

**American Youth Soccer Organization
Proposed Rules & Regulations Amendment #1**

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT: Allows Regions to have unlimited substitution for 14U, 16U and 18U teams.

SUBMITTED BY: David Witter (Area Director, 8/G)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (**bold underlining** for additions and ~~strikeout~~ for deletions):

[Add Article I.C.3 and make corresponding cross-reference changes.]

I. MATCH CONDUCT

C. PLAYING TIME AND SUBSTITUTION

1. Except as noted in Article I.C.3 all eligible team members in attendance at AYSO matches must play at least half of the match, excluding overtime.

Such participation is controlled as follows:

- a. Approximately midway through each half the referee shall permit substitution. This normally occurs during a regular stoppage in play, and the match is resumed with the appropriate restart (i.e. throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick-off, free kick, penalty kick or dropped ball). On occasion the referee may need to stop play for substitution while the ball is in play, in which case the match is resumed with a dropped ball.
- b. Substitutions may also be made at half-time and at the start of any overtime periods.
- c. When the referee signals for substitution, the coaches should have all substitutes entering the match immediately report to the referee or the designated assistant referees, who shall note on the lineup cards those team members substituting.
- d. During such stoppages, the coach of each team may substitute as many team members, or none, including previously substituted team members, as long as all eligible team members meet the minimum playing requirements.
- e. The referee shall allow for any time lost due to substitution or other cause by stopping his/her watch or adding playing time. (See Article I.B.3. regarding reducing the length of halves to permit proper substitution.)

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2. Substitution for injury:
 - a. If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until the beginning of the next “quarter”. Only the player who is injured is credited with a “quarter” played regardless of the actual time played.
 - b. The coach may choose to not substitute and “play short” thereby allowing the injured player to return during the “quarter” in which he or she was injured.
 - c. The player must receive a signal from the referee in order to return to the match.
3. Late arriving team members shall be substituted as follows:
 - a. If the team member arrives during the first “quarter”, the team member must play a minimum of two of the remaining three “quarters”.
 - b. If the team member arrives during the second or third “quarter”, the team member must play a minimum of one “quarter”.
4. Signed lineup cards must be completed by the referee and forwarded to the Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.
5. **Regions may have unlimited substitution for 14U, 16U and 18U teams.**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENT: August 1, 2018

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: [The views in this section represent those of the amendment proponent(s) and should not be construed as those of AYSO.]

The Intent of this rule change is to provide more substitution for 14U, 16U, and 18U teams. This rule change would make player substitution similar to other soccer and school programs. The change would help develop teams for tournament play in and outside of AYSO tournaments.

This change would allow the coach more time to evaluate players for injuries and hydration during play. It would give coaches more opportunity for observation and evaluation of players on and off the field of play during games. The change would improve the flow of the game.

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The rule change would assist the coach in improving the player's skills, knowledge of the game, and changing systems of play with players while they are out of the game. This change would assist the coach at games to, build player confidence, listen to the players, and develop a proper player attitude towards team's mates, the opposing team and officials', and the game of soccer.

Coaching and referee manuals would need added information regarding free substitution. Coach and referee updates would be needed for coaches and referee who hold already hold upper level certifications.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF AMENDMENT: OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL, eAYSO, ETC. (*e.g., documents requiring revision, training materials requiring revision, changes required to eAYSO, potential costs*): [The "impact statements" below were prepared to provide information to the membership to be able to better understand the potential impacts of the proposed amendment.]

The proposed amendment to the National Bylaws, if enacted, would have the following impacts:

1. Revision of coach, referee and other training lesson plans and materials will be needed with respect to unlimited substitutions.
 2. Except as noted above, no other financial, operational, or other impacts have been identified.
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AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS AMENDMENT #2

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT: This amendment seeks to modify Rules and Regulations Section I. (J), regarding Throw-ins.

SUBMITTED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: David Schnider (Regional Commissioner of Region 58, Section 10, Area V.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (**bold underlining** for additions and ~~strikeout~~ for deletions):

AYSO NATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS SECTION I. (J): MATCH CONDUCT

I. MATCH CONDUCT

J. THROW-INS

1. For 6U ~~to 8U~~, the throw-in is replaced with the pass-in. Opposing players must be at least two yards from the ball until it is kicked.
2. **For 8U, each region shall have the discretion to use either throw-ins or pass-ins to restart play.**
3. Training of throw-in technique may begin at **98U** and up.

AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS AMENDMENT #2

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENT: Removal of these provisions shall be effective immediately for MY2018.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: [The views in this section represent those of the amendment proponent(s).]

In March of 2017, this section was added by the Board of Directors to conform to the Player Development Initiatives (“PDI”) mandates of USSF. The PDI mandates state that use of pass-ins in 8U is optional, not mandatory.

The purpose of the PDI rules is to encourage player development. But at the youngest levels it fails to achieve that goal because it lacks incremental developmental steps. The AYSO implementation of the PDI rules has children playing for three years in a row (6U through 8U) on a single size field with 4 players per side with no keepers and no-throw ins. When players reach 10U, they are suddenly faced with a completely new game with 7 players per side, larger field sizes, goalkeepers, throw-ins, the offside rule, the build out line, and back passes. In most regions, coaches receive their teams only a few weeks before the season starts, which is not enough time for players of that age to learn the new rules and adjust to a game that is so radically different from the one they have played consistently for the prior three years.

This problem can be mitigated by progressively introducing changes as children advance through divisions, rather than introducing all of the changes at once in 10U. Unfortunately, the USSF PDI mandates limit the changes AYSO can make without risking its USSF membership. However, the USSF PDI mandates explicitly state that pass-ins are optional in 8U and that member organizations are permitted to use throw-ins at that level without violating the mandates. While it might be more beneficial to have more significant gradual changes, we can at least make this change within the existing rules.

Because Regions may feel differently about the appropriateness of pass-ins for their program, this proposed rule change allows each Region to exercise discretion in determining which form of restart to use. Regions that are happy with the current rule can continue to follow it, while Regions that prefer to use throw-ins for 8U would be able to do so without violating AYSO rules. Because this change only impacts the 8U division, there is little concern about Regions having differing rules in tournaments. To the extent that Regions host 8U tournaments, however, the host Region would decide the applicable rule, just as now happens with $\frac{3}{4}$ rules and other rules where Regions vary their practice.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF AMENDMENT: OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL, eAYSO, ETC. (e.g., documents requiring revision, training materials requiring revision, changes required to eAYSO, potential costs): [The “impact statements” below were prepared to provide information to the membership to be able to better understand the potential impacts of the proposed amendment.]

The proposed amendment to the National Bylaws, if enacted, would have the following impacts:

1. Revision of coach, referee and other training lesson plans and materials will be needed with respect to throw-ins.
 2. Except as noted above, no other financial, operational, or other impacts have been identified.
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AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #1

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT: This amendment seeks to modify Bylaw Section 4.02 regarding Number of Directors.

SUBMITTED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: National Board of Directors

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (bold underlining for additions and ~~strikeout~~ for deletions):

AYSO NATIONAL BYLAWS SECTION 4.02 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.

- (a) The authorized number of Directors of the Organization shall be fourteen, unless a non-Director individual is elected President pursuant to Section 6.02, in which case the number of Directors shall be fifteen, ~~thirteen~~ until changed by an amendment to these Bylaws duly adopted with the approval of the executive members.
- (b) ~~Ten~~ ~~Eleven~~ of the Directors shall be elected from the membership or from volunteers who have participated within the Organization.
- (c) ~~Four~~ ~~Two~~ of the Directors (the “**Independent**” “~~Outside~~” Directors”) may be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Directors who were elected by executive members pursuant to Section 4.02(b) and 6.02, if applicable, or selected pursuant to Section 4.17(b). The **Independent** ~~Outside~~ Directors shall be selected and appointed to provide outside perspective and bring particular expertise, experience or skills to the Board for the benefit of the Organization, including a parent or parents with current youth players under the age of 10 in any AYSO program, including but not limited to the areas of or persons with backgrounds in financial management, fundraising, media, child development, sponsorship, sports medicine, youth sports business and/or strategic expertise ~~or~~ ~~or~~ ~~technology~~ or any other areas deemed necessary by the Board. A person may not serve as an **Independent** ~~Outside~~ Director if, in the opinion of the Board, such a person has a material relationship with the Organization, ~~which includes but is not limited to the following:~~ (i) Employment of such person or any member of such person’s family as an executive officer of the Organization at any time during the past five years; (ii) prior service as a member of the Organization’s Board of Directors at any time during the past five years; and (iii) prior service as a Section Director of the Organization at any time during the past five years.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENT: Changes shall be effective July 1, 2018.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To expand the diversity of members of the board, viewpoints, and skill sets for the benefit of the Organization. At the March 17, 2018 National Board of Directors agreed to make recruiting of Independent Directors a priority.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF AMENDMENT: Travel and lodging expenses for attendance at in person meetings of the National Board of Directors including the National Annual General Meeting. Approximate costs of less than \$10,000 per year collectively.

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OTHER IMPACTS OF AMENDMENT:

Approval of Bylaw Section 4.02 will lead to conforming changes in Bylaw, Sections 4.03, 4.04, and 4.05.

The National Board of Directors approved a change to Bylaw Section 6.02 contingent upon the approval of Bylaw Section 4.02 to:

Allow any Director or non-director currently registered volunteer to run for National President.

If the non-Director is elected, they become a Director.

The term of office is a single three year term with a rest period of two years before serving as National President again.

The language of the approved Bylaw Section 6.02 Election of the National President is:

~~After all the Directors have been elected~~ **The National President shall be elected by a majority vote of the executive members at an annual meeting and shall serve a three-year term.** ~~under the provisions of Sections 4.05 or 4.17, the executive members shall elect one Director, by a majority of the votes cast, to serve a one-year term as National President. AYSO National Bylaws.~~ **Any registered volunteer may be elected National President, and the National President does not need to be a current Director. If an individual who is not a then current Director is elected the National President, then he or she shall become a Director upon election as the National President and shall serve as a Director until his or her term as National President expires. If a person is elected National President who is a current Director, and his or her term as a Director would expire during his or her term as National President, then he or she will become a Director upon such time as his/her term as Director expires and shall cease being a Director upon the end of his/her term as National President, and the provisions of Section 4.03 shall not apply to any extension of his or her term as a Director while acting as the National President.**

With respect to elections of the National President ~~if no~~ **nominee for National President** ~~Director~~ receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, **a second ballot shall be presented to the executive members, and** the executive members shall elect one of the two ~~nominees for National President~~ **Directors who received** ~~ing~~ the highest total of votes cast on the first ~~ballot~~ **vote**. All other officers of the Organization, except such officers as may be elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.03 or Section 6.05 shall be chosen annually by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the Board. They shall hold their respective offices until their resignation, removal, or other disqualification from service or until their respective successors shall be elected.

An elected President may only run for one three-year term but could run for another three-year term after his/her term as National President has expired for at least two years.

AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

PROPOSED CHANGE IN YOUTH PLAYER MEMBERSHIP FEE

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE: An increase in the youth player membership fee from \$17.50 to \$20.00 per player is proposed.

SUBMITTED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: National Board of Directors

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Effective MY 2019, an increase in the AYSO youth player membership fee of \$2.50 per player, from \$17.50 to \$20.00 is proposed. In addition, the \$1.25 allocation for volunteer background checks, approved by Executive Members in 2013 and currently included in the membership fee, is to be re-allocated to the player fee, resulting in an effective fee increase of \$3.75 per player.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGE: The fee increase will be effective for youth player membership for registrations in Membership Year 2019 (MY2019).

REASON FOR CHANGE: The youth player membership fee is the primary funding source for AYSO. The AYSO National Office uses this funding to provide programs, services and support to local AYSO programs. Declining player counts and rising business costs over the past decade has resulted in net operating deficits during the past two years. In MY2018, AYSO is expected to run a net cash flow deficit of about \$1,000,000 despite having reduced operating expenses by almost \$1,700,000 over the past two years.

The proposed youth player membership fee increase is expected to align revenues with expenses, generate a small cash surplus and avoid additional cuts to programs and services.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF CHANGE: The proposed fee increase is expected to generate between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 in additional cash flow to AYSO per year, starting in MY2019. The exact amount of additional cash flow realized will be based on the number of players registered in AYSO programs. The current planning assumption is that AYSO player counts will decline by about 3% in MY2019.

OTHER IMPACTS OF CHANGE:

The National Board of Directors has approved the implementation of a new Volunteer Membership program, also beginning in MY 2019. The purpose of this program is to provide enhanced background checks and more development and training opportunities for volunteers.

The cost of volunteer background checks, previously included as part of the AYSO player membership fee, is now covered by the new Volunteer Membership program. The annual fee for this program will be \$25 per volunteer. Local programs will have the freedom to determine how to assess this membership fee; either paying this fee for their volunteers or passing the cost through to the volunteer.

More details about the proposed Player Membership Increase and the new Volunteer Membership program can be viewed at <http://www.aysovolunteers.org/important-announcement-playership-fee-increase-and-new-volunteer-membership-program-information>.