



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

AREA 2J

Section 2

www.ayso2j.org

2010 HANDBOOK



Participating Regions:

Saratoga	Region 27
Cupertino	Region 35
West San Jose	Region 64
North Monterey County	Region 256

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SCOPE

These Rules and Regulations are based on the most current FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO, the most current AYSO National Rules and Regulations and Area 2J regulatory decisions; they are applicable to all inter-Region play for Area 2J. For Divisions U16 and U19 who play predominately in leagues outside Area 2J, those league rules shall supersede Area 2J's where applicable. For teams from other Areas that play predominantly in an Area 2J league, we hope these guidelines shall be followed as much as possible.

ORGANIZATION

Area Director

The Area Director (AD) shall manage the Area and is empowered to implement these Rules and Regulations, the National Rules and Regulations, and the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO. The Area Director shall be responsible to:

- Schedule inter-regional games.
- Ensure compliance with Area Rules and Regulations, as well as National Rules and Regulation, National Bylaws, and Policies.
- Manage the Area as outlined in these Rules and Regulations.
- Utilize, as appropriate, the authority to suspend players and Coaches for infractions to the Area Rules and Regulations.

The Area Director is selected, by secret ballot, by the Regional Commissioners in the Area, subject to the approval of the Section Director. The term of office is three years.

Regional Commissioners

The responsibilities of the Regional Commissioners are as follows:

- Ensure the eligibility of players in their Regions.
- Coordinate Regional teams, Coaches, Referees and equipment.
- Secure fields.
- Determine playing conditions of the fields.
- Secure team registration fees.
- Administer training programs for the volunteers (Coaches, Referees, division managers, etc.)
- Nominate by election the Area Director.

Area Coach Administrator

The Area Coach Administrator (ACA) is responsible to:

- Train regional staff to perform basic coach training via the AYSO Coaching Program.
- With the help of the Area Coach Trainer assists the regions in staffing and organizing the AYSO Intermediate Coaching Course and special coach training events.

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- Coordinate with Regions and Section 2 to provide the AYSO Advanced Coaching Course and Instructor Course as needed.
- Assist in resolving inter-region coaching disputes.

Area Referee Administrator

The responsibility of the Area Referee Administrator is to perform the following:

- Oversee the application of the National Rules and Regulations where they apply to refereeing the game, the Area Rules and Regulations, and most current FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO.
- Assist the Regional Referee Administrators in the conduct of their regional refereeing programs. The ARA conducts Area wide training programs for the Intermediate and Advanced Badges, and conducts other training programs such as clinics as necessary.
- Utilize the assistance of the Area Director of Referee Instruction and the Area Director of Referee Assessment.
- Seek guidance and policies on AYSO interpretations of the FIFA Laws from the Section 2 Director of Refereeing.
- Reports to the Area Director and Board on player conduct, disciplinary actions and sportsmanship as received from the Regional Referee Administrators and advises the Board of any rule updates or changes.

Area Management Administrator

The Area Management Administrator (AMA) is responsible to:

- Design an annual management training plan for the area and report to the area director and section management administrator quarterly on its progress
- Coordinate with the area director and section management administrator the delivery of management training at the area and regional level, and, for new regions, be a visible, active advocate for early and comprehensive management training
- Maintain an accurate listing of trained Basic, Advanced and National Management Instructors within the area
- Keep the area director, regional commissioners, and their staff informed about AYSO management issues
- Work with the area referee and coach administrators to develop an integrated training plan for the area, provide instructor training for all disciplines, and promote the Regional Assessment Program

Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate

The Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (ACVPA) is responsible to:

- Assist the Regional Commissioners in training Regional Child and Volunteer Protection Advocates (CVPA).

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- Assist the regional CVPAs in their primary duties.
- Assess the suitability of prospective volunteers.
- Support the training requirements in support of AYSO's Safe Haven program.
- Deal with issues of child abuse or other concerns about volunteers.
- Assist the Area Director in the proper training and certification of all members of the Area and Regional boards.

Area Board

The Area Board is comprised of, at a minimum, the Area Director, the Regional Commissioners, the Area Coach Administrator, the Area Referee Administrator, Area Treasurer and the Area Child and Protection Advocate. The Area Director shall name additional positions as are necessary.

The current Area Board consists of the following positions:

Area Director (AD)
Area Referee Administrator (ARA)
Area Director of Referee Instruction (ADRI)
Area Director of Referee Assessment (ADRA)
Area Coach Administrator (ACA)
Area Coach Trainer (ACTR)
Area Management Administrator (AMA)
Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (ACPVA)
Area Treasurer (ATR)
Area Secretary (AST)
Area Region Coordinator (ARGC)
Area Spring Director(s) (ASD)
Area VIP Director (AVIPD)
Regional Commissioners (RC)

The AD will consult with other members of the Board and Regions in the selection of the individuals for these positions. There is no voting process for these appointments. Any concerns should be presented to the AD for resolution.

Review Board

The Review board shall, at a minimum, consist of the Area Director, Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator, the Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate, and one "disinterested" Regional Commissioner. The Area Director may appoint other members to the Review Board. The Area Review Board shall be convened by the Area Director to review disciplinary situations when requested to do so in writing by the parties concerned. The Area Director must receive the Review Request at least verbally within five (5) days of the subject incident, and in written form within 10 days.

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FINANCIALS

Budget

The Area will maintain an annual discretionary budget and Area player fee as determined by the Area Board. This budget covers such items as follows:

- Coach and referee training programs and meetings conducted by the Area.
- Area Board meeting supplies and snacks.
- Area travel expenses not covered by NSTC or Regions.
- Area season and tournament trophies.
- Area recognition awards.
- Discretionary regional assistance activities.

Financial Calendar and Audit

The budget will be finalized and approved by May 1, prior to the start of the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The approved budget will be appropriately communicated to the Area. The Area financial audit will be conducted by September of each year. (This timing is to allow for receipt of official financial records through the end of the fiscal year.) In addition, an interim audit is required at the time of a change in AD, Treasurer, or other person listed as an authorized signer, unless such an audit is within three months of a recent or upcoming audit. It is the AD's responsibility to identify an auditor, who cannot be an account signer or the member of the family of an account signer.

GENERAL

Three-Quarter Rule

Except for injury or illness, all players at a game for a given team must play a minimum of 2 quarters and shall play 3 quarters before any players play 4 quarters. The Referee(s) must be notified at the beginning of the game for a pre-existing injury or illness. On the other hand, if a child's conduct during practice or game play is extremely abusive, violent, or disruptive, then not allowing the child to play may be considered as a very short term move to "cool the child off". This must be done with the coordination of the child's parents and the Regional Commissioner, who will notify his Regional Referee Administrator. If the child's team is involved in inter-regional play, the RRA will notify the Area Referee Administrator who can then notify the appropriate Regional Referee Administrator for that child's next game. The next disciplinary move would be to drop the child from the team, NOT another departure from playing. Not attending practice is not a valid reason for reducing playing time for any child. Coaches are encouraged to balance playing time of the players over the course of the season in order to promote player development.

Home and Visiting Team Definitions

Teams listed first in the schedule shall be considered the home team. They shall provide the game ball, nets, corner flags, and be responsible for resolving color conflicts.

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Position of Team Benches

Team benches should be on opposing sides of the field, whenever the field arrangement makes this feasible. The home team will select their side of the field first.

Cancellation Due To Rainouts And Poor Field Conditions

Home team Coaches shall call opposing Coaches to confirm rainout, even when it appears to be completely obvious. Since Area interplay often times requires travel, the home team Coach should account for the visiting team's travel time and try to contact the opposing (traveling) Coach as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travel. Officially, only the Referee, Safety Director, Regional Referee Administrator, or Regional Commissioner may call a rain-out or cancel a game due to unsafe field conditions or conditions which would cause damage to a field if play were to occur. In some Regions, local City or Park officials may be involved in the decision to cancel games and generally have authority over AYSO officials. It is important that all Coaches, teams, parents, spectators and Referees abide by cancellation decisions made by local governments. If no cancellation has been officially called, the team that does not show up shall be assessed a forfeit. A rained-out game shall not be made up and shall be considered a bye unless otherwise designated by the Regional Commissioner and/or Area Director. If, due to weather conditions, a game is called, then scoring shall be as follows:

- If a game is abandoned during the first half for rain or any other unsafe condition or condition which would damage a field, the game must be replayed.

- If a game is abandoned at the termination of the first half or any time during the second half, then the score at that time shall stand and shall be considered official.

Rescheduling of Games

The time and location of games rescheduled due to weather shall be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner and/or Area Director, otherwise the game becomes a bye.

In the event of a potential scheduling conflict, the conflict must be communicated in advance (a minimum of one week). In the interest of good sportsmanship, the game should be rescheduled to the extent possible. If the rescheduling is due to insufficient players (less than the minimum required for legal play) or some other team related problem, then the rescheduling shall be at the discretion of the opposing (inconvenienced) team. If the game is not rescheduled, the game becomes a forfeit for the team that could not play on the scheduled date.

Within 48 hours of agreeing to reschedule, each Coach should notify the appropriate Region official (RC, Division Manager and RRA) to ensure the scheduling of fields and Referees. If agreement cannot be reached between the Coaches, the Area Director shall set a time and place with the agreement of the host RC for rescheduling this make-up game. Scoring of this make-up game (whether set by the Coaches or by the AD) shall follow the rules in effect at the time the originally scheduled game.

These rules for rescheduling will apply unless other rules for rescheduling are approved by the Area Board.

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Players Moving One Division Level Higher

It is permissible to move qualified players into higher divisions when the RC deems it appropriate, but it is generally not permissible to place players in lower divisions, i.e., “playing down”.

Any exceptions to this policy must be thoroughly scrutinized by the Regional Commissioner. For inter-region play, the Area board must approve “playing down”.

One exception for moving players up a division is when a child is playing in the U14 division and is attending high school. A second year U14 player has a choice, which is final at registration time, to be in U16 (playing up) or U14 (normal qualification age).

FIELDS

Field Preparation

- Each Region shall be responsible for preparing their fields of play. Fields for Area games shall be of proper size and properly marked as specified by the AYSO Law Book as derived from FIFA. The National guidelines for short sided games shall be used by the Regions for U12 and under.

COACH POLICIES

Coaches, including Assistant Coaches, shall comply with the following Rules and Regulations.

Coaches Position on Field

Coaches, in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations and FIFA Laws of the Game, are to remain within ten yards of either side of the halfway line and one (1) yard back from the touchline, *even if not clearly marked on the field*.

Coach Responsibilities

- Only positive encouragement and praise are appropriate during play. Abusive coaching shall result in the Coach being warned to correct the behavior, and asked to leave the field if the abusive behavior is not rectified.
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be registered volunteers, safe haven certified, and age appropriately trained per National Guidelines.
- Game cards are to be legibly filled out with all game and team information, including the player’s full name in order by jersey number. This should include all players on the roster, even those not in attendance. For those players not in attendance, their names should be lined out with a note as to the reason.
- Coaches shall be on opposite sides of the field when conditions permit.
- Coaches are to keep substitutes in the technical area. Parents and spectators must remain three yards back from the touchline whenever feasible. No one is permitted behind the goal or goal line.

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- Spectators should be outside of the touchline on either side of the field between the two penalty areas.
- Spectators may not coach or actively direct play.
- Coaches are responsible for the actions and conduct of their players, parents and "friends". If the conduct of Coaches, spectators, or players cannot be controlled, the Referee may choose to stop the game.
- A score differential of 5 or more goals (a blowout) is strongly discouraged. A number of techniques are available to Coaches to avoid highly disparate scores, and keep the game fun. Please see Appendix C for suggestions regarding blowouts.
- The Referee controls the time. At quarter substitutions, the Referee has the discretion to continue or stop the clock. One minute for the quarter substitutions is the guideline. This stoppage time is for substituting only, not a water break or coaching. A player may come to the sideline at anytime and while remaining on the field, get water from a spectator or teammate. The Referee may choose to continue the clock during substitutions to keep games on time.

Coaches may file a written report for any unusual situation, misconduct, etc. within 24 hours of the incident, to the Area Coach Administrator or their local AYSO Regional official (RC, RCA, RRA, or Division Manager).

REFEREE POLICIES

Referees and Assistant Referees shall comply with these Rules and Regulations: the AYSO National Rules and Regulations, and FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO.

Duties of the Referee

It is the primary duty of the Referee to provide a safe and fair game for the players. Special attention must be given to rough and dangerous play such as running into the goal-keeper, tackling from behind, high kicks to the face area, etc. There is no dangerous contact allowed between player and goalkeeper at any time. The determination of the extent of danger is at the discretion of the Referee. Age and ability are key factors in the determination of dangerous play.

Slide tackling should be carefully assessed. Slide tackling is not a foul; however, it can lead to a foul. In younger ages, sliding and throwing one's self on the ground, should be discouraged by the Referee and coaches as it takes the player out of the play. Referees should not always assume that contacting the ball before the player is never a foul. Again, unsafe play should be stopped.

The ARA and RRAs shall endeavor to try to recognize and punish infractions in a similar manner per level of play across all regions.

Referees shall adhere to Area rules in the Area 2J Handbook, and shall endeavor to receive training appropriate to the level of games that they officiate.

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Qualifications

Referees shall, at a minimum, have completed the Basic Referee course, and have received their Regional badge. Only certified Referees may officiate any AYSO game (center referee).

Qualified Referees and Assistant Referees, formerly called lines-persons, shall be assigned by the home team Region's RRA or designate. The Referee shall be qualified by the RRA at the game level appropriate to his/her experience and badge level.

If a web based scheduling system is used, the RRAs are responsible for ensuring that referees are qualified for the level of match for which they are able to self-assign, or be assigned.

In Divisions U14 – U19, Referees are not to be the center Referee for any game in which they have a child playing, unless agreed to by the coaches prior to the start of the game. This situation is to be avoided whenever possible, even if it means that 2 refs are used in conjunction with a club linesman.

Diagonal System of Control

All Area games shall be conducted using the AYSO mandated diagonal system of control using one center Referee and two Assistant Referees, or when necessary, a club linesman and two Referees. The Center Referee has the final say as to the acceptability of a club linesman and may cancel a game if the club linesman is unsatisfactory. Such a decision would typically be made only for reasons of safety. Two-man Referee systems are not to be used. Under no circumstances shall any game be considered official without a qualified Center Referee.

Regions are required to implement the diagonal system of control as a matter of National AYSO policy.

For U12, U10, U8 games, "scrimmage" if no Referees show up, but play an official game if at least one official center Referee is present (NOT just an Assistant Referee), with either parents or official Assistant Referees on the sidelines. The "scrimmage" game shall not count; the game must be rescheduled.

U5/U6 games shall have coaches referee the game with parents assisting.

For U5 play there are AYSO trained officials (field monitor or coach) that "officiate"; this differs slightly from National's "Master Coach" concept.

For Regional play, any match cancelled due to the absence of Referees shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Region. For inter-regional Area play, cancelled matches shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the ARA or AD.

Referees shall not allow any AYSO player to play unless dressed in proper uniform and safety equipment, per the AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

Game Timekeeping

The Referee controls the time. At quarter substitutions, the Referee has the discretion to continue or stop the clock. One minute for the quarter substitutions is the guideline. This stoppage time is for substituting only, not a water break or coaching. A player may come to the sideline at anytime and while remaining on the field, get water from a spectator or teammate. The Referee may choose to continue the clock during substitutions to keep games on time.

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The Referee has the obligation to postpone the game if, in the opinion of the Referee, field conditions, lines, and/or equipment is not acceptable for safe and proper play. If repairs to field conditions and equipment have not been completed satisfactorily within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled game time, the Referee may postpone the game. The Referee will inform the RRA and/or ARA of the postponed game. The home field RC shall resolve all issues related to field safety and the rescheduling of the game. Note, the Center Referee only makes note of the final score, a Forfeit, a Postponed game or an abandoned game; the Center Referee does not assign or determine points.

Misconduct Reporting

The Referee shall forward any misconduct (Yellow or Red cards) and any other disciplinary actions of an unusual nature to the Regional Referee Administrator within 24 hrs of the game during which the misconduct occurred. It is then the responsibility of the RRA to inform the Area Referee Administrator of the misconduct if in an inter-region age level.

SCHEDULING

The "Regular Season" shall begin near Labor Day. Post-season tournament play shall be announced during the season. U19/U16 shall conclude by the second Sunday in November prior to the start of high school.

All games must be played at the designated times and locations as specified by the Region for Regional play and by the Area Board for Regional interplay within the Area. The Area Director is to be notified of any schedule changes at the Area level a minimum of 48 hours in advance of that scheduled game time.

In case a team is late or cannot play as scheduled or does not field minimum number of players, the Referee shall hold the game for ten (10) minutes after the scheduled game time. After ten minutes have lapsed, it shall then be considered a forfeit.

Only the home Regional Commissioner, Safety Director, RRA, game Referee, or local government official has authority to call off games due to weather or field conditions. In case of inclement weather, Coaches or Referees shall contact the appropriate person in their Region, or in the Region hosting the game, to determine if the game is to be played.

The Area Director may alter the location of a game, if necessary, in the interest of players' safety (i.e., a region is unable to provide a safe field or qualified Referees) or for mutual benefit for both teams and regions.

GAMES, GAME TIMES & SUBSTITUTION

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Rules and Regulations are in accordance with current FIFA Laws of the game as modified by AYSO and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

Games should always start on time. This means that if a game is running late, it needs to be called short so that the next game (and subsequent ones) shall run at the proper time. Of course Referee discretion may be used, such as in the case where there is a gap between games and it looks at the time that it is reasonable to delay the start of the next game for up to 15 minutes. If such an exception is not clear to the Referee, then the overrunning game should be called short so the next one can start on time. In all cases, if the Referee decides to play a shorter game, the Referee will immediately notify the Coaches of both teams that the game duration will be modified. It is desirable that the decision to shorten a game will be made prior to its start so that the first and second halves of the game are of the same length.

Properly completed Line-up Cards must be presented to the Referee prior to the start of each game. These cards shall include all registered players regardless of attendance. All players are to be listed in numerical order, with first and last names. The names for those players not in attendance should be lined out, with a note as to the reason. All game and team information must be filled out also.

"EVERYONE PLAYS" rules shall apply to all games.

TEAMS

Team size and Playing Requirements

All Area and regional play will be with teams that match AYSO National team size guidelines.

Within all Regional and Area play, all eligible players in uniform and at the field at the beginning of the game must play a minimum of 2 quarters and shall play three (3) quarters before any players play four (4) quarters. Playing in any quarter, regardless of whether the player returned to touch line for injury reasons, shall constitute playing for the quarter.

If a player arrives during the first quarter, then that player shall play at least 1/2 of the game (2 quarters). If the player arrives during the 2nd quarter or at half-time, then only one (1) quarter of play is required.

Age Eligibility is per AYSO National Guidelines.

EXPECTED CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES, AND SPECTATORS

- No alcoholic beverages, smoking, or tobacco use activities are permitted on or near the playing field.

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- Players, Coaches, parents, and spectators shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of AYSO.
- Negative comments and complaints about game officiating are not permitted and shall be the responsibility of the Coach to control.
- Foul or abusive language shall not be tolerated.
- The outcome of any game terminated by a Referee before regular time has expired, other than to allow the next game to start on time shall be determined by the Area Director or the Review Board except for rainouts as outlined above.
- Conduct which brings disrepute on AYSO may result in the suspension of the participant(s) involved.
- It is the Referee's responsibility to ask the Coaches to enforce these rules.
- The Home field coach is responsible for knowing the local field rules and making attendees aware of them when and where necessary. This could include regulations regarding dogs, parking, etc.
- Teams and fans should pick up and appropriately dispose of all trash.

CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS

Coach and Spectators

If a parent or bystander gets out of hand, the Referee shall insist that the Coach attend to the problem. It is the Coach's responsibility to see to it that his or her team's parents and spectators exhibit the proper behavior and do not get out of control. The coach may request that the offensive person leave the field; if necessary called upon, the referee shall support the coach in this process.

At the Referee's discretion, a Coach may be asked to leave the game and field due to his/her behavior or that of other coaching assistants or spectators. If the Coach is asked to leave, the implications are similar as for a sent off player - out for at least the remainder of the current game. If this action is a result of the Coaches' behavior, then the Coach is barred from the next game as well. If the Coach does not leave the game when asked, the Referee may stop the game and the Area Director shall determine the outcome of the game. If the Coach is asked to leave, the Regional Coach Administrator shall be notified to take appropriate action with this Coach. If the Coach is the Regional Coach Administrator, then the Area board or Review Board shall take appropriate action with this Coach.

Cautions (Yellow cards) and Send Offs (Red cards) can only be displayed to players, NOT to Coaches (or any Assistants), nor to parents or bystanders. However, all misconduct of Coaches, Assistant Coaches, parents and spectators, before, during or after the game, should be reported to the appropriate Regional and/or Area staff, and is subject to disciplinary action.

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Players

A Player receiving a Red Card shall be immediately sent off from the game. If the player's parent is not available to accompany the player, then the player shall remain with the team on the sideline but shall remove or cover his/her jersey. The player is suspended from the team's next game, including any post season or tournament play that may be affected. If the suspended player plays in the team's next game, then that game shall be deemed a forfeit, including in the case of post-season and tournament play, and the player shall be suspended the rest of the season. In addition, the Coach may be subject to disciplinary action.

The Referee administering the Red Card must contact his/her Regional Referee Administrator providing a written report on the incident per the Area game report guideline (see appendix for Game Reports). The Regional Referee Administrator shall in turn contact the Regional Commissioner for issuance of the letter to the player's parents, and the Area Referee Administrator, who shall then contact the appropriate Regional Referee Administrator for the following week's game so that enforcing exclusion from the next game can be administered.

A player receiving two (2) Red cards during the season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, including post-season and tournament play.

A player receiving three (3) Yellow Cards during the course of the season shall be treated as if the player received a Red card. This means that all the rules which apply to Red card situations, apply here as well with the exception that the Referee administering the third Yellow will not know that the player is to be expelled from the game. Administration of this 3rd Yellow will be done by the Regional or Area Referee Administrator through notification of the player's Coach that the player is not permitted to play in the team's next game.

Any physical assault on Referees, Assistant Referees, Coaches or other officials by a player, spectator or Coach shall result in a minimum two (2) year expulsion (beyond the current season) from the AYSO program. It should also be noted that striking a sports official is a felony in the state of California.

All Yellow Cards, Red Cards and misconduct offenses must be documented by the Referee on the Game Card and communicated to the Regional Referee Administrator within 24 hours of the game in which the misconduct occurred. The ARA will have a card tracking system established with the RRAs of the regions and is responsible for keeping the list of cards given for review by the Area Board.

The Player's Regional Commissioner shall send a "Red Card Letter" to the player's parent in a timely manner to ensure that the parents receive it before the next scheduled game. A sample letter is presented in the Appendix.

PROTESTS

Protests shall not receive enthusiastic consideration and are emphatically discouraged as being counter to the spirit of AYSO. Referee judgments are FINAL.

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The Regional Commissioner of the team filing the protest must submit protests, about the technicalities of a game for the purpose of future policy changes, within two weeks of the event in writing to the Area Referee Administrator.

Issues of child abuse (physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and ethical) should be reported to the CVPA.

The Review Board shall be responsible for resolution of all disputes. Policy changes shall be reviewed and resolved by the Area Board.

INJURIES

Coach Responsibilities

In accordance with AYSO National rules, all Coaches must carry the official AYSO Medical Release forms for all players to all practices and games. Coaches must show Medical Release forms to the Referee at the beginning of games if requested to do so. Players without Medical Release forms shall not be allowed to play.

Any injury to or damage caused by an AYSO participant shall be reported by the Coach to the participant's home Regional Commissioner and/or home Regional Safety Director, as well as to the Regional Commissioner of the Region in which the incident occurred if the team is a visitor.

Substitutions When Injured

When a player becomes injured:

- The player may be substituted, but cannot return in that quarter, or
- May remain out without being substituted, and return when ready (with approval of the Referee).
- The quarter shall be marked as having been played by the injured player, regardless if there was a substitution or not.
- When on a team playing short, the opposing team shall need to maintain the same difference in number of players, and reduce by one player (the number that were injured) while the short team has an injured player out.

LEAGUE SCORING & GAME CARDS

Cumulative scoring for purposes of season play and post-season tournament qualification shall be as follows:

Win = 6 points
Tie = 3 points
Loss = 0 points
Forfeit = 8 points (2-0 win)

One additional point per goal scored, up to 3 additional points

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Two point penalty for red card or coach ejection
Two point penalty for no show at mandatory Coach meeting.

Tie breakers:

Head to head competition
Fewest goals allowed
Most goals scored up to 5 goals/game
Fewest Cards Received
Flip a coin

Game cards shall be properly filled out with team name, region #, division #, Coach's name and all players' names and jersey numbers (in numerical order.) Absent players shall also be listed, but should have a line through their name. Assistant Referees shall mark the card to indicate which players are out each quarter.

FORFEITS & PLAYING SHORT

A game is considered a forfeit when less than seven (7) players are present 10 minutes after the official start time. A forfeit is something that should be avoided; the AYSO intent is to PLAY. No forfeits shall be made up. Any Coach who knows that the team shall not attend the scheduled game shall notify the opposing Coach at the earliest possible moment, trying to make the determination by 9:00 p.m., the day which is one week prior to the game. No-shows shall be presented to the Area Board and the no-show region may be subject to disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of the attending Coach to notify their RC who shall in turn notify the no-show RC. Showing up with significantly fewer players than the maximum (11) is also considered in poor spirit. The other team players don't get a chance to play as often when this condition occurs, nor will the game be as competitive, resulting in the coach taking measures to prevent a blow-out.

If at any time while the game is in progress, the number of players drops below 7, the game is over and the outcome reported by the Referee to the RRA or home RC. The Referee only reports on the condition of the game, and not on the ultimate outcome. The Area Review Board has the authority to rule a forfeit. If a player gets injured, resulting in less than 7 players on the field, then the Referee must decide on the spot if the player can continue to play, or call the game. In this case, the Area Review Board shall determine the outcome of the game.

If a team plays with less than the maximum players allowed, which is not a result of a Red card, then the opposing team may play with only one player more, but is relieved of the $\frac{3}{4}$ play time rule (however no player may play the full game until all players have played $\frac{3}{4}$) as long as the imbalance continues. This means that when the 'short' team adds a player, the opposing team does likewise (up to the obvious maximum limit).

In the event a player is sent off from either team (Red carded) while in this unbalanced mode, neither team may add players at that time nor remove any other player to adjust the imbalance. The only change is the removal of the sent off player.

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When a player (or players) on the team playing short gets injured, while that injured player (or players) is (are) out, the opposing team is required to reduce by the number of short team injured players.

AWARDS & TROPHIES

For all inter-region season play, the trophy/award policy shall be determined and announced prior to the start of the season. Depending upon the number of teams involved in Area interplay and the distribution of teams among the regions, the Area Board may decide to grant trophies/awards which may include a sportsmanship award at the Area level, or recommend that season awards be administered at the regional level. Action will be taken by the September Area Board Meeting to review and approve the trophy policy and tournament plans. For teams playing at the Section level, the Section policy for awards/trophies will apply.

If the Area provides awards/trophies, then the number of teams receiving them per division is dependent on the size of the division as follows:

- Leagues with 1 to 4 teams grant trophies/awards to 1st and 2nd place.
- Leagues with 5 to 11 teams grant/award trophies/awards to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
- Leagues with 12 teams and over shall be awarded trophies to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place.

It is the responsibility of the Area staff to acquire the trophies for all Area awards. At the discretion of the Area Board, Fall season awards will be budgeted at the Area level. Area Awards in all supplemental programs (i.e., Spring Soccer) shall be funded by the participating regions based on the number of teams each region has in the supplemental program. Area related tournament costs shall be burdened in the same manner.

SECTION TWO MANNY HERSCHEL AWARD

Area Volunteer Of The Year

The Manny Herschel Award is given annually at the Section 2 SAGM to a deserving individual from each Area in Section 2. The award was named after Manny Hirschel and first given to him at SAGM in 2000 with the plan to give it out in subsequent years to other worthy members of AYSO. Manny has given many years of unselfish leadership, knowledge, commitment, and effort to the betterment of AYSO, at many levels, and to its players having safe, fun, and fair experiences. The award is intended to be given for long-term contributions at the National, Section, Area, and/or Regional level; however the winner has typically had an impact at multiple levels. Nominees are individuals who have been role models for volunteers and for players. Their actions epitomize the values and philosophy of AYSO.

The names of the award recipients need to be given to the Section early enough so that the awards can be ordered in time for the Section Conference (typically held in the winter months).

Each RC should forward their region's nominee, along with a short statement of why this individual was nominated. In addition, if Area Staff members would like to nominate other

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individuals, they should send the AD their suggested candidates with a short statement. The AD will package together these regional nominees and staff recommendations, along with the supporting statements, and send them out to all off the Area Board and Staff for reading, discussion, etc. in preparation for the final determination at the Area offsite.

Selection Process

The following is the process that Area 2J will use for determining the nominees and for making the final selection.

- The A2J Director, as long as the individual is not a nominee, will conduct the selection process. If the Area Director is a nominee, then the Leader will be selected, in order, from the following list of Area Board members, until an individual is not a nominee. The Area Board members are ACVPA, ARA, ACA, and ATR. In addition, the Leader will select another disinterested (not a nominee) Area Board/Staff Member or appropriate AYSO volunteer to assist in counting the ballots. The list of voting members and the name of the assistant will be communicated at least one week prior to the election process.
- For the selection process to proceed, there must be a quorum (50% or greater) of eligible Area Board Members (AD and the RCs/designate) and Area Board/Staff (if present); if an individual holds more than one Area Board/Staff position, he/she will have only one vote. However, if an Area Board Staff member is also a RC, they will be given an Area vote and a RC vote.

Area Board/Staff positions eligible to vote if present at the meeting:

ACA – Area Coach Administrator
ACTR – Area Coach Trainer
ARA – Area Referee Administrator
ADRA – Area Director of Assessment
ADRI – Area Director of Instruction
AMA – Area Management Administrator
ATR – Area Treasurer
ACVPA – Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate
ASD – Area Spring Director(s)
ATD – Area Tournament Director
APT – Area Purchasing Director
AVD – Area VIP Director
AAD – Area Audit Director
AWB – Area Web Director
ASEC – Area Secretary

- The Leader will ensure that everyone understands the selection process, as well as the award selection criteria. All voting is to be conducted by secret ballot.
- Each RC, or person designated by the RC, should be prepared to present information regarding the one nominee selected by his or her region. He or she may also bring names of

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other nominees to be considered by the Area Staff as their nominee(s). All of these nominees will be posted for everyone to see.

- The Area Staff should then suggest any additional nominees to be considered by them for final listing.
- Up to five minutes will be allocated for discussion about each candidate. Any nominee, in attendance, will be excused from these discussions. Upon returning to the group, these nominees may provide additional feedback regarding any other candidate.
- After listening to the supporting information about all of the nominees, the Area Staff will decide if one or more nominees are appropriate to add to the final nominee list. Fifteen minutes of discussion will be allocated for selecting any additional candidates. For any name to be added to the nominee list, a majority vote is required of the Staff Members in attendance.
- The Leader will then begin the selection process by providing a ballot to each A2J Board (or designate) and Staff Member.
- To be selected, a nominee must receive at least 50% of the votes of the Area Board (or designate) and Staff Members. If there is no nominee with at least 50% of the votes, then the two nominees receiving the most number of votes will then be voted upon. (If there are additional nominees with the same number of votes as the top two candidates, then these nominees will also be included for this round.)
- This process will be followed until a nominee receives over 50% of the vote. In the situation where a tie occurs, there will be a short discussion (less than 5 minutes, with all candidates removed from the discussion) and one re-vote to see if the tie can be resolved.
- In the case where a tie cannot be resolved, the AD will select the winner from the tied candidates.
- The winner will not be announced until the award ceremony at the Section Conference. If this individual is not attending the Section Conference, then the Leader will work with the Section Director to make arrangements to honor and recognize this individual appropriately.
- Since the award winner will be kept secret, the Leader must ensure that supporting information is available at the Section Conference to the award presenter, who will be either the Area or Section Director.
- Schedule of activities:
 - [90 days prior to Section Conference] Regional Boards discuss award and nominate an individual.
 - [60 days prior to Section Conference] Regional representatives make nominees' names and supporting information available to the AD for distribution to all Area Board and Staff members.
 - At a meeting convened by the AD the Area Staff nominates additional candidates, if appropriate, and selection occurs.

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- [45 days prior to Section Conference] Leader provides name and supporting information to the Section Director.

END OF SEASON TOURNAMENTS

General Information

Area 2J or Section Two may offer the following tournaments.

- U19/U16: The Section may host a tournament for the 1st place teams within the Area. Additional teams from the Area may be invited.
- U14/U12: The Area may host a tournament for the 1st place teams from each region. Additional teams may be invited from some of the regions.
- U14/U12: The Section may offer a tournament for the 1st place and possibly additional teams, from the Area tournament.

Parents are not permitted to referee/assistant referee any tournament game in which their child participates.

Dates and locations of tournaments shall be posted at the beginning of the season, and shall be updated as necessary.

Payment of any and all Area and Section tournament fees is the responsibility of the Area.

Team Roster Qualifications

Area Team Rosters are to be retained by the Regional Commissioner with copies submitted to the Area Director upon request. Rosters are to include the players' names, AYSO ID number, uniform numbers, the team color, Coach's names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email address. The Regional Commissioners must sign copies of the rosters submitted.

Team Rosters from the season are available from Regional Commissioners upon request by other Regional Commissioners. Rosters are not to be changed or altered without the approval and permission of the respective Regional Commissioners and the approval of the Area Director. Only players registered on their respective teams by October 31 of the current year shall be eligible to play in post-season tournament.

See section on Tournaments for more complete tournament rules.

Uniforms and Players Equipment-Season Play and Tournaments

Shin guards are required, and no one shall be allowed to play without them.

The complete uniform including shin-guards, shoes, shorts, and jersey are to be worn, with the shirts tucked in, and the shin guards inside the socks. Exceptions to the basic uniform are permitted for cultural or religious reasons. In this case, prior approval of the RC is required and a letter must be prepared by the RC of the player's region and presented to the Referee if asked.

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If the player is participating in Area level play, the Area Board should be notified of the special situation in advance.

Sweatpants, kneepads, headwear, and the like are not allowed, except for the goalkeeper.

The host Tournament Director is responsible to resolve color conflicts, such as by having a set of appropriate color scrimmage vests available. The referee shall decide if they are needed, and shall flip a coin with the team captains to determine which team shall wear the "alternative shirt".

In the case of a conflict with the Referee's jersey, the Referee shall change his/her jersey.

All players must wear the region issued uniforms properly: jerseys tucked in; same socks for all the team and covering the shin guards. Compression and bike pants may not extend below the knee and must match the color of the uniform shorts. All players on a team must wear the same jerseys, shorts, socks uniforms and, if clothing such as compression and bike shorts is worn, they too must be uniform in color on each player choosing to wear them. No improperly dressed player shall be allowed to play. Exception: An alternate jersey may be worn by a player, with the permission of the Referee, if required to comply with the AYSO blood borne disease policy.

No head gear such as bandanas, hats, scarves, or billed caps may be worn by field players. Exceptions are (1) players who for cultural or religious reasons are required to wear headgear, in which case a letter must be written by the RC of the player's region to allow play in other regions, and referee approved protective "heading equipment"; and (2) goalkeepers are allowed a referee approved billed cap in situations where they are staring into the sun. Sunglasses may not be worn unless they are prescription sunglasses.

In inclement weather, the Referee may choose to allow long sleeve shirts under team jerseys. Jeans and trousers are not allowed under any condition. Sweatpants are normally not allowed, but under very cold weather, may be permitted by the presiding Referee. No jewelry of any type may be worn. Hard hair accessories, bracelets, necklaces, earrings (including pierced ear studs regardless of how recently the lobes have been pierced), body piercings or rings may not be worn. The only exception is a Medic Alert Bracelet. If worn, the Medic Alert Bracelet must be fully covered with an appropriate tape that will not cause pain or injury to the child when it is removed.

Casts of any variety are not allowed, even with a doctor's permission. Wraps, such as ACE bandages or elastic knee supports, are permitted as long as there are no metal or plastic structures incorporated in the wrapping and they are not or do not become a hazard to the player or other players by unraveling or becoming dislodged.

Knee braces have been deemed permissible by AYSO with the provision that they are deemed safe to other players. This specifically means that the brace is either soft in composition, or padded so as to prevent injury to others. It shall be up to the Referee to determine its compliance with safety, following the above guidelines.

The goalkeeper may wear long sleeves and long pants. The goalkeeper may not wear equipment that may endanger themselves or other players.

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AREA 2J TOURNAMENTS FOR U12 and U14

Schedule Of Events

Because of the number of Regions involved in the tournament, sufficient information must be made available to the host Region in order to organize and distribute, in a timely fashion, game schedules and other pertinent information. Last minute changes lead to confusion and they create frustration on the part of the organizers, players, coaches, and parents. Hence, the following "no later than dates" must be adhered to:

October 31	Final signed rosters available from RCs.
Second Sunday before Tournament Weekend.	The Area is to arrange a meeting for the coaches of the regional U14 and U12 teams, which are likely to be selected for the Area Tournament. It is the intent of this meeting to cover such topics as need for referees from traveling regions, reinforcement of expected behaviors (Kids Zone), registration process, tournament format, etc. This meeting is mandatory.
Sat. before Tourn. Wkend.	Coaches commit to attending Area Tournament by 6:00 p.m.
Sat. before Tourn. Wkend.	RCs communicate to Tournament Directors the final teams attending.
Sunday before Tournament Weekend.	Signed team rosters to the Area Director for verification and signature. If team rosters are not received by this date, the slot may be assigned to the alternate team.
Sunday before Tourn. Wkend.	Notification of final teams to the Tournament Directors by the Area Director.
Monday before Tourn. Wkend.	Notification to the RCs with team schedules by the Area Director. (Schedules to be posted on the Area website.)
Monday before Tourn. Wkend.	RRAs provide names of qualified "traveling" Referees to host RRA.
Sat. before Thanksgiving	Games for U12G and U14-G. (There is NO rainout makeup day.)
Sunday. before Thanksgiving	Games for U12B and U14-B. (There is NO rainout makeup day.)

Information for all tournaments will be posted on the Area website (www.ayso2j.org) and may also be posted on each Region's website. Coaches have until 6:00 p.m., Friday to withdraw from the tournament. Please try very hard to avoid such a late date; it is hard at this late date to get another team. If a Coach decides to withdraw after that date or his/her team fails to show up on the tournament date, the Coach may be disbarred from participation in next year's tournament. If

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several teams from a Region act in a similar manner, then that Region may not be allowed to participate in the following year's tournament for the Divisions involved. AYSO is a volunteer organization; hence, please show courtesy to the organizing staff by informing them of the team participation or cancellation by the prescribed dates.

Number of Participating Teams

The total number of teams participating in the U14 Division is 8 (eight) teams and the total number of teams participating in the U12 Division is 12 (twelve) teams. Each Region is allowed to send at least one team in each Division (based on their final League or on the final Area standings). For the U14 Division, each region will send their top team based on regional standings and the remaining four teams will be selected based on overall Area Standings. For the U12 Division, each region will send a number of teams based on a selection criteria set by the Area Board in September

Tournament Player Eligibility

Only players registered on their respective teams by October 31 of the current year shall be eligible to play. Transfer of players from another team to a participating team shall not be allowed. Prior to the commencement of the Tournament, if a team cannot muster up enough players, then a substitute team as a whole shall be searched. Soccer is a team sport and this tournament is not an all-star tournament: the intent of this tournament is for the team that played during the season to play. Any exception to this rule shall not be allowed.

Regional Commissioners shall notify the Area Director if certain players were allowed to play with a lower age group than normal because of unusual circumstances. Only those players shall be allowed to participate with their team in the tournament. A list of such players shall be created and disbursed to the local tournament directors.

The number of players per team shall be limited to the size and exact roster of the team it was as of October 31. The coaches must have the team roster and all the registration slips on-hand at tournament registration and throughout the tournament.

A player (or a Coach) with a red card from the last game of the regular season, or has received his/her third yellow card for the season in the last game of the regular season, shall be ineligible to play in the first game of the tournament.

Use of an ineligible player shall result in suspension of the entire team from the tournament. Additional disciplinary action may be taken against the coach and the Regional Commissioner.

The host Tournament Director is responsible to resolve color conflicts, such as by having a set of appropriate color scrimmage vests available. The referee shall decide if they are needed, and shall flip a coin with the team captains to determine which team shall wear the "alternative shirt".

Tournament Registration Requirements

It is the responsibility of the RCs, or his/her designate, to ensure that the Tournament Directors know which teams are eligible and have been confirmed to participate in the particular tournament. The RCs are also required to provide signed (by the RC or Registrar) rosters with players names, birthdates, uniform numbers, team name, color, and names and telephone numbers of the Coach, and Assistant Coach. Each team must carry a copy of this roster with

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them at all times during the tournament. Team rosters without the signature of the Regional Commissioner or Registrar shall not be accepted. The RCs also need to provide the relative ranking of the teams, if more than one team is participating and the Area standings are not used. The RC is responsible to let the Tournament Directors know, ASAP, of any team not attending. The alternate teams, selected by the Area Board, will be used to replace any team not able to attend; however, the assignment of Tournament Team #s will not be changed.

A registration desk shall be set up at every Tournament location. The coach and the entire team must be present at least 30 minutes before the start of their first game on the first tournament day. Check-in will require:

- AYSO registration slips of each child
- Team picture
- The signed roster by respective RC or Registrar.

Coaches must have the AYSO registration slips of all their players as verification of player eligibility and as the normal medical release requirement. Players may not be allowed to play if they cannot produce the registration slips. Coaches should keep the slips with them on the field at all times since it is needed for providing medical treatment, if a player is injured. A responsible adult must be in charge of each team at all times during the tournament.

During check-in, the eligibility of the players shall be verified. Team pictures are required, along with the player registration forms and signed (by RC) team roster. In the event that a team picture cannot be produced, then the team is disqualified, but may play for fun if they choose. (If the team does not have a team picture, then arrangements prior to check-in must be made between the host RC and the RC of the visiting team. In the event that a player is not in the team picture, then the player will be required to provide another form of photo identification. At the appropriate time, each player will point to their name on the roster and their picture in the team photo.

All required (based on tournament format) line-up cards for the entire tournament shall be filled out and marked by tournament staff and will stay at the tournament table until distribution to referees by tournament staff. Each card must be blocked after the last player's name, so no additional names can be added.

Any last-minute changes in the Tournament rules or schedules shall be given to the coaches at this time as well as field assignments, location of eating places, nearest restroom, nearest hospital, and other information.

If a serious issue comes up during the tournament, then contact these people in the following order:

- Local Tournament Director
- Local Regional Commissioner
- Regional Referee Administrator
- Area Referee Administrator
- Area Director.

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12-team, One-Day Tournament Format

Teams will be seeded into four groups, with each group made up of three teams. All teams in a group will play each other during the first part of the tournament. After these games have been completed, the teams from each group will be designated as a1 – a3, b1 – b3, c1 – c3, and d1 – d3, depending on final point count, determined using Area 2J points scoring and tie breaking. The first place teams from Groups A and B and from Groups C and D will play. The winners of each of these games then play to determine Tournament Champion and second place. The second place teams from these games determine the Tournament Consolation finish. Additional games will also be scheduled for the second and third place teams in Groups A, B, C, and D to allow each team to play three games. All teams play either three or four games.

Team Allocation Methodology after initial round robin

First Place A Group	==> a1
First Place B Group	==> b1
First Place C Group	==> c1
First Place D Group	==> d1
Additional games	a2 vs. b2, c2 vs. d2 a3 vs. b3, c3 vs. d3
Semifinals	==> a1 vs. b1 ==> c1 vs. d1
Finals: 1 st and 2 nd place	==> winners of a1b1 vs. c1d1
Consolation/3 rd place	==> losers of a1b1 vs. c1d1

When more than one team enters from a region, they shall be put in different groups, as possible. In addition, first and second place teams (per region standings) will be distributed among the four groups.

Awards shall be given for the top four teams with consolation awards to all other tournament players. Awards should be presented by the host Regional Commissioner, and if not possible, then by the host Tournament Director.

8-team, One-Day Tournament Format

Teams will be seeded into two groups, with each group made up of four teams. All teams in a group will play each other during the first part of the tournament. After these games have been completed, the teams from each group will be designated as a1 – a4, b1 – b4, depending on final point count, determined using Area 2J points scoring and tie breaking. The first place teams from Groups A and B will play for 1st and 2nd place. The second place teams from will play to determine the Tournament Consolation finish. All teams play either three or four games.

Team Allocation Methodology after initial round robin

First Place A Group	==> a1
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First Place B Group	==> b1
Second Place A Group	==> a2
Second Place B Group	==> b2
Finals: 1 st and 2 nd place	==> a1 vs. b1
Consolation/3 rd place	==> a2 vs. b2

For U14 teams, Tournament seedings and Team Number are determined by the Area standings.

For U12, when more than one team enters from a region, they shall be put in different groups. In addition, first and second place teams (per region standings) will be distributed among the four groups.

Awards shall be given for the top four teams with consolation awards to all other tournament players. Awards should be presented by the host Regional Commissioner, and if not possible, then by the host Tournament Director.

Tournament Rules and Regulations

- All games will be played in accordance with current FIFA laws, the decisions of the International Board, and the National Rules and Regulations of AYSO with the following emphasis and exceptions:
- Coaches are to remain within 10 yards from the midline during games. This includes assistant coaches.
- Official AYSO line-up cards must be completed and given to tournament staff. The tournament staff will mark the line-up cards and will stay at the tournament table until distribution to referee by tournament staff. At the conclusion of each game, the referee will forward the cards to the Tournament Director for recording. The Tournament Director shall post these results.
- No kneepads or long pants (except for goalkeeper) are permitted. If a sweatshirt is worn, it must be worn under the team jersey. If the weather is very cold, then the Tournament Director, Regional Referee Administrator, or Regional Commissioner may make a global decision to allow sweatpants.
- All referee decisions are final and protests will not be considered. Questions regarding the interpretation of the rules must be referred to the Area Referee Administrator.
- In the case of suspension of a game by the referee for any reason, the outcome of the game will be decided by the hosting Regional Commissioner or, if not available, the local Tournament Director.
- A red card issued to a player shall constitute suspension from the next game. Two red cards will disallow further participation in the tournament. If a player receives a third yellow card during the course of the tournament, the third yellow card will be regarded as a red card. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to insure that the referees are informed of players carrying 2 yellow cards. If two yellow cards are given in the same game, then they are considered a single Red card.

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- If a team is not present on the field ready to play within 5 (five) minutes of the scheduled time, they forfeit that game.
- Duration of tournament games for all divisions and formats is 40 minutes (20 minute halves).
- Tournament games shall be played with quarter break substitution and with a minimum 7-minute half-time interval.

Tournament Standings

Scoring, using Area 2J rules, from the first two (12-team format) or three (8-team format) games is used to determine the teams that will play in the semi-finals (12-team) or finals (8-team), for first, second, third and fourth place. Additional non-standings games may be added to provide equal number of games for all teams.

Scores will be kept up-to-date as each game completes. Standings shall be posted in one or more places where everyone can see. One suggested method of showing the standings is to include how each team did against its competition along with the current/total points accumulated so far.

Scoring example

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Totals
A1	0/0	2/2	4/6	6
	A2: 0-1	A3: 2-3	A4: 1-1	
A2	7/7	1/8	9/17	17
	A1: 1-0	A4: 1-3	A3: 4-3	
A3	5/5	9/14	3/17	17
	A4: 2-2	A1: 3-2	A2: 3-4	
A4	5/5	9/14	4/18	18
	A3: 2-2	A2: 3-1	A1: 1-1	

[The upper line for each team represents the number of points accumulated in this match beside the running total points accumulated so far. The second line gives the opponent team number and the actual score of each match.]

Determination of Winners:

Round Robin: In the event two or more teams are tied based upon their total accumulated points at the end of the round-robin games, then the winner shall be determined by the following tie-breaking criteria (this does not apply to the final play-off games but only the round robin series which are used to determine winners of flights):

- Head-to-Head competition in tournament games.
- Fewest goals allowed in tournament games.

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- Greatest number of goals scored in tournament games up to a maximum of five goals per game.
- Kicks from the penalty mark according to FIFA Laws.

Semi-finals:

Semi-final games will only use Kicks from the Penalty Mark to decide ties.

Championship:

For the Championship game, a tie at the end of regular time will be decided by two (2) equal overtime periods. Substitutions may be made prior to each 5 minutes period. No changes can be made at the end of the end of overtime prior to Kicks from the Penalty Mark. The team ahead at the end of the 2 five (5) periods is the winner. If the teams remain tied, then the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark as described below.

Kicks from the penalty mark

- The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or the second kick
- The referee keeps a record of the kicks being taken.
- Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks.
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.
- If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- A goalkeeper who is injured while kicks are being taken from the penalty mark and is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a named substitute provided his team has not used the maximum number of substitutes permitted under the competition rules
- With the exception of the foregoing case, only players who are on the field of play at the end of the match, which includes extra time where appropriate, are allowed to take kicks from the penalty mark.
- Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.

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- Only the eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- All players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain within the centre circle.
- The goalkeeper who is the team-mate of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken, on the goal line where it meets the penalty area boundary line

Tournament Staff Requirements

Each host region will appoint a Tournament Director who will in turn appoint supporting staff, including registration and fields personnel. The Regional Referee Administrator will appoint referees for the games.

Referee Staffing at Tournaments

The Referee Administrator of the host Region shall provide an adequate number of qualified Referees to officiate the games and for settling decisions on the interpretation of the Laws of the game. To help provide Referees, the RRAs of each region will identify Referees from their region who will be traveling to tournaments in other regions. The RCs will need to provide, to the RRAs, the names of the players participating in the tournaments, for the RRA to identify the Referees. The names of these Referees will be provided by the RRAs to the host RRAs by the Monday before the tournament. AYSO National rules and regulations will be in effect. The Area Director, or Area Referee Administrator, must approve any exceptions to the National Rules.

Each Referee Administrator and hosting Tournament Director need to be informed of any Red Cards so that the consequences can be administered. He/she will then check to see what field and time that player is to play next, and leave word with the appropriate referees for that game. The Tournament Director shall also be responsible for recording when two yellow cards have been given to a player during the tournament, and informing subsequent referees that a player has two yellow cards, and a third would result in an expulsion from the tournament.

Tournament Fields

The host Region must provide suitable fields for play. Fields must be adequately marked and dangerous objects removed.

It is the responsibility of the Host region to put up and take down all nets. All teams are responsible for keeping the fields and immediate areas clean.

Coaches, or adults designated by the coach, are responsible for their players during the course of the tournament and they must know where their players are at all times. Only the coach, or if not available, the assistant coach, can agree to changes in the schedule, due to such things as rainouts, or misinformation.

The fields should be marked with a 10-yard line limit from the midline in which the coaches are to remain throughout each game and a line to keep the spectators back off the field of play by at least 3 yards.

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Tournament Rain Policy

Coaches must assume that games shall be played unless they are otherwise notified to the contrary. In case of inclement weather, the Area Director, or Regional Commissioner or referee Administrator of the hosting Region shall make the rainout cancellation decision. A tentative decision may be made at 8 PM on the night before, but the final decision must be made by 7 AM on the day in question. If the games are cancelled, the host Regional commissioner or the Tournament Director must contact the coaches by 7:30 AM of the day of the games. The coaches may contact the Tournament Directors after 6:30 a.m. on their cell phones.

If the tournament is cancelled, there are no rainout dates.

Rainouts should be called for the entire day at a particular site if it is raining at the site in the morning AND it is expected to continue to rain most of the day. If it is raining in the morning and NOT expected to rain the rest of the day, then a judgment call shall have to be made. Options when NOT expected to rain are: (1) play initial game in light rain and wait to see what happens after that, (2) delay first game and hope to play the game(s) with a shorter format, (3) cancel all games right up front anyway (least preferred).

If a game is abandoned during the first half for rain or any other unsafe condition or condition which would damage a field, the game must be replayed.

If a game is abandoned at the termination of the first half or any time during the second half, then the score at that time shall stand and shall be considered official.

MAPS TO PLAYING FIELDS

Maps to all playing fields used by Area 2J may be found on www.ayso2j.org, or by following links provided to the hosting region web pages.

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION

General Policy

It is the policy of the Area to resolve all disputes involving persons involved at the Area level (including its charter and pilot regions) in an amicable way. **All issues should be addressed at the Region level, if at all possible.** Compromise should be emphasized whenever possible, and personality conflicts should be avoided. If disciplinary action is found to be necessary, it is the Area's policy to take only the minimum action necessary. All means available should be taken to avoid legal action.

It is the policy of the Area to avoid punishing the players for the conduct of the parents except when there is no other solution (*e.g.*, where a parent cannot or will not cease his or her disruptive behavior).

It is the policy of the Area to avoid wiping out years of good memories of AYSO and good service to AYSO, and that suspension or removal procedures are to be used only as a last resort. Voluntary resignation is preferable to a suspension or removal procedure.

It is the policy of the Area to avoid publicizing the suspension or removal proceedings beyond those persons who need to know, and to respect the privacy of the individuals involved. However, the Area Director or Area Board should notify the Section Director, the National Support Center or members of the AYSO Legal Commission of the pending proceedings pursuant to the operating regulations, and must comply with all applicable regulations and laws requiring suspension, abuse and similar events.

General Due Process Procedures

Disputes involving day-to-day activities of the Area should first be addressed and resolved, if possible, by the appropriate Board Member in charge of the activity and/or then by the entire Area Board, if necessary. Disputes arising out of game conduct should first be addressed and resolved, if possible, by the Area Referee Administrator and/or then by a disinterested Review Board appointed by the Area Director and/or then by the entire Area Board, if necessary.

The Area Review Board will consist of the Area Director, Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator, Area Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate, and one disinterested Regional Commissioner to be selected by the Area Director. If any of these individuals are substantially involved in the "dispute", then the AD will select a replacement from the disinterested RCs.

If it is determined that it is necessary that a person involved in the Area needs to be disciplined, or that his or her participation in the Area should be limited or terminated, then the Area Director or the Area Board shall give notice in writing to such person of such intention. Such notice shall specify the action to be taken and the reasons therefore. Such notices shall further notify such person that he or she, upon request, will be given a reasonable opportunity to explain why such action should not be taken. Such opportunity to respond may be in person at a hearing, by telephone or in writing. The Area Director or Area Board may appoint a disinterested Hearing Board or Committee of neutral persons to consider such discipline. After such opportunity to

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respond has been given, the Area Director, Area Board, Hearing Board or Committee shall make its determination and announce it in writing to all persons concerned.

Suspension

The Area Director or Area Board may suspend a person involved in the Area from further involvement in the program on notice (by telephone, fax, writing or in person) if there is found to be an imminent danger to the program by his or her continuing involvement, or if a crime has been alleged to be committed by such participant. Such a suspension must be followed by a disciplinary hearing as described in Paragraph Two, above. A suspension is considered to be temporary in nature, and such suspension may be removed or set aside by a majority of the Area Board at any time.

Removal

The Area Director or Area Board may remove a person (whether or not suspended) involved in the Area, **including an Area Board Member**, from further involvement in the program. Such removal may only be made upon prior notice and after a determination is made that removal is appropriate, as the result of a disciplinary hearing described in Paragraph Two, above. Such removal is only permitted when there is found to be (a) a violation of the National Bylaws or of the rules, regulations, policies or philosophies of AYSO or (b) conduct which disrupts the Area's or AYSO's activities or programs.

Hearing Procedures

The disciplinary hearing shall be held at a neutral location. The hearing procedures shall be communicated to and understood by all parties prior to the commencement of such hearing. All interested parties are to be informed of the date, time and location of such hearing.

At the hearing the Committee or Hearing Board shall listen to the facts of the situation from all interested parties, and then adjourn to a private session where the decision will be reached. Under no circumstances shall the Committee or Hearing Board deliberate in the presence of the parties involved in the dispute. The Committee or Hearing Board will then decide the issues raised pursuant to AYSO operating regulations and these Area Guidelines based on the evidence submitted, and by majority vote determine the appropriate action including whether no action should be taken against the individual accused, or whether such person should be given a warning or caution, or whether such person should be given a written reprimand, or whether such person should be suspended or removed from involvement in Area/Regional activities. All interested parties shall be promptly notified of such decision after, in the case of removal, and where deemed appropriate, such individual is given an opportunity to resign voluntarily.

Review

Any determination made in accordance with this Article shall be final and binding on all concerned unless it is determined by the Section Director, or, if he/she is not disinterested, a member of the National Board of Directors, that such determination was arbitrary and capricious, or that the procedure was not fair, or that the person or persons making such determination are found not to have been disinterested. Any interested party dissatisfied with the decision or action taken by the Committee or Hearing Board may request a review of such decision by (in order)

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the Section Director or National Board of Directors, as may be appropriate pursuant to the operating regulations relating to dispute resolution and due process.

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Appendix A: Misconduct Report

This form is to be used by Referees to report on Yellow and Red cards issued during a game. Regions may automate this process with WEB based forms, however it is required the information listed in this form be obtained no matter what the actual reporting method that is used. PDF version is available at www.area2j.org.

Referee Game Misconduct/Incident Report

Date of Game _____ Division B G U19 U16 U14 U12 U10 U8 Teams _____ vs. _____

(Circle Applicable Division) (Home) (Visitors)

Field _____ Start Time _____ Final Score _____ — _____

(Home) (Visitors)

Referee _____ Assistant Referee _____ Assistant Referee _____

Phone # : () _____ Phone # : () _____ Phone # : () _____

Caution(s)

Name	Reason (A—G)	Team	Number	Time (Minutes)
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

A: Unsporting Behavior **B:** Dissent **C:** Persistent Infringement **D:** Delays Restart **E:** Fails to Respect Req'd Distance

F: Enters or Re-enters Field Without Permission **G:** Deliberately Leaves Field Without Permission

Send Off(s)

Name	Reason (H—N)	Team	Number	Time (Minutes)
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

H: Serious Foul Play **I:** Violent Conduct **J:** Spits at Opponent or Other Person **K:** Denies Opp. an Obvious Goal-Scoring Oppty. by Handling Ball

L: Denies Opp. an Obvious Goal-Scoring Oppty. by an offense Punishable by Free Kick or Penalty Kick **M:** Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language

N: Receives a Second Caution in the Same Match

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Details

(Use reverse side of form if additional space is needed)

Referee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Give or mail this report, with team lineup/roster forms, to the appropriate official (Regional Commissioner, Regional/Area/Section Referee Administrator, or Tournament Director) within 24 hours of the game.

- 1) Include player's name, team and jersey number, the reason for the sanction(s), and the time that the incident(s) occurred.
- 2) Give a brief, detailed and accurate description of the incident(s).
- 3) If reporting an injury, include details about type of injury (if known), treatment/transportation of player, and weather and field conditions, if necessary.
- 4) If necessary, note the cautioned/sent off player's attitude and response to your citation. (If verbal, include precise dialogue.)
- 5) If problem was caused by a coach or spectator(s), give details of the precise dialogue and attitudes you observed. 1/98

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Appendix B: SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS OF "RED CARDED" PLAYERS

DATE

Mr. & Mrs. _____

ADDRESS

Dear Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Please be informed that during the match between your child's team _____ and team _____ on _____, a Red card was issued to your child and resulted in your child's dismissal from the game as mandated by FIFA¹ and Laws of the Game, as modified by AYSO².

The dismissal was administered in accordance with Law 12, Fouls and Misconduct's, which states:

A player shall be sent off the field of play, if, in the opinion of the referee, the player is:

1. guilty of serious foul play,
 2. guilty of violent conduct
- (or)
3. spits at an opponent or another person
 4. denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 5. denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
 6. uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
 7. receives a second caution in the same match.
 8. In addition to the 7 above, the Area 2J rules stipulate a send-off if a player receives a third caution in the same season.

Your child was sent-off for ___ above.

Please note that a player cannot be given two cautions (Yellow card) in the same game. The second caution is an automatic Red card resulting in the player being sent off the field. Further, a player receiving a Red card in a game, in addition to being sent off the field for

¹ Federation Internationale Football Association, the International Governing Body for Soccer.

² American Youth Soccer Organization

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the remainder of the game, shall also be suspended from playing in the next following game even though it may be a tournament or play-off game.

The Laws of the Game have been developed, refined and interpreted with the safety of the players assigned the highest priority. If you have any questions regarding the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of AYSO, please give me a call and I will be very pleased to go over them with you.

Very truly yours,

Regional Commissioner

Tel:

cc Regional Referee Administrator
 Area Referee Administrator

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Appendix C: Balancing Out Blowouts

Congratulations on accepting the privileges and responsibilities of coaching an AYSO team this season. As the kids and parents all over the league anxiously await the start of practices and action packed Saturday game days, I hope your preparations in readiness for the season are going well. In an attempt to fully equip you with some necessary resources, we here at the Area level would like to pass along some official Area recommendations and suggestions to you regarding lopsided/blowout games.

During your term as a coach within AYSO, it is inevitable that you will be on one (if not both) side(s) of a lopsided game. What can you do to ensure AYSO philosophies are upheld and a learning atmosphere is maintained for both teams? Glad you asked. Foremost, there are CLINICS for beginning, intermediate, and advanced coaches in AYSO that you are strongly encouraged to go to. These clinics will provide, in detail, specific examples of what can be done on either side of a lopsided game. Please feel free to ask your regional coaching administrator for more information.

Below lists some general concepts, linked with a few specifics, for coaches on both sides of a blowout. Keep in mind that these ideas are just a few of the possible suggestions (especially the specifics) and it is up to you to expand upon them properly with the intent of teaching the qualities of AYSO soccer.

Suggestions for the Losing Coach

- Motivation begins with you, the coach. PERIOD! Understand when the kids need a boost. It goes without saying that if your head drops, so does the team's...
- Focus on what you are doing right and not what you are doing wrong. Constant encouragement and reinforcement when something good happens needs to be verbally recognized during the flow of play and not just at halftime or fulltime.
- Encourage parents and spectators to applaud good play when it happens despite the score
- Emphasize skill development
 1. Concentrate on basic drill ideas during the game (e.g. 3 passes in a row 5 x's until halftime)
 2. Create your own goal and forget about scoring them (e.g. hold them offside multiple times, disallow their best player to touch the ball, do not allow a shot within the 18 box)
 3. Allow players to try different positions

Suggestions for the Winning Coach

- Emphasize division appropriate advanced tactics
- Encourage the other team's players when you see something done well
- Incentives and creativity are two tools to use to incorporate new game challenges
 1. Challenge team to score using new methods (e.g. only score off of headers from corner crosses)
 2. Have players make runs from the fullback line towards the goal including your own keeper
 3. Use two touch with give and go combos as only means to bring ball up field
 4. Allow multiple touches towards the goal but only one player (usually weaker) can shoot
 5. Bring the goalkeeper forward
 6. When all else fails, tell the team they may only score using a left footed one-touch kick or a header.

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Above everything else, remember at all times to keep **good sportsmanship as the top priority for both you and your team. No one likes to be blown out in any given game; however, it is within these types of situations when many things about soccer can be learned and accomplished. It is up to **YOU** to recognize when these times occur and how best to utilize your coaching resources. Balancing out a blowout in proper fashion makes for a much more enjoyable game than the score may suggest.

It is a good idea to have special signals in place with your team ahead of time that signal the use of the blow-out prevention techniques. Worse than a blow-out can be the ridicule of announcing from the sideline that your team must make special accommodations for the losing team.