



16 March 2009

Dear AYSO Families:

Welcome back to the 2009 AYSO Region 92 Fall soccer season.

Your participation in the Region 92 Team Referee Program for the last several years has made a huge difference in the player experience. Recruitment efforts continue to be successful and ensure that the changes to the AYSO program we started in 2005 continue to benefit our kids. Last season, over 107 volunteers were certified as referees and completed 744 of 795 referee assignments during the 11-week season! This was fourth straight year of sustained improvement in volunteer participation over 2005 when 23 people covered 380 of 561 assignments. In 2008, the Player Referee program continued to flourish with over 26 active youth referees. Your support both as a referee and as a knowledgeable spectator or coach contributes directly to the growth of soccer in our community. I'm sure that you've noticed that the quality and your enjoyment of the games have improved. I am truly grateful for the extra time and effort our volunteer referees contributed last year.

A summary of the Team Referee Program and full guidelines are available on our web site at <http://www.ayso92.org/news/Policies.asp> or by request.

Some key Program changes this year include:

- Volunteers may earn 2 points by completing a Referee assignment
- Volunteers may earn 1 points by completing an Assistant Referee assignment
- Team will earn playoff eligibility by accruing 20 referee points.

Each team that meets or exceeds this challenge will have the opportunity to participate in the Regional Playoffs regardless of team standings within the division. The eligibility period for participation will be for any scheduled match during the regular season. As last year, if a team does not meet the challenge, they will not qualify to participate in the Post-season Regional Playoffs, regardless of standings.

Being a Referee may sound intimidating but you can do it. AYSO Region 92 will be offering Referee Classes in September to train you. Your fellow Referees and Coaches will provide additional support. We are here to help you "get your feet wet" on the pitch as a Referee.

Since its inception in 2005, volunteer participation in the Team Referee Program has improved our children's experience in soccer through increased volunteer participation. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the need for the Team Referee Program, please contact the Referee Administrator, Coach Administrator or myself.

Thank you for your support.

Ricky Labayen  
Regional Commissioner