

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2020 SEASON

Before you begin player registration, we recommend that you review our Frequently Asked Questions list below:

THERE IS A LOT OF NEW INFORMATION SO PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Q. When can I register a player for the Spring 2020 season?

Open registration for the Spring 2020 season for 5U-19U divisions ends February 8, 2020. We then determine the number of teams and players per teams based on the number of players, volunteer coaches, and volunteer referees that are registered. Registration remains open on a space-available basis until teams are full or after the second game of the season. We strongly recommend that you register early to be assured of placement on a team. Once our teams are full, players are placed on a waitlist. Our Last Chance in-person registration event is January 25, 2020 at the Half Moon Bay library

Q. Does pre-registering my child guarantee a space on a team?

NO! Your registration is not complete until we have received payment or approved a financial aid request. [View instructions for how to complete your payment here.](#) Your child must be completely registered (that means fully paid) before they can be placed on a team. Any child that registers after the team is full will be placed on a waitlist and will not be guaranteed to play that season, even if they pre-registered before the team was full. Please submit your payment or financial aid requests early so your child does not miss out!

Q. Can my child play in a higher or lower division?

In general, our region encourages all players to play within their age specific division, as recommended by national policy. We have traditionally allowed players with birthdays within three months of the date cutoff to play up at their parent's discretion and will look into how best to handle this in the future. We recommend that parents considering playing up consult with their child's previous season coach. In addition, the Regional Board reserves the right to move a player to a higher division if they believe it will improve the quality of play for all players AND the player in question is developmentally ready for the higher division both in soccer skills and maturity. Please e-mail communications@hmbayso.com if you have concerns about your child's division placement. AYSO National does not allow players to play down for any reason.

Q. How do I purchase an upper division uniform?

Information coming soon.

Q. Is financial assistance available?

Yes, we offer limited assistance to families with financial hardships as our budget permits. We do not want to turn away players due to lack of funding! Families must submit a financial aid request form to receive a coupon code and funds are distributed to qualified families first come, first served, so please file your request early for the best chance of gaining assistance. More information on [Financial Assistance can be found here.](#)

Q. How do I register?

You can register and pay online with a credit card by clicking the link at the top of this page. If you want to pay by check or with cash, you **MUST** come to an in-person registration event.

Q. I logged out of Blue Sombrero, but forgot to pay online. How can I get back in to pay online later?

Your order should still be in your shopping cart until you finish paying.

Q. What do I do with the forms that I printed at the end of registration?

Please, do not mail player registration forms to us! You will be e-signing your forms online now and copies of those will be given to your coach before practices start.

Q. How do I check that my player's registration is complete?

Once payment is received and your registration is complete, you will receive an e-mail confirming your registration. You can also log on to your Blue Sombrero account to see your player's status. If you have concerns about your player's status, please send a note to registrar@hmbayso.com and include the player's name and date of birth.

Q. Do I need to send in proof of my player's age?

Players do not need to submit proof of age at registration, but must be willing and able to submit proof of age at any time to the regional board if requested.

Q. What if I don't know my Blue Sombrero login and password?

If you have never registered with AYSO before or not since before Fall 2017, you will need to create a new account under our Blue Sombrero management system. If you have played with Region 1099 in the last couple years, you should have an account and there are instructions for resetting your password on the site. If you are having trouble, e-mail registrar@hmbasyo.com and we can tell you your username and/or help reset your password.

Q. Can I make special requests for my child's coach, teammates, or practice times?

We know many of you feel very strongly about having a friend on your child's team or have certain carpooling or scheduling needs. At the same time, there is no way everybody's special request can be granted and still keep our teams balanced. Here are the criteria we use when trying to form teams:

1. Balanced Teams! This is one of AYSO's core philosophies and is our #1 priority!
2. Coaches and Assistant Coaches with their children.
3. Assistant coaches and team referees with their team of choice.
4. Siblings in same division on the same team.
5. Special requests for volunteer referees, coaches, and board members.
6. Special requests regarding scheduling and carpooling.
7. Special requests for preferred coach, teammate, or practice day with preference given to

AYSO volunteers and families who register early. Please note your request in the applicable fields of your online registration form. You can update this any time in Blue Sombrero or simply email

registrar@hmbayso.com with your child's full name and request. While we cannot honor everyone's request, we will do our best to consider them. All requests must be received by February 10, 2019, to be considered.

Q. Can I make a special request for my practice time?

Blue Sombrero allows parents to indicate which days your child is available to practice - you must mark at least two days when you register. If you have further requests, please indicate those in the appropriate space on the registration form.

Q. How does the waitlist work?

Once teams are full, new registrants will be placed on a waitlist. Wait list will no longer require payment to be made but payment will need to be made within 48hrs of notification that a space has opened up for your player in order to be placed on a team. After that, your player will be moved to the back of the list and the next available player invited to take that spot. If you no longer want to be on the waitlist, please email registrar@hmbayso.com to be taken off. All waitlisted players who are not placed by the second game of the season, will be taken off the waitlist.

Q. For divisions that become full, who gets top priority for roster positions?

Almost all players who complete their registration during open registration should be able to be placed on a team provided we have enough coaches, referees, and players. For players who complete their registration during our wait list period, roster positions are allocated based on the needs of the player's division. Factors that may increase the priority for one player who registers later than another are:

- A player's parent volunteers to be a head coach, assistant coach, or referee
- A player's parent volunteers to fill some other position that the Region needs
- Team balancing considerations within the division
- The days on which a player is available for team practice

Q. When will I find out about my child's team assignment?

Team assignments, rosters, practice times, and coach contacts will be available in [Blue Sombrero](#) about a week before practice begins. Coaches will also be contacting their teams directly by e-mail and phone with their team details. Parents are requested to contact their coach if they have not heard from them within that first week before practice begins. If you have any trouble getting in touch with your coach, please e mail registrar@hmbayso.com. If there is a waitlist for the division, players who do not respond to coach emails or phone calls and who have not attended any practices by the first game may be removed from the team and placed back on the waitlist to make room for a child who will be an active member of the team.

Q. How can I change my child's team assignment?

AYSO volunteers go to great lengths to form balanced teams in each division and have many factors to consider, including age and skill of players, scheduling needs, and special requests. It is extremely difficult to change a child's team once rosters have been released to parents.

If your child absolutely cannot practice at their scheduled time, you have the following options:

- Try to find a player on another team with the same age and soccer skills as your child who is willing to swap teams with you and get approval of both coaches and both

parents. Send the request, copying all four parties, to coachadmin@hmbayso.com.

Coaches will not approve swaps that would adversely affect team balance

- Find a coach with a convenient practice time who is willing to include an AYSO player from a different team at their practice and have your child practice with that team during the week and play with their scheduled team on game days.
- Take your child off their team and place them on the waitlist in hopes that a space opens up in a team that better suits your schedule. If you choose this option, we cannot guarantee that your child will be placed on a team at all. If they cannot be placed by the second game, you will be issued a full refund.

Please help us avoid this scenario by letting us know of any scheduling issues by February 8, 2020, before teams are formed, and trying to be as flexible as you can. Ask your coach and other parents on your team about carpooling if transportation is an issue.

Q. What about refunds?

If you decide not to play with AYSO, we would appreciate you letting us know and are happy to issue a full refund minus the \$20 National Player Fee that goes to National for requests made by end of registration on February 8, 2020. You can receive a partial refund, minus a \$50 fee, until the second game as long as we have players on the waitlist to take your child's spot on the team. No refunds are given after the second game of the season. Please make your request by the deadlines above by e-mailing registrar@hmbayso.com.

Q. What about volunteer forms?

Volunteer forms are required for coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, referees, division coordinators, board members, and others who have significant contact with the players or player information. Every volunteer must submit a new volunteer form every year, and forms are renewed in the Fall season. Please [click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to submit your form.

Q. Where are games played?

5U - 10U games are played locally at Cunha. 12U, 14U, 16U, and 19U teams play locally for home games and will travel over the hill for away games.

Q. Where and when are practices held?

Practices can take place at either Cunha or another local field such as Smith or Hatch. Time, day of the week, and location is up to the coach. Most 6U and older teams practice one weekday afternoon/evening for 1 to 1-1/2 hours or on Sunday. Upper divisions (12U and older) may practice twice a week. We allow parents to specify up to two days that you are unable to practice and try to place your child on a team and with a coach whose practice will fit your schedule. 5U sessions are traditionally 45 minutes on Saturday mornings.

Q. What does my child need for practice?

Every player needs shin guards, soccer cleats, water bottle, and a soccer ball (size 3 for 5U-8U, size 4 for 10U-12U, and size 5 for 14U+). The region offers a gear swap box you can check for donated gear, which is available at registration events and at a volunteer's home in between events. E-mail

communications@hmbayso.com for location. The region provides jersey, shorts, and socks, which will be distributed before the first game.

Q. Who runs the league? Who are the coaches and referees?

AYSO is an all-volunteer organization. The vast majority of the roles are filled by parents of the players, although anyone can volunteer to help. The positions we most desperately need filled are coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and referees. No previous soccer experience is required. We offer free training classes that will enable you to succeed and have fun.

Q. How do I help make sure AYSO soccer is a great experience for my kids?

Most importantly, make sure that your own behavior around the soccer field sets a positive example. Please read the [Kids Zone Pledge](#) for specific advice.

AYSO is a parent-run, volunteer organization. We are asking every family to try to contribute in some way to the region each season. You will have a chance to sign up for an open volunteer position when you register your child. We thank you for your help!

We are always in need of coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and referees. Volunteering is a great way to have a direct, positive impact on children in your community. If you are interested in one of these positions, please check the appropriate box when registering your child or email communications@hmbayso.com.

A "Board of Parents" meets monthly year round to plan and execute the playing seasons. Board meetings are generally the second Monday of each month, starting at 7:30pm at a board member's house. If you are interested in finding out where so you can attend the meeting or more about joining the board, please email communications@hmbayso.com.