.
- Always be fair and impartial, avoiding conflicts of interest. Decisions based on personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.

## **Parents Code**

As a parent, you have a special role in contributing to the needs and development of these youngsters. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure the effectiveness of the AYSO program.

### **Support Your Child**

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing an interest in his or her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory. Your child will be a winner, even in defeat.

### **Always Be Positive**

Parents are not participants on their child's team. However, they do contribute to the success experienced by their child and the team. Parents serve as role models for their children. Applaud good plays by your child's team and by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.

### **Be Enthusiastic and Supportive**

Let children set their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards and goals on your child. Don't put too heavy a burden on your child to win games.

Surveys reveal that 72 percent of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner.

### **Reinforce Positive Behavior**

The best way to help a child to achieve goals and reduce the natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. No one likes to make a mistake. If your child does make one, remember that he or she is still learning. Encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

### **Let Coaches Coach and Refs Ref**

Coaches and referees are usually parents. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support, too. What coaches and referees don't need is your help in coaching from the sidelines. So please refrain from coaching during games and practices. Referees are not the "bad guys." They are volunteers, too, and need your support and encouragement. Treat them and their calls fairly and respectfully.

### **Coaches Code**

- Enthusiastically support and practice the "Everyone Plays," "Good Sportsmanship," "Positive Coaching" and "Player Development" philosophies of AYSO.
- Be reasonable in your demands on a young player's time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the soccer field.
- Impress on your players that they must abide by the Laws of the Game at all times.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Ensure that your players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.
- Keep informed of sound principles of coaching, growth and child development.
- Check your equipment and playing facilities. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

## COMMON SOCCER TERMINOLOGY

- Touch lines – The lines that form the long side of the field where players may “touch” the ball for a throw-in. Not “sideline” as in some other sports.
- Goal lines – The lines at the ends of the field where the goals are placed. Not “end line” as in some other sports.
- Handling the ball – A player’s deliberate use of his/her hands to control the ball. Not “handball”, which is another sport that uses a small hard ball and a wall.
- Goal area – The area defined for taking goal kicks in front of the goals. Not “goal box”, which implies a three-dimensional structure.
- Penalty area – The area defined where goalkeepers may use their hands and where certain fouls result in a penalty kick. Not “penalty box” or “the box”, which imply a three-dimensional structure.
- Goalkeeper – The player allowed to use his/her hands inside the penalty area to control the ball. Not “goalie”, which is a name used in other sports. “Keeper” is an acceptable shortening.
- Good ball! - A compliment to a teammate for a ball well played. Not “good kick”, which parents yell for any strong kick no matter where the ball goes.
- Man On! - Telling a teammate there is an approaching opponent who is applying pressure.
- Clear it! - A request to a teammate to kick the ball away from the goal.
- Push Up! - A request for defenders to move forward quickly and force the opponents to move away from the goal or be left in an offside position.
- Mark up! - A request to teammates for everyone to mark (guard) an opposing player and thus ensure all opponents are marked.
- Down the line! - A request to throw or play the ball parallel and close to the touch line.
- Keeper! Keeper! - A demand from the goalkeeper to his teammates not to play the ball because he/she is in a better position to gain possession under pressure.
- Near Post – The goal post nearest to the ball.
- Far Post – The goal post farthest from the ball.
- Striker – An attacking player playing in a forward position. Not “forward”, which is used in other sports.
- Midfielder – Player who plays mostly in the middle of the field. Not “halfback”, which is used in other sports.
- Defender – Player who plays mostly close to the players own goal. Not “fullback”, which is used in other sports.
- Sweeper – Player who plays mostly behind his/her defenders.
- Wing(er) – Player who plays mostly wide near a touch line.

## **2011/2012 REGION 92 BOARD**

Behind the scenes, the Regional Board organizes our soccer program. Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The date and location are always confirmed on the Region's website, [ayso92.org](http://ayso92.org).

A complete list of Board members may be found on our web site or roster book. In the meantime, feel free to contact the following regarding information in the handbook:

Regional Commissioner: Mike Doherty • 310-644-1204

Regional Registrar: Katherine Sautner • 310-322-6014

Regional Coach Administrator: Terrence DeKretser • 310-227-2436

Regional Referee Administrator: Walt Schumacher • 310-640-1558

Boys Program Commissioner: Rudy Masis • 310-765-3361

Girls Program Commissioner: Katherine Sautner • 310-322-6014

Child Volunteer Protection Advocate: Eileen Tinoco • 310-322-2936

You may also contact the above and other board members through our web site at [www.ayso92.org](http://www.ayso92.org) or hotline at 310-322-9760.

For more information on our Region, please visit our website at [www.ayso92.org](http://www.ayso92.org).

The AYSO Region 92 Board wishes all players, parents and volunteers a great season! Thank you for your support.

# **Let's Have FUN!**

**EVERYONE PLAYS**  
**BALANCED TEAMS**  
**POSITIVE COACHING**  
**OPEN REGISTRATION**  
**GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**  
**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**



## **AYSO REGION 92 REFUND GUIDELINES & PLAYER DROP FORM**

The "Player Drop Form" is used to notify the Region that a player is dropping out of the program. The "Player Drop Form" can be found on the last page of this document and it is also available on the Region 92 web site [www.ayso92.org](http://www.ayso92.org) or by contacting the Region 92 Registrar. A Refund of Player Registration fees will be issued as follows:

1. **FULL REFUND** of player Registration Fees paid will be given to any player who submits the required "Player Drop Form" (complete and with the required signatures) to the Region 92 Registrar prior to the first game of the season.
2. **PARTIAL REFUND** (Total Player Registration Fees paid minus National Fees) will be given to any player who submits the required "Player Drop Form" (complete and with required signatures) to the Region 92 Registrar **after the first game of the season, but prior to the second game of the season.**
3. Refunds (full or partial) will not be issued to a player who "drops" after the second game of the season or who may have stopped play earlier but failed to get the required "Player Drop Form" (complete and with the required signatures) into the Region 92 Registrar's possession in the above time frame.
4. Refunds will be mailed by the Region Treasurer to the address provided on the "Player Drop Form". Refunds may take up to six weeks to process after the start of the season.
5. If the above guidelines are not met but SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES apply, please complete and sign the "Player Drop Form" (with required signatures) and submit to the Region 92 Registrar with an explanation as to the special circumstances that should be considered. The Registrar will review and present your request at the next scheduled Regional Board meeting for approval or denial on a case-by-case basis. The parent/legal guardian will be notified whether the "Special Circumstance Refund" request is denied or approved for processing. The Board's decision is final.

<b>AYSO Region 92 Player Drop &amp; Refund Request Form</b>	
Player's Name:	Last Date of Participation:
Refund Mailing Address:	Phone:
City & Zip	Parent/Legal Guardian Name:
Player's DOB:	Signature & Date:
{Coach signature required once a player has been assigned to a team}	
Uniform returned?	Yes No N/A
Attended any games?	Yes No N/A
Registrar Initials:	Coach's Name:
Treasurer Initials:	Signature & Date:
	Check #, Amount, Date
<b>Submit Completed &amp; signed form to the Registrar <a href="http://www.ayso92.org">www.ayso92.org</a> Hotline 310-322-9760</b>	