



**FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES
&
TOURNAMENT RULES**

Applicable Divisions	<p>AYSO 878 offers a post-season playoff for divisions 10U through 14U, with the opportunity for the winning team to represent AYSO 878 at the Area tournament in January. Only teams which have met qualification guidelines will be eligible to participate.</p> <p>The Region Board reserves the right to disqualify teams who demonstrate behavioral concerns including consistently poor sportsmanship, excessive cautions (yellow cards) or send offs (red cards), consistent parental behavior concerns (ejections or warnings regarding parent or spectator behavior), substitution violations, poor volunteer behavior, etc.</p> <p>In the event a team is at risk of disqualification, the Region Board will review the facts, and identify if it is more beneficial to the experience of the team to designate players on the team as ineligible.</p> <p>In the event a team is determined to be ineligible to advance to Regional playoffs, the Region Board will contact the coach of that team prior to release of playoff schedule.</p>
Eligible Players	<p>Players on qualified teams will have their eligibility determined by review of the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Players must have been registered and properly rostered to team prior to October 15th of that membership year.• Players must have played in at least one half of all eligible games<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Players who have a DOCUMENTED medical concern/injury or family injury will have this considered. For example, a player who is injured and unable to play for 4 games during the season, must have played in at least 3 of the remaining games to be considered eligible.○ Coaches and players must contact Regional Board to document these instances and must note on appropriate game cards that player is absent due to injury/family emergency. <p>The Region Board reserves the right to disqualify players who demonstrate behavioral concerns, including poor sportsmanship, excessive cautions (yellow cards) or send-offs (red cards), or bullying from participation in playoffs, or advancing to Area playoffs.</p> <p>In the event a player is determined to be ineligible, the Region Board will contact this player's coach, and the family of the player to inform them of this decision.</p>



FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES

&

TOURNAMENT RULES

Pool Play

- **Teams who meet playoff qualifications will be divided into pools as follows for the first round of games. These games may take place from Monday through Saturday of playoff week, depending upon the number of qualified teams.**
 - Divisions with 2 teams qualified will play a best of 3 series, with no tournament points.
 - Divisions with between 3 and 5 teams qualified will be placed in a single pool, with the top two teams in pool advancing to finals round.
 - Divisions with between 6 and 8 teams qualified will be placed in two pools, with the top team from each pool advancing to finals round.
 - Any divisions with more than 8 qualified teams will be divided into equal pools at the discretion of the tournament scheduler in order to provide fair opportunity for all teams. This will likely result in addition of a semi-finals round for these divisions. (e.g. a group of 9 teams being divided into 3 pools, with the top from each pool and the 2nd place team with the most tournament points advancing to semi-finals).
- **Qualified teams will play each team in their pool once, and the results will be recorded on a 10-point system, as explained below, except in the case of a two-team pool, in which case wins and losses will be recorded.**
- **Game times will be as follows, with no overtime during pool play:**
 - **10U Division** – Two 20-minute halves with a substitution break approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute half-time break.
 - **12U Division** – Two 25-minute halves with a substitution break approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute half-time break.
 - **14U Division** – Two 30-minute halves with a substitution break approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute half-time break.
- **Games will be played with the following number of players. If a team is unable to field the minimum team size the team will forfeit. Game sizes and minimum number of players are as follows:**



FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES
&
TOURNAMENT RULES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10U – 7 vs. 7 with 1 goalkeeper. Minimum of 5 players per team to kickoff.○ 12U – 9 vs. 9 with 1 goalkeeper. Minimum of 6 players per team to kickoff.○ 14U – 11 vs. 11 with 1 goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players per team to kickoff.● Pool play games tied at the end of designated time will end in a tie, with appropriate points assigned to both teams, unless there are only two teams in the pool.● If a game in a pool of two teams ends in a tie, there will be two, five-minute overtime periods. If the game is still tied after this time, the result will be determined by Kicks from the Mark, as defined by the Laws of the Game.● Results will be posted to Region Facebook Page prior to the next round of games being played.
10-Point System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● During pool-play, except in instances where a division only has two qualified teams, teams will earn points for games played on the following system.● Points are earned as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 6 points for a win○ 3 points for a tie (Each team)○ 0 points for a loss○ 1 point for each goal scored (Up to 3 in a game.)○ 1 point for shutout (No goals allowed in the game by the opposing team).○ In the event of a forfeit, the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the other team, resulting in 7 points. Winners of a forfeit do NOT receive the shutout point, as it is not an “earned” shutout.● Points may be deducted as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Loss of 3 points for any player or coach sent off (red card)



**FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES
&
TOURNAMENT RULES**

- Loss of 2 points for any parent or spectator ejected from the match

- Loss of 1 point for every 3 cautions (yellow cards) given to players or coaches (Carries over between matches. For example, if a player is shown a yellow card during match 1, and another player is shown a yellow card during match 3, the team will be deducted 1 tournament point.)

- **Any red card shown to a coach or player will result in that coach or player being asked to leave the field prior to game resumption. This will also result in a suspension of AT LEAST 1 match, pending review of Regional Board.**
 - If this results in a team being unable to field a minimum number of players, or not having a rostered and trained coach present, this will result in the termination of the match, and the team will forfeit the match.

- **Any parent or spectator who is ejected must leave the field prior to game resumption. This may also result in a suspension upon review of Regional Board.**
 - If the spectator refuses to leave the match within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the referee, the referee may terminate the match. This will result in the team the spectator belongs to forfeiting the match.

- **In the event two teams are tied to advance to semi-final or final play, the following tiebreakers will be used:**
 - Winner of head-to-head competition (If teams played each other in pool play)
 - Number of shutouts
 - Least goals allowed
 - Least number of send offs
 - Least number of cautions
 - Kicks from the Penalty Mark (If both teams are available)
 - Coin toss



FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES

&

TOURNAMENT RULES

Substitution Rules and Violations	<p>All eligible players must play at least 3 “quarters” of each game they are present at kick-off. If a player is late, the player must play at least half of the game time they are eligible for, and the referee must note the late arrival on the game card.</p> <p>Players who are injured or ill and unable to play this amount of play time should inform the referee of this at the start of the match, and it shall be denoted appropriately. In addition, the coach should contact the Region Board prior to kick-off to document this for review of game cards.</p> <p>Players who are injured during play and substituted will receive credit for any “quarter” in which they began on the field. If the injury is such that the player is unable to return to play, coaches should inform the referee and the game card should be denoted as such. In addition, any injury of this nature must be documented on an incident report and submitted to Region Board within 24-hours.</p> <p>There will be a substitution opportunity approximately halfway through each half, and at the half-time break. In addition, at any time there is an injury, the player may be substituted at that time.</p> <p>Game cards will be reviewed after each round of games, to ensure play time rules are being met. Any team found to have violated equal play time rules will forfeit the game in question. In addition, the coach may receive a 1-match suspension, upon review by Region Board.</p> <p>At the end of each game, the coach should meet with the referees and sign their game card to ensure substitutions were properly recorded. Signing the game card is not a verification of score, only of the substitutions.</p>
Player Injuries	<p>In the event of an injury occurring during the match, the referee will assess the situation and stop play at the best time. If the referee feels the player’s safety will not be jeopardized by continuing play, play will be allowed to continue until a natural stoppage. If the play is close to the player, or the player appears to need immediate attention, the referee may stop play immediately.</p> <p>The referee will check on the player prior to interacting with the sideline. If the player appears to need assistance, or requests the coach, the referee will signal to the coach at this time. Only coaches or certified volunteers may enter the field of play to assess injury, and only after being approved by the referee. Any coach or volunteer who enters the field of play without referee’s permission may be cautioned (yellow card) for entering the field of play without referees permission.</p> <p>If the coach enters the field of play to assess the player, the player must leave the field until the referee indicates they can return to play. The coach may either substitute that player, in which case they can return at the next</p>



FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES

&

TOURNAMENT RULES

	<p>substitution opportunity, or play 'down a player' until that player is ready to return to play.</p> <p>When the player is ready to return to play, that player should inform the Assistant Referee on their side of the field. The Assistant Referee will inform the Referee, who will then signal when the player can return to play. The Referee does not need to wait for a stoppage in play to allow a player to return to play.</p>
<p>Spectator Expectations and Behavior</p>	<p>Spectators are expected to behave appropriate during their team's games, and not to interfere with play in any way. Spectators should be on their team's touchline, between the penalty area and the center circle.</p> <p>Spectators may not be on the opposing touchline during the match. Any spectator found to be on the opposing touchline will be asked to relocate to their side of the field. The Referee MAY stop play until the spectator is on the correct touchline. If a spectator is asked multiple times to relocate, they may be asked to leave the field. This counts as a spectator ejection, resulting in loss of tournament points.</p> <p>Spectators may not coach or provide instruction to any player on the field. If a spectator continues to do so after being warned by the referee, it may result in ejection of the spectator.</p> <p>Spectators are not to address the Referee or Assistant Referee during the match and are to maintain their behavior in an appropriate manner. Any incidents where a spectator behaves inappropriately toward a referee or assistant referee will result in a warning. Continued behaviors may result in ejection from the game and depending upon the severity may result in a suspension.</p> <p>Spectators who behave inappropriately toward a youth referee or assistant referee will immediately be ejected from the field and receive at least a 1-match suspension. There will be no review, and zero tolerance for poor behavior toward youth referees.</p> <p>Spectators may cheer in a positive manner, and are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, regardless of the outcome of a given game.</p> <p>Coaches are responsible for the behavior of spectators on their touchline. In the event any spectator is ejected, or there is difficulty identifying which spectator is misbehaving, the coach will receive a caution (yellow card).</p>
<p>Coach and Team Volunteer Requirements</p>	<p>Teams must have at least 1 certified, rostered coach (volunteer application, fingerprinting, Safe Haven training, CDC Concussion Training, Sudden Cardiac Arrest training, and division specific coach training) present at all matches.</p> <p>Teams must also have at least 1 certified, rostered volunteer of the same gender as the players on the team present at all matches.</p>



**FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES
&
TOURNAMENT RULES**

	<p>Any team found to not have these necessary volunteers present at a match will forfeit said match. If this happens more than once during the tournament, the team will be disqualified from the tournament, and all remaining matches will be forfeits.</p>
<p>Semi-Final and Final Rounds</p>	<p>Divisions with two or fewer pools will not have a semi-final round, and qualified teams will advance directly to championship game.</p> <p>Divisions with 3 or more pools will have a semi-final round, and the winner of each semi-final match will advance to championship game. There will be no 3rd place game.</p> <p>Semi-final and Final games will be played on the Sunday of tournament week. In the event no pool play games are scheduled on the Saturday of tournament week, Semi-Finals and Finals may be played that day instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-Final and Final matches will be the following length: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10U – Two 25-minute halves with substitution opportunities approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute halftime break. ○ 12U – Two 30-minute halves with substitution opportunities approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute halftime break. ○ 14U – Two 35-minute halves with substitution opportunities approximately halfway through each half, and a 5-minute halftime break. • Semi-Final and Final matches MUST have a winner. At the end of regulation time, the following will be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two 5-minute periods of overtime. These will be played in full, NOT GOLDEN GOAL ○ If still tied after overtime, the game will advance to Kicks for the Penalty Mark as defined in the Laws of the Game.
<p>Advancing to Area Play</p>	<p>Each year, the Region is offered the opportunity to send teams to represent us in Area Play. In order to ensure the best experience possible, the following factors will be utilized to determine the number of teams we send:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional budget concerns • Behavior of players in the division • Behavior of coaches in the division



FALL SEASON PLAYOFF GUIDELINES & TOURNAMENT RULES

- Behavior of parents in the division
- Referee commitment and availability to assist with Area play
- Performance during Fall Season Playoffs

The first-place team will typically be offered the opportunity to advance to Area play. The following factors MAY result in the team not being invited to Area play:

- Concerns over sportsmanship of the team
- Repeated issues with coach/player behavior
- Repeated issues with parent/spectator behavior
- Multiple substitution violations during the regular season
- Substitution violations during tournament play

In the even the first-place team is deemed ineligible by the Region Board, the second-place team may be invited in their place.

In addition, the Region Board reserves the right to invite additional teams to Area play. The following restrictions may be placed on inviting additional teams, in any combination, depending on the needs of the Region that year:

- The team must place second in Regional playoffs and meet all requirements the first-place team is expected to meet.
- The team may be asked to pay for a portion of the tournament fee.
- The team may be asked to guarantee referee commitment to assist with referee needs.

The Region also reserves the right to not send a team in a division if both first-place and second-place teams are deemed ineligible by the Region Board.