



Team Formation Policy

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a non-profit, all volunteer program.

In alignment with the AYSO Philosophy of Balanced Teams, Region 878 strives to form balanced teams each season. It allows for each player to gain the experience of a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels.

Creating a Team

The initial process of forming teams is assigning the player with their adult volunteer that is registered in one of the following roles: Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager. A selection process is used within the Blue Sombrero registration system. The selection process assigns players based on age, experience, and evaluation ratings.

The board will review the team formations and make manual adjustments if required.

All assignments are made based on information available to the Blue Sombrero system and the Region Board. The Region Board cannot account for inaccurate information provided at registration, or information otherwise unavailable at the time of team formation.

Volunteer Impact

Each team has three volunteer positions required in order to be a well-functioning team. Based on the volunteer requirements for each team, a partnership of up to 3 volunteers per team is permitted. This includes up to three related players for the team. This is to keep the team as balanced as possible.

Volunteers are encouraged to make arrangements with other volunteers to staff their team. The request to partner with a specific volunteer must be submitted to the registrar (registrar@hesperiaayso.org) by the end of the coach meeting for the upcoming season, the volunteers must have an active volunteer application on file. If the request is not made prior to the deadline indicated above, the request will not be honored due to team formation and uniform order deadlines.

Once teams are formed, additional volunteers to fill positions such as referee, community volunteer, or field monitor can be determined.

Sibling Maximum

Siblings within the same division/gender may be requested to play on the same team. This includes step siblings and half sibling. Place a note in the registration process to identify the related player, and email registrar@hesperiaayso.org.

Due to the roster of 5 players, the 6U and 8U divisions will have a sibling cap of two per team to ensure that a lack of attendance by one family does not impact the ability of the team to participate in games.



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Team Requests

Due to the volunteer nature of our program, we are unable to honor requests for teams or specific coaches. This includes requests based on:

- Practice days/times
- Carpool reasons
- Cousins, distant relatives, or family friends

The nature of the team assignment process and number of teams in a division MAY result in players with these requests being on the same team, or the requested coach, but this is not indicative of a change in stance of the Region Board on the nature of team formation and team requests.

Division Change Requests

Per AYSO National Rules and Regulations, players WILL NOT be eligible to play in a younger age division than their birthdate determines they are eligible for (“Play Down”).

Parents may request for their child to play in an older age division than their birthdate determines they are eligible for (“Play Up”), provided the child is in the second year of that division. The Region Board will consider all such requests based on the following factors:

- Knowledge of the player ability
- Age eligibility of the child
- Space available in the requested age group
- Determination of the appropriateness of the player playing in this age group

The Region Board reserves the right to refuse any request to change a child’s assigned age division, for any reason, and the decision of the Region Board is final. In the event that a request is made, and no information is currently available on the player’s skill level, the Region Board may request an evaluation of the player’s skill level either through observation at a practice, game, or at a separate evaluation event.

The Region Board recommends the majority of players to play in the assigned age group and will only approve requests to change age level based on the needs and skill level of the child, to maximize the player’s experience.

Waitlist

Our waitlist process begins at the end of the Regular Registration period, when we do not have enough coaches to assign to teams. Players placed on the waitlist will be activated due to one of the below scenarios:

- A new coach is located and the team can be activated. This will not be an option as of the first games of the season.
- A player formally submits a request to drop from the team

The waitlist will be closed and no players activated after the third week of games.