

AYSO 8A

INTERPLAY GUIDELINES (6U-16U/19U)

PURPOSE & SCOPE

To establish a formal standardized system of rules for Regional teams participating in inter-area play within Area A. Revisions shall be made to this document as needed and will be noted in Section 10.

1. TEAM DEFINITION

Teams shall be composed of registered AYSO players in the Region represented. Official AYSO age divisions shall apply. Mixed-age (e.g. U16/U19) shall play in the older division represented.

Teams playing within a girl's division will be composed entirely of female players. Co-ed teams will play in the boy's division.

2. THE FIELD

Regions should attempt to provide an appropriate sized field for interplay games according to the following table:

Age	Size of Field	Goal Size
6U	25 yds x 15 yds	4' x 6'
8U	35 yds x 25 yds	4' x 6'
10U	60 yds x 40 yds	6' x 18'
12U	80 yds x 50 yds	7' x 21'
14U – 19U	100-120 yds x 50-75 yds	8' x 24'

a. Field Markings

Field and area markings as noted in the Laws of the Game or adjusted for small-sided games.

b. Technical Area

Unless otherwise marked by lines, the team (Technical Area) shall be ten (10) yards from either side of the half-way line and one (1) yards back from the touch line. Coaches shall remain in the Technical Area.

c. Spectator Area

All spectators are to remain on the side opposite the teams; between the penalty areas and a minimum of one (1) yard from the touchline. No spectator is allowed behind the goal line unless approved by the Referee for photography.

3. THE BALL

The standard size ball for each division during games shall be according to the following table below:

Age	Size of Ball
6U – 8U	Size – 3
10U – 12U	Size – 4
14U – 16U/19U	Size – 5

The Home Team shall provide the match balls for each game. The Referee shall determine the suitability and safety of the match ball

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The standard maximum number of players for each division on the field during games shall be according to the following table below:

Age	Number of Players
6U	4v4
8U	4v4
10U	7 vs. 7
12U	9 vs. 9
14U – 16U/19U	11 vs. 11

a. Minimum Number of Players

The minimum number of players in the 12U division and up shall be seven (7) for a legal match. For the 10U division the minimum number of players shall be five (5).

b. Reduce to Equate

When either team has less than the standard maximum number, reducing from one team to equate (sharing players) is highly recommended and encouraged.

That is, when one team is short players it is recommended that the other team share players, for instance, whoever is sitting out could play with the other team for that quarter. All kids get more playing time this way and should not affect the full team coach's game plan. If the players would prefer not to play with the other team it would be encouraged that the team would then reduce to be equal with the other team.

Coaches should carry extra jerseys, pennies or t-shirts of the Team's colors to accommodate this process.

Both the Head Coaches and the Referee will determine the number of players by agreement before the coin toss.

i. Injury Caveat

If a player is injured the coach has two options, he can replace the player with another, and not put the injured player back in until the next normal substitution time, or he can play short until the injury has been dealt with and send him back in at a proper stoppage in play.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

Matches shall be played using the AYSO system of substitution. The Referee will call a break approximately midway through each half; allowing only enough time to complete the substitution process. Under no circumstances will free substitution be allowed in matches involving teams younger than 16U.

Free substitution will be allowed in the 16U/19U division. MHSAA Substitution rules shall apply.

6. DURATION OF THE GAME

The match shall consist of two (2) halves equally divided for substitution opportunities as noted in paragraph 5, Substitution, above. The length of each half for each division shall be governed according to the following table below:

Age	Length of Halves
6U	10 Minutes
8U	20 Minutes
10U	25 Minutes
12U	30 Minutes
14U	35 Minutes
16U/19U	40 Minutes

7. COACHING

(From AYSO Rules & Regulations)

A maximum of two coaches will be allowed, they must remain in the coach (team) area. Negative comments and complaints about refereeing shall not be allowed.

AYSO PHILOSOPHIES-POSITIVE COACHING-GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

8. ROSTERS & REQUIRED PAPERWORK

Coaches shall have in their possession at all games a:

- roster that is laminated or placed in a plastic sleeve to protect against the elements
 - player registration forms for every player on their roster
 - completed game card to be retained by the referee crew during the game
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9. MISCONDUCT & DISCIPLINE STANDARDS

Misconduct shall be issued at the discretion of the Referee for violations of Fair Play in accordance with the home RRA, to be forwarded to the ARA.

A caution shall not/cannot warrant that the player cautioned be substituted for a “time out” period.

When a player is sent-off during a match, that team shall play short.

The Referee shall file a report of the send-off with the RRA and the ARA within 24 hours of the match.

a. Sanctions & Suspension

Players or Coaches receiving three (3) cautions during a half season, fall or spring shall be suspended for one (1) future match.

Players or Coaches receiving a send-off will serve a suspension of at least one future match pending review by the RC, AD and ARA.

Date(s) of suspension shall be determined by AYSO Executive Members; not by the team Coach; and shall be the next available opportunity in the team's schedule after review and decision.

10. MATCH SCHEDULES

To avoid confusion and/or miscommunication, the Visiting Team Coach will contact the Home Team Coach by Wednesday the week of the match to confirm the time and location of the game.

a. Cancellations

Cancellation of a match for any reason requires notification of the RC, Coach/Team contact and host Referee Administrator immediately.

b. Schedule Changes

A change to the published schedule requires notification of the home team's Referee Administrator as soon as known. Remember, AYSO Referees are volunteers!

11. Officiating

It is **always** recommended that the diagonal system of control be used at all times with three referees. At least one adult must be one of the three referees.

- a.** If a region is short to obtain these recommendations they should attempt to contact the visiting region or area referee administrator for assistance in fulfilling this recommendation.
 - b. Officials will wear proper attire**, including jersey with patch, shorts, socks and shoes.
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12. Weather

If a region should cancel a match due to poor weather conditions, creating unsafe playing conditions, the RC of the hosting regions must contact the visiting RC and communicate as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travel.

13. Concussion Protocol

If the Referee stops play for an apparent head injury, the injured player must be removed from play and cannot return to practice or play that day.

Any injured player who has been removed from play for an apparent head injury, shall be monitored for signs and/or symptoms of a concussions by the team coach.

If the injured player shows signs and/or symptoms of a concussion, the team coach shall notify the player's parents or guardians. That player cannot return to practice or play until cleared by a health care professional, and a note is provided to the Region stating such.

If the injured player is not showing signs and/or symptoms of a concussion, the team coach shall notify the player's parents or guardians to monitor their player for the next twenty-four (24) hours. Provided that the player remains symptom free and has not seen a health care provider, that player may return to practice or play the next day.

The above protocol will also be followed if the player suffers an apparent head injury during practice.

14. Revisions

Date Revised	Section or Paragraph Revised
11-9-08	Initial release
7-15-09	Addition of number 12. Weather conditions.
6-23-10	Additions to numbers 2, 3, 4, and 6 to include the U10 division. Addition to number 8 to include player registration forms. Addition of 11b. Referee Attire
9-19-14	Team definition. Girls U-16/19 division.
11-1-14	Team definition. Girls U-16/19 division struck. No male players.
8-16-16	Addition of number 13, Concussion Protocol.
8-7-17	Updated to reflect new US Soccer Player Development Initiatives