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# San Mateo Select Program



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# San Mateo Select Program

## Overview

San Mateo AYSO (Region 36) offers a Select soccer program, open only to players (and coaches) who participate in the Fall recreational season. The AYSO Select Soccer Program consists of the following two (2) independent programs:

- Winter Select Program – runs in January and February (consists of games between Area 2N teams)
- Spring Select Program – runs from March to May (consists of Pacific Coast Spring Soccer League and Tournaments)

Please note that since each program is independent, team rosters and coaches are subject to change based on coach availability and Select program rules. All efforts shall be made to follow the AYSO philosophies including Balanced Teams.

These programs provide a higher level of competition than the regular Fall recreational program and by providing a more competitive program for our players, we hope to develop player skills to a level not always possible through the Fall recreational program. Select is for motivated and enthusiastic players and coaches. These players (and coaches) then bring their improved skills back to the recreational program, improving the overall experience for ALL players. Please note that a higher level of commitment is expected from the players, coaches and parents.

Teams will be formed in each available age group (independently within each program) with the intent of these teams participating in either one of the 2 Select seasons (Winter and Spring) against other AYSO Regions. For Winter Select, a limited number of teams for each age group are allowed to participate but for Spring Select, numerous teams are eligible to participate at any age group (number of teams are dependent on coach availability).

## Select Program Governance

Region 36 will specify its own rules and regulations as to how the Select programs are run. All programs must still abide by the Area 2N regulations, and those of the AYSO National program.

This document shall capture the San Mateo Select Program rules and regulations and shall be administered by the San Mateo Select Program Committee, under the supervision of the San Mateo AYSO Regional Board.

The Region 36 Select Program Committee includes:

Position	Name
Select Program Committee	Select Program Coordinator
	Regional Commissioner
	Winter Select Coordinator
	Registrar
	Spring League Coordinator
	Regional Coach Administrator
	Select Program Referee Coordinator

The Select Program Coordinator and the Regional Commissioner will establish the Select Program Committee. The Select Program Coordinator is selected by the Regional Commissioner. The Select Committee members are selected based on their commitment to the AYSO Philosophies, experience and knowledge of the select program, and service to San Mateo AYSO.

**Please Note** that this information is subject to change during the season, if the San Mateo Select Committee votes to implement a change.

# San Mateo AYSO Select Program

## Select Season Calendar

The following are key dates for the San Mateo Select Program:

### Winter League Program:

- **Mid-October (week 7):** Player ratings due to determine eligibility for tryouts.
- **1<sup>st</sup> weekend of November (week 9):** Tryouts are conducted (prior to Fall recreational season tournaments).
- **Last week of November:** Players and coaches are notified of invitation to the Winter Select Program.
- **1<sup>st</sup> week of December:** Winter Select team formation is conducted for each age group.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> week of December:** Winter Select teams start training sessions.
- **1<sup>st</sup> week of January:** Winter Select games start.
- **Last week of February:** Final Winter Select games.

### Spring League Program:

- **1<sup>st</sup> week of January:** Players and coaches are notified of invitation to the Spring Select Program.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> week of January:** Team formation is conducted for each age group.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> week of January:** Spring Select teams start training sessions and PCSSL registration is due for each team.
- **1<sup>st</sup> week of February:** Applications to Spring tournaments become available.
- **First week of March:** First game of PCSSL season.
- **Memorial Day Weekend:** Final PCSSL games and Davis World Cup tournament.

# San Mateo AYSO Select Program

## The Select Program and How It Fits within AYSO

The Select Program is designed to develop AYSO players who are committed to improving their skills and playing soccer at a higher level of competition. Select retains the AYSO player-friendly philosophies while providing a higher level of soccer competition. It is important to remember, however, that this program is still a part of AYSO, and therefore is still guided by the same principles that cover the Fall recreational program. It is important that all teams recognize that good sportsmanship and positive coaching are not set aside during the Select season.

The AYSO philosophies are:

1. Open Registration
2. Balanced Teams
3. Player Development
4. Positive Coaching
5. Everyone Plays
6. Good Sportsmanship

## AYSO's Approach to Secondary Play

AYSO nationally sanctions several secondary programs, including Select, that provide playing opportunities after the recreational Fall program has concluded. Players within Select must also participate in the Fall recreational season team and these programs must be funded separately from the recreational program. Select is defined by AYSO as an opportunity that bases team participation primarily on skill, attitude and sportsmanship.

## Overview of Team Formation

All San Mateo Select teams will be formed by the process described below. Variations are not allowed unless specifically approved in advance by the Select Program Committee.

Select teams shall be formed from players who were registered in the San Mateo AYSO Fall Primary program and who participated with that Fall recreational season team in at least 50% of their team's regular Fall recreational season games. Select players must play in the same division they participated in during the Fall recreational season. Players opting to move up a division must follow the AYSO National guidelines for eligibility. Rained-out games are included as games played, and players must meet regional playing time guidelines (currently three-quarters of each Fall game before anyone on the team can play a full game). Exceptions to the eligibility requirements above may be allowed by the Select Program Committee due to extenuating circumstances beyond the player's or player's family's control on a case-by-case basis.

Players are eligible to be invited to the Select programs, via a tryout session, if they were identified as a higher rated player during the Fall recreational season. Exceptions will be made to invite a player with a lower rating if there are not enough higher rated players available to fill a roster or if coaches with lower rated players are available and willing to coach.

Final player ratings for team formation are based on the following weighted formula:

$$\text{Select Player Rating} = \text{Fall Coach Rating (25\%)} + \text{Winter League Tryout Results (75\%)}$$

Once all Select player ratings are calculated, the Select Program Coordinators shall send out invitations and only start forming teams once invitations have been accepted.

Typically for the Winter Select season, only one team from each age group is allowed to participate. For Spring Select, numerous teams are allowed to participate. Therefore, the AYSO philosophies apply for the Select Program and that includes balanced teams. If there is more than one team participating in the same age group, there is to be no “A team” nor “B team” but multiple balanced teams instead. This requirement is in accordance with AYSO philosophies with the goal of the selection process to provide balance teams and opportunities for as many players as possible given the number of teams

Team formation for age groups with multiple teams participating in the Spring must be completed no later than January 30<sup>th</sup> in order to allow enough time for the Spring Select teams to practice concurrently with their Winter Select team (if applicable).

If more players apply than available spots, players not selected shall be placed on a “wait list” with the possibility of being selected if a player does not accept the invitation or commitment to the Select team.

Players selected to a Select team will be informed via email with an expectation of a response no later than 2 days. If there is no response after 2 days, a player from the “wait list” shall be selected and the player with the non-response will be placed on the “wait list”. If a Select player opts out after accepting the initial invitation and teams have already been formed, all efforts shall be made to follow the Balanced Team AYSO philosophy.

Select teams will compete as follows:

1. 10U teams will play 7v7 with a maximum of 10 players on a roster.
2. 12U teams will play 9v9 with a maximum of 12 players on a roster.
3. 14U teams will play 11v11 with a maximum of 15 players on a roster.
4. 16U and 18U divisions will play 11v11. There will be a maximum of 18 players allowed on a roster.

The Division Coordinators will provide a list of recommended coaches who meet the coach eligibility criteria (see below). Should an insufficient number of recommended coaches not be available, the Select Program Committee may solicit additional coaches from specific divisions. Coaches will only be allowed to coach a maximum of 1 team per season. All efforts to recruit new Head Coaches into the Select Programs shall be made with the consideration of pairing the new Head Coach with an experienced Select coach.

The individual Winter and Spring Select Coordinator will complete the team selection process using the following criteria: 1) Fall Recreational Season Player Rating 2) Tryout Rating and 3) Any Sportsmanship and Attitude Information (if available).

## **Coach Eligibility**

To be eligible to be a Head Coach or Assistant Coach:

1. **The coach must have demonstrated commitment to the AYSO philosophies.**
2. The coach must be currently registered with the San Mateo AYSO program.
3. The coach must have coached a team in the current Fall season.
4. The coach must have replied to the Division Coordinator after being recommended.
5. In addition to updated Safe Haven certification and Concussion Training, coaches must have the appropriate coaching class for their age group:
  - i. 10U and 12U coaches – 10U or 12U coaching class
  - ii. 14U coaches - Intermediate course
  - iii. 16U and 18U coaches - Advanced coaching course.

Exceptions to the eligibility requirements above may be allowed by the Select Program Committee due to extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

## Head Coach Recommendations

A Head coach will be recommended by the applicable age group Division Coordinator and approved by the individual Winter and Spring Select Coordinator. As mentioned above, new coaches should be given the opportunity to become the Head Coach with consideration of being paired with an experienced Select coach.

Often there will be more recommendations for coaches than there will be coaching spots available. It is also encouraged that all interested coaches contact the Division Coordinator as the number of teams formed in the Winter and Spring Select seasons is dependent on the number of registered players and the number of available coaches.

The following criteria will be used when considering the Select Head Coaches:

- **Demonstrated Commitment to the AYSO philosophies**
- Obeys Safe Haven
- Level of training
- First year Select Program coach
- Feedback/evaluations from previous coaching experiences will be considered when available.

## Assistant Coaches

An Assistant Coach is preferred, but not required for each Select team and will be assigned by the individual Winter and Spring Select Coordinator. Head Coach recommendations not selected may also be considered as Assistant Coaches.

## Second Assistant Coaches

After team formation, the Select Head Coach may request a second assistant coach. A second assistant coach will not be approved until after the Select team formation process is completed and a player may not be reserved in anticipation of a second assistant coach being asked to join a team. Second assistant coaches must meet the same requirements as the Select coaches.

No more than three coaches per Select team are allowed and only 2 are allowed in the technical area during games per AYSO National rules.

## Player Commitment

Playing Select soccer is a tremendous opportunity for players to gain additional skills and knowledge of the game through an extended season and due to a more competitive environment at a higher level of play. However, all the Select seasons do require a more serious commitment than the Fall recreational season, as players are chosen from a pool of skilled players to fill roles within a team. Should a player be chosen and is not able to fulfill the commitment required, it is not fair to the coaches, the team, and the player(s) who were not selected to play.

Therefore, the San Mateo Select Program requires that players make a serious commitment to their Select team. While we understand some players are involved in other sports and activities, we require that the player will make his/her Select team a **FIRST PRIORITY** over club soccer and devote **AT LEAST** equal time to all other activities.

If players cannot abide by the commitment required by the Select season, coaches - in fairness to all team members - have the opportunity to drop players from a Select team after consultation with the Select Program Committee. The process by which this can occur is as follows:

- The coach must contact the Select Program Coordinator to explain the issues and to provide the facts on the problem
- The Select Program Coordinator may contact the player/parent to acquire additional information on the issue.

- The Select Program Coordinator will schedule a meeting with the Select Program Committee as soon as feasible to discuss options.
- If removal is approved, the Select Program Coordinator will contact the parents to explain the result and to work out logistics (e.g., uniform return, possible reimbursement of a portion of the Registration Fees).
- The Coach may then add a player from the “wait list” to replace the removed player.

While hopefully this process is only rarely followed to this conclusion, this may ultimately be the fairest action for the individual player, the team, and a non-selected player willing to make that commitment.