

Thank you to all of the coaches and assistants who attended Wednesday's Coach Meeting! For those of you who didn't, below are some key highlights:

\*Campus El Segundo is under construction and is not going to be ready for some time. The delays have impacted all fields and games. Divisions 6U-8U will start Sept 9. Divisions 10U+ should start Sept 16. There will likely only be one practice per week. 10U+ may have games during the week and 12U+ may have games on Sundays in makeup.

\*Age groups are different this year. See the **age group grid** on our website for details.

\*New player development initiatives have been implemented for this year. See the **player development initiatives grid** on our website for details.

\*All coaches and assistants and people who want to be on the field helping with practices or games **need to be certified** AYSO coaches. That includes setting up a Blue Sombrero volunteer account, getting safe haven certified, concussion awareness, and age-level certification. Training is available on the AYSOU tab on Blue Sombrero.

\*Please display professionalism and embodiment of the **6 AYSO Philosophies** when coaching. Dress the part (wear your coach shirt at games, wear proper footwear), and come prepared with a **training session plan** for each practice. Model excellent sportsmanship and work hard to develop every player to their best. Remember this program is about developing kids through the game of soccer and every player deserves to experience a **positive learning environment**.

\*We have implemented a **zero tolerance policy for sideline conduct** during games. Nobody, not coaches, not parents, and not players may yell at referees, period. Enforcement options include deducting sportsmanship points, issuing cautions or coach suspension. Our volunteer referees deserve the same positive learning environment as our players.

\*There will be **no heading in any division under 14U** during practices or games. For these divisions, deliberate heading during games will result in an indirect free kick for the other team. Do not train heading in practices under 14U. This came down from US Soccer and is non-negotiable.

\***Challenger Sports** is our region's **Coach Mentor Program** this year. All coaches will have the opportunity (and are expected to utilize it) to have a professional coach mentor them during a training session. New this year, Challenger Sports coaches will also be available during Saturday games to help with game management. An online schedule will be posted shortly for coaches to sign up.

\*We will be having a **free coach clinic** on Sept 8 at Brett Field. 6pm U6-U8 Coaches. 7pm U10 and above Coaches. Assistants welcome also. No children please.

\*U10 and above will need referee points again this year so you need to recruit referees from your teams. This should be easier this year with the zero tolerance policy in effect. Referees must be registered in Blue Sombrero and certified. Go to AYSOU for training. Ref points breakdown is TBD.

\***Coach badges are in process** and will be ready for game day. You will be contacted when yours is ready. Make sure you have all of your certifications done and reflected in Blue Sombrero and that you have sent me a photo.

\***Practice slots** will go out from our field scheduler Brett Sullivan this weekend. They will be for the next two weeks and then a second round will go out then for the rest of the season.

\***Equipment** is available through your division commissioners. Balls are under warranty so if they go flat, return them for a replacement. Do not write your name on the balls as they get re-used. Do not use another team's balls - the balls have your team number so if you have a ball in your bag that isn't yours, give it back to the correct team. Talk to your division commissioner if you need anything you don't have.

\*Turn in an **accident report** if something happens. They can be downloaded from our website.

\*Attend your **mid-season division meeting** to share any problems, suggestions, ideas you may have.

Let us know if there are any questions. I can be reached at [kellyami@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyami@yahoo.com).