

AYSO REGION 862

Policies and Protocols

Bath, St. Johns, Ovid-Elsie, Laingsburg, Dewitt

862 Regional Board

Mission Statement:

To develop and deliver a quality youth soccer program which promote a fun, family environment based on the AYSO philosophies.

Vision Statement:

To provide world class youth soccer that enrich children's lives.

AYSO Philosophy

Everyone Plays
Open Registration
Balanced Teams
Positive Coaching
Good Sportsmanship
Player Development

Our program is powered by
VOLUNTEERS

Please join in the fun and help us make it work!

VOLUNTEERISM

It is ***extremely*** important for everyone involved in AYSO to understand that we are an organization that only exists by virtue of the generous people who volunteer their time to make the soccer game happen. Everything that is done in our organization is done by a volunteer, with the exception of a handful of people at the National Office. As a Region we cannot survive without the help of the volunteers who have children participating in our program.

Every year volunteers are moving on with their children and new volunteers are always in demand. **We need help in all areas of the program.** Volunteering doesn't require a great deal of knowledge about soccer to fill these roles, some none at all; but it is critical to the program that you do so. **We cannot authorize AYSO games to be played without the requirements of our program being met.** We gladly offer up to date training for all positions in order to give you the appropriate information to perform the duties you may commit too. AYSO is a youth organization that uses soccer as a means to enrich the children's lives in our communities. Please consider making an effort to get involved on some level so we may continue to offer the program in our area. Some position that we are in need of are but are not limited to; Coach, Referee, Field Painter, Uniform Coordinator, Fund Raiser, Picture Day Coordinator, Equipment Repair and team Parent.

Above all make sure we treat those that do serve us with the utmost respect and understanding as they do their best to help the program thrive.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

All registrations be it volunteer or player, starts at www.eayso.org. The information put into this data base is secure and confidential only seen by the AYSO Regional Board and Executive Members. All Players and Volunteers must register on www.eayso.org and bring player registrations to a registration event or mail it to:

**AYSO
PO BOX 254
ST. JOHNS, MI 48879**

Event dates will be determined by each communities Assistant Regional Commissioner and should be communicated through the cooperation with schools, churches, and the Region Website (www.ayso862.org). It is recommended that a minimum of two open registration events are scheduled within the last two weeks of the school year. Registration period with a guaranteed roster spot will end on July 1st. Any registrations after July 1st will be subject to available roster spots. There will be limited exceptions to the age guidelines, to allow a player to play in a younger division. Playing in an older division will also be limited and be the discretion of the Regional Board. Any player wishing to do so must consult their appropriate community Assistant Regional Commissioner and receive approval from the Regional Board. These contact are found on the regional website www.ayso862.org.

Please refer to your Assistant Regional Commissioner about our age matrix.

REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee will be set annually by the Regional Board and must be consistent throughout all communities in Region 862. The registration fees for the current season can be located on our website, www.ayso862.org and at the bottom of your players registration form. These fees apply to players registering for the current year of play, even if only playing the spring season.

REFUND POLICY

All refunds must be requested in writing via mail or email. The refund form is available on www.ayso862.org and will only be honored if the current form is used. The refund policy of the region is to give a full refund if a player is removed prior to the team's first scheduled practice. The refund will be reduced by half after the first practice due to a required player fee to the AYSO National Office. Refunds will be available upon return of uniform if it was issued and if request is made prior to the 1st game of the fall season. All other refund request will be the discretion of the Regional Board and will be brought forth by the appropriate Assistant Regional Commissioner.

TEAM INFORMATION

Under 5 Jamboree (Beginning steps to a great soccer player)

Under 6 teams (4 on the field, 6 on the roster)

Under 8 teams (4 on the field, 6 on the roster)

Under 10 teams (7 on the field, 10 on the roster)

Under 12 teams (9 on the field, 13 on the roster)

Under 14 teams (11 on the field, 15 on the roster)

Under 16/19 teams (11 on the field, 18 on the roster)

All rosters are subject to change based on registration numbers and will be approved by the Regional Board)

No player may use their hands in the U5, U6 and U8 divisions (**NO KEEPERS**). Goal keepers will be used in U10, U12, U14 and U16/19 games only. Rules and team sizes will be reviewed on an annual basis before the start of the next season.

All efforts will be made to keep players in a reasonable geographic location (approximately a fifteen-mile radius) on the same team, based on the community principle. As with all other policies, this will be applied consistently in order to keep things fair for all. **Player retention will be limited to coach's children only**, if desired. With the cooperation of coaches through player evaluations and years of experience, every effort will be made to balance the skill level of teams within each division. Once teams have been formed, no transfer of any player from one team to another may be made without the approval of both the Regional Commissioner.

Recruiting and automatic retention of players is in direct conflict with the basic philosophies of AYSO.

There will be a 15/18 player limit on U14/U16-19 teams, to be filled on the following basis: Parents holding a volunteer position as a coach, referee, or board member will have their children placed on teams first. The teams will then be filled up to the maximum numbers with players while attempting to balance the community teams by skill levels and experience. If there are not enough coaches to accommodate all the registered players, a blind draw of names will be made to determine who will be placed on a waiting list for an additional coach. The player limits are in place to ensure maximum playing time for all registered players. The number of teams formed will be limited to the number of AYSO trained coaches we have in place **prior** to the start of the season.

UNIFORMS

The uniforms are provided as part of the registration fee and consist of a jersey, soccer shorts, and soccer socks. Player uniform size will be predetermined by our uniform company unless extenuating circumstances prevail. All players of AYSO games will be in full uniform at the start of every game. If part of the uniform needs to be replaced due to loss or damage by neglect, it will be replaced at the expense of the player.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Shin Guards are **required** for every player for EVERY practice and game.
- Soccer balls - players should bring a soccer ball to each practice. Due to our soccer ball program, one is available free of charge. (Ask your coach)
 - U6 and U8 use a size 3 soccer ball
 - U10 and U12 use a size 4 soccer ball
 - U14 use a size 5 soccer ball
- Water bottle
- Soccer shoes – Soccer Cleats or Tennis shoes are the only approved footwear

GAME AND PRACTICE POLICIES/CONDUCT

Everyone is issued a booklet called the ABC's of AYSO and signs thewhen they attend a registration event to register. Please read the booklet, form and make note of the codes of conduct as outlined in it. We are striving to build a strong program that everyone can enjoy and the codes provide the foundation necessary to achieve our goals. If you have any questions about them, I encourage you to call your community Assistant Regional Commissioner for clarification.

REMINDER:

The use of alcohol and tobacco products is not permitted at any AYSO function.

Some key things to understand are outlined below, and please keep in mind that everyone involved in AYSO, with the exception of National Support staff, is volunteering their time to create a fun and safe environment for your child.

REFEREES

The referees are given the responsibility of keeping the flow of the game going within the laws of the game. All referee decisions are based on their knowledge of the laws of the game and their own ***perspective*** on how they should be applied to protect the ***spirit of the law*** and determine the fairest action at the time. The process of becoming a skilled referee takes time and experience. This **must be** respected by all players, coaches, parents, and other referees. Please understand that there is a good reason that all balls that touch a hand or arm are not considered handling, and there is a crucial element of soccer officiating that deals with a player or teams advantage when a foul may have been committed. Give our volunteers a chance to learn how to deal with these issues and figure out how to apply them without ridicule. It is critical, especially with young referees, that we all make them feel appreciated for their efforts. This is the only way we will be able to recruit and retain the quality of officiating that

we all would like to see. If anyone has any interest in becoming a referee, please make your interest known to a volunteer and we will happily welcome you into the volunteer ranks and get you started with training.

COACHES

It is recommended that the coaches use the games to assess the progress of their team and individual players. It is against the **Laws of the Game** to coach the players during a match. This is loosely enforced within AYSO, but we would like to see our coaches convey a sense of composure, which will promote a more fun atmosphere. Use the **practices** for teaching and let the kids play and focus on having fun on game day. By all means we would like you to offer encouragement and guidance during the games, however yelling of instruction at the kids during play is frowned upon. Surveys of young athletes have shown clearly that shouting instructions onto the field at the children during the course of a game usually creates more confusion and is one of the biggest reasons kids lose interest in sports. Make note of the mistakes that are made and add appropriate drills to the next practice session to correct them. If a player needs instruction during play it is best handled by calling them to the side of the field and giving quiet instruction. Coaches should remain positive at all times.

PARENTS

We urge that comments made in the presence of the children are of a positive nature and offer encouragement to the kids and the volunteers. **Leave the coaching to the coaches, and the officiating to the referees**, as they are trying to teach your children specific things and it is frustrating to both volunteer and player when they receive conflicting messages and advice from parents. If you disagree with a coach's methods or demeanor, please extend them the courtesy of talking to them after the kids have been excused from a practice or game. If you have an interest in coaching or assisting a coach, please feel free to register and ask your Assistant Regional Commissioner about training. Please remember your pledge to your children and our organization so we can make this the best experience possible.

GAMES

All games at U10, U12, U14 and U16/19 **must** have a certified referee present to take place. AYSO only supports the 3 ref system. There must be at least one certified ref working the center of the field and staying with the action, and 2 linespersons. The club linespersons are not required to be certified, but should only be given responsibilities that are in line with their knowledge of the game (typically will only be throw-in direction). Our hope is to be able to assign at least one Regional Referee to each game and have teams provide the linespersons if needed. Please consider fulfilling this role for your child's team. It is our Area and Regional policy to have an equal number of players as our opponent has at any given time (except when a player is sent off due to a direct violation). **It is AYSO policy that everyone must play at least half of the game.** If a team can not allow every player to play at least half of the game because the opponent does not have enough players, the teams should then arrange the trade of players to promote good sportsmanship and allow a game to

take place. This policy is to keep the games as fair and even as possible while still allowing the children the maximum amount of playing time we can.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

As previously stated, it is required that every child play at least half of every game they attend. At the discretion of the coach, any player that regularly misses practices and games may have their playing time limited to half a game. The practices are of primary importance to skill development. That is where they will learn to play the game and build team skills. If players do not participate in the practices, their contribution and understanding of the team concept is diminished. Please do all you can to ensure your children make it to practices and participate.

It is very important that you bring your kids to practice on time and, if you are responsible for all of the children until they are picked up so if they continually have to baby-sit after practice is over, you may be asked to stay with your child for practice.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The philosophies of AYSO will be enforced. They are publicized and readily available for everyone to read on www.ayso862.org or www.ayso.org. We try to make sure each player gets a copy of the ABC's of AYSO so that everyone can understand what we are trying to accomplish in AYSO soccer program. Our program is promoting child development using soccer as our medium. If our children never develop any real soccer aptitude or never win a single game, they can still benefit from taking part in AYSO if we all practice the codes of conduct expressed in the ABC's handout. If there is an unwillingness to observe the codes of conduct by a coach, referee, player, or spectator, the individual will be removed from the game until they have fulfilled the discipline requirement in our matrix. We cannot allow an individual to take the fun and enjoyment out of the program for all of those who understand its value.

Discipline Matrix

1st Offense- Written notice from the Regional Board about the inappropriate behavior.

2nd Offense- Mandatory AYSO Soccer etiquette class taught by an Advanced Coach or Intermediate Referee and higher.

3rd Offense- Removal from the volunteer role we will ask for resignation or suspend volunteer for no less than one calendar year in writing.

If Regional Board deems behavior too severe, they can vote to go straight to 3rd Offense.

All discipline actions will be enforced by the Regional Commissioner or a appointed representative from the Regional Board.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

If a player or parent has an issue with something that happens at practice or a game, an attempt should be made to resolve it with the coach of the team or the referee involved. If further assistance is needed to resolve the conflict the Assistant Regional Commissioner should be informed and the Regional Coach Administrator and Referee Administrator should be notified by the Assistant Regional Commissioner. The resolution will be in the best interest of the child and the program, following the principles and guidelines of AYSO.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please show up to all games regardless of the weather. It may be storming at your house but clear at the game site. Only the referee can suspend or cancel their assigned game. This is usually decided with input from the coaches, but the referee has the final decision for the safety of the players. For U6 and U8 games who do not have referees, it will be up to the coaches to make the decision to play or cancel the game. Field closings will be on www.ayso862.org at least 60 minutes prior to any scheduled games.

When LIGHTNING is observed or THUNDER is heard, the game/practice must be suspended for 30 minutes. Thereafter, the 30 minute interval should be restarted with each lightning strike or when thunder is heard. Please avoid repeated suspensions that will cause conflict with the start times of any games scheduled after the one in suspension. The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to interpretation or discussion lightning is lightning and thunder is thunder. All other weather conditions are at the discretion of the coach at practice and the Referee at any game. **Do not take cover under a tree!**

MAKE-UP GAMES

In the event of a game being canceled for any reason, all attempt shall be made to reschedule the game. If there is a scheduling conflict, the coach should notify the other team coach at least 3 days prior to game and try to negotiate an appropriate time to reschedule the game (with the help of the Assistant Regional Commissioner to ensure field and referee availability). Remember we are trying to give our kids all the playing time we can so don't short them games. We want all game to be made up if at all possible. We are inconveniencing a lot of people when we have to reschedule games so let's use all the help we can to stay on schedule.

VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT

It is necessary for all volunteers to be certified for the job they are performing. This is to provide protection for our volunteers, players and also for the protection of AYSO. AYSO is leading the way in compliance with the law and basically requires three things of the Region to be protected.

First, all volunteers must have a job description for the duties they are performing. These can be found at www.ayso.org.

Second, all volunteers must be registered, trained and certified for their specific duties. Training times vary and will be offered several times throughout the year or online. The further training required for coaches and referees that will be specific to the duties you perform and the age group you work with. The length of this training varies depending on the level and how far you choose to progress in the training. All training can be found at www.eayso.org or www.ayso862.org.

Third, use common sense at all AYSO games and practices. We must all follow the guidelines of the program and not do anything inappropriate.

FINAL NOTE

We would ask that if you value the program enough to take part in it. Please help us promote the philosophies of AYSO. AYSO has been educating and providing a world class soccer program for 50 years and with your help and understanding we will continue for generation to come.

Thank you
862 Regional Board

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
Charmin Knoblauch
DATE
7/2/2018

REGION 862 PLAYER REFUND REQUEST FORM

Please complete this form and mail to: AYSO Refund, PO Box 254, St. Johns, MI 48879. You can expect your refund in Four to Six weeks. (No other version will be accepted)

Date: _____ **Community :**(BA, LB, SJ, O-E, PT, DW) _____

Player's Name: _____

Team or Age Division: _____

Original Payment Type: (please circle one) Check Credit Card

Payment Amount: _____

Number of Family Members/Players Registered: _____

Number of Players Dropped: _____

Number of Players Still Playing: _____

AYSO Region 862 Refund Policy:

The refund policy of the Region 862 is to give a full refund if a player is **removed prior to participation in the assigned team practices**. The refund will be reduced by half after that and will be available upon return of the uniform, if one was issued. No refunds will be given after the player plays the first game of the team schedule.

I have read and understand the AYSO refund policy.

Signed: _____

Print name and address where the check can be mailed or you will be notified of Credit Card Refund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

The AYSO Philosophy

Everyone Plays- Balanced Teams-Open Registration-Positive Coaching-Good Sportsmanship- Player Development