



WELCOME, COACHES!

Thank you so much for volunteering your time to coach! I sincerely hope you find this a rewarding experience that will provide a lifetime of memories for you and your family. This coach manual contains the information you need to help you throughout the season. Additional information may be found on our website at <http://www.ayso121.org/> or if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your Division Director for assistance.

All coaches and assistant coaches must be eAYSO registered, take the Safe Haven Certification course, take the Concussion Awareness course and be trained in the appropriate division. Contact your division director for information in completing these requirements.

AYSO Simi strives to provide a recreational environment that is fun, healthy and competitive for all who wish to play. We do this through AYSO's Six Philosophies:

1. Everyone Plays
2. Balanced Teams
3. Open Registration
4. Positive Coaching
5. Good Sportsmanship
6. Player Development

Sincerely,

Danyelle Ripling

AYSO Simi Regional Commissioner
Danyelle.ripling@yahoo.com

Visit <http://www.ayso121.org/> for more information throughout the season.

Like us on FACEBOOK! www.facebook.com/AYSOSimi121

Check out the section website for more training opportunities-<http://www.aysou.org>

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IMPORTANT AYSO SIMI DATES

Always check the AYSO Simi website for the latest schedule updates, as schedules may change. When in doubt ask your division director. **Please check your email daily for changes and updates from the region.**

Date	Event	Location
February 29, 2020	Coach Training (U6 and U8)	Good Shepard
February 29, 2020	Coach Training (U10 and U12)	Good Shepard
March 3, 2020	Coaches' Meeting	RSSP Recreation Center
March 4, 2020	Practices Begin (U8 and up)	Approved Practice Fields (no schools during spring)
March 7, 2020	Uniform Pick up	SoccerFEST
March 7, 2020	SoccerFEST Kick-Off for Spring Season	Foundation Fields
March 21, 2020	No Games	No Games
April 11, 2020	No Games	No Games
TBD	Ratings Due	Division Directors
May 2, 2020	Last Game	Foundation Fields

The AYSO Simi Region Board reserves the right to change, alter, or discontinue any items in the manual as long as it is not contradictory to AYSO rules and regulations.

All participants in the soccer organization including board members, referees, coaches, assistant coaches, team parents, players, parents, guardians and spectators are responsible to know and follow the rules, regulations and philosophies of the American Youth Soccer Organization, AYSO Board of Directors, Section Staff, Area Staff and Regional Board rules and regulations. Any violation of the rules, regulations or philosophies mentioned in this paragraph by any of the mentioned individuals is subject to disciplinary actions.

Any authorized AYSO Simi Board Member can cancel or suspend any game, practice or event if, in their opinion, there exists a danger in any way to the players of the game, practice or event. There will be no refund or makeup of the game, practice or event.

AYSO SIMI EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT LIST

Please check the website <http://www.ayso121.org/> for the most updated information.

Name	Position	Email
Danyelle Ripling	Regional Commissioner	Danyelle.ripling@yahoo.com
Registrar	Registrar	Registrar121@gmail.com
Jonathan Wisniewski	Coach Administrator (U10-U16)	Jonathan.wis.ayso@gmail.com
Mary Morrissey	Coach Administrator (U5-U8)	Msmargrat@yahoo.com
David McMillan	Treasurer	121Treasurer@gmail.com
Jessica Bernal	Safety Director	Jessicabernal75@hotmail.com
Ken Crowle	Regional Referee Administrator	Crowleken@aol.com
Alain Missoul	Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate	Amissoul@arrow.com

AYSO SIMI DIVISION DIRECTOR LIST

Name	Division	Contact
Liz Reiter	U6	ehreiter@gmail.com
Brandi Starjack	U8	bstarjack@gmail.com
Antherine Perkins	U8	antherine_v@hotmail.com
Mike Blanda	U10	Coachblanda@yahoo.com
Darin Vasquez	U12	Darin.vasquez@gmail.com
Jonathan Wisniewski	U14	Jonathan.wis.ayso@gmail.com
Chris Boynton	U16 / U19	Cboynton@arxisgroup.com

GETTING STARTED

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Contact your Division Director first. Depending on the situation, they will handle the communication to resolve any questions or situations. You can also check the website for information. If you feel you need more help, please contact the Coach Administrator.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Call the players on your team and introduce yourself. You can also send an email. **Do this within 24 hours of receiving your roster.**
- Schedule a parent meeting; this could be held right before or at the end of the first practice. You'll introduce yourself, describe your coaching style, communicate the practice schedule and how far before a game you expect players to arrive for warm-up.
- Recruit a team parent and a team referee. They will need proper certification.
- Choose a team name. For Spring do not push for a banner, the season is only six weeks.
- List your team parent and referee name and contact info on your volunteer assignment sheet; this needs to be turned in to your division director.

COACH PLEDGE AGREEMENT

As a volunteer and by filling out your registration form you accepted and agreed to abide by the AYSO Bylaws, rules, regulations, policies, philosophies, and all decisions and directions of the Regional Board of Directors, Area and Section staff, and the National Board of Directors, and understand that you may be removed as an AYSO volunteer at any time with or without cause.

PLAYER PARENT NOTIFICATION

Please contact your players either by phone or email **within 24 hours** of receiving your roster. Players are excited to play and if you delay parents become worried their child was not assigned a team. Please verify player phone numbers and emails are correct. Decide the method you plan to communicate with your parents and make sure they understand. If you plan to communicate via email, then make sure parents check their email daily. **Don't assume that parents check their email on a daily basis.**

ASK THE PARENTS

Ask parents about their children in regard to any special needs or medical conditions such as allergies (especially food allergies) or asthma.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR YOUR TEAM

Saturday games require hundreds of hours of work. Luckily, AYSO Simi is run **ONLY** by volunteers who donate their time because they love the sport and the kids. We need parents, coaches, and referees working together to make our program the best it can be. Your team needs to provide:

- A volunteer who is (or will become) certified to referee at your age division. The game cannot be played without CERTIFIED referees.
- A volunteer who is willing to be the team parent. He or she must complete the Safe Haven course and be a registered volunteer.
- We do not assign volunteer times during the spring season, but we will definitely be asking for parents to help with parking lot painting, field set-up, field monitoring, and field takedown.

DROPPING A PLAYER AFTER YOU RECEIVE YOUR TEAM

Please note that a player is only considered to be a "drop" after a parent has confirmed with their respective coach and submitted the request in writing by filling out a DROP PLAYER FORM (found on website, Registration tab). This form needs to be submitted to the Registrar.

When the coach confirms the withdrawal, immediately:

- Take the player's white registration form and shred it
- Follow up with your division director to get a new team roster for your file

- Make sure the parent knows how to access the Parent Drop Request form found on the website, <http://www.ayso121.org/>.

Replacement players will come from our waiting list. We will make every effort to assign a replacement player as quickly as possible, but we have to follow proper AYSO National procedure. Your division director will notify you via email if a player has been added to your team. Print out the player registration form and have the parents sign it in a different color for a wet signature. Also print out a new copy of your team roster.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION RELEASE FORMS IN CASE OF INJURY

The white registration copy is given to the coaches. Make two extra copies of these. These contain an e-signature but **MUST BE RESIGNED IN COLORED INK**, as many hospitals do not accept an e-signature for treatment. Have parents sign all three copies. Then distribute them to the assistant coach and team parent. These forms **MUST BE IN YOUR POSSESSION AT ALL PRACTICES and GAMES**. If you forget your copies, the practice or game must be suspended until a legal parent for each player is present.

DRESS CODE AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

AYSO Simi provides uniforms (shorts, jerseys, and socks). All team members will be uniformed in the same color and style of jersey, shorts, and socks, except that the goal keeper may have a different uniform when in the goal. **Do not modify uniforms in any manner. No personal names or team names on jerseys or shorts.** Player cleats may be any color. ***Any player not in proper uniform will not be allowed to play until the problem is resolved.***

Parents: Parents provide proper soccer shoes, shin guards, a ball, water, and sunscreen.

Practice: Wear comfortable clothing (no uniforms) and **PROPER SHIN GUARDS**; bring a ball, water, and sunscreen.

Games: AYSO uniforms, **PROPER SHIN GUARDS** NEXT TO THE SKIN, SOCKS ON TOP OF THE SHIN GUARDS and shoes. Bring water and sunscreen.

Note: It's AYSO National's rule that proper shin guards are required to play soccer; if a player does not have proper shin guards then that player does not play. As a coach, you might consider bringing with you an extra set of shin guards just in case.

SPORTSMANSHIP (IMPORTANT AYSO PHILOSOPHY)

Players must not taunt, tease or use profanity toward other players. When a player is injured, all players should stop playing but may remain standing to prevent their muscles from tightening up. At the end of the game all players high five and thank the other team and the referees. In addition, don't brag about winning, be proud and be supportive of the opposing team members. Remember to always continue to support your team when you have a loss.

ADULT TO CHILD SUPERVISION

THE ADULT RATIO OF 1:8 OR LESS IS ONE ADULT FOR EVERY EIGHT OR FEWER CHILDREN AND TWO ADULTS (ONE OF WHOM MAY BE THE COACH AND ONE OF WHOM SHOULD BE OF THE SAME GENDER AS THE GROUP) PRESENT AT ALL TIMES. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS FOLLOW THIS RULE!**

TEAM PARENT

Recruit a parent to fill this position. The team parent can take a lot of work off the coach in communicating with other parents on schedule changes, reminders and snacks for the players. This person also plans the end of season party for the players. **Team parents must be registered as a volunteer and complete the Safe Haven course. He/she must complete a volunteer form on easyo.org, and if they are a first-time volunteer, print a copy and come to the meeting with their driver's license.**

GAME DAY CONDUCT

AYSO Simi fully supports AYSO's Kid Zone program and requires proper and a safe behavior from all adults at all game locations. We have **zero-tolerance** for any behavior that may harm children in any way; field ejection will be immediate.

As an AYSO coach, you have already taken the Safe Haven course. This course is a requirement that you must take before any interaction with your team, including calling the parents.

SIDELINE INFORMATION FOR COACHES, PARENTS, AND SPECTATORS

- A maximum of one coach and one assistant coach is allowed per team. BOTH THE COACH AND ASSISTANT COACH MUST BE AYSO TRAINED AND CERTIFIED FOR THE DIVISION (and have a completed volunteer form, safe haven course, and concussion course). Stay inside the designated coach area, or 10 yards on either side of the centerline.
- Coaches are responsible to instruct players, parents, and spectators of the rules, regulations, and philosophies of the AYSO organization.
- No parent or spectator is allowed to coach their child or other players and shall be ejected at the discretion of the referee staff and/or the regional board staff.
- Parents and spectators must be at least 4 feet from the touchline and no closer than 18 yards to the goal line or corner. They will be asked to move if they are seated in other areas.
- No one is allowed behind the goal area from corner flag to corner flag for any reason including photography. Photographers who are sanctioned by the AYSO Simi Commissioner are exempt.
- Coaches, parents, and spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the Referee, even for a player who is "down" and apparently injured.

EJECTION OF A PARENT, GUARDIAN, PLAYER OR SPECTATOR

For disputes arising out of game conduct when a parent, guardian or player is ejected from the field during a game by the referee, field monitor or a designated board member, it should first be addressed and resolved by the Coach Administrator and/or the Regional Commissioner. If a game is being conducted in a public park, the person asked to leave the area can refuse to do so. If the person refuses to leave, the game is then terminated and all parties are sent home.

The coach has the responsibility to obtain the information about the parent, guardian or the player ejected and submit the details to the Coach Administrator and/or the Regional Commissioner so a report can be generated on the situation. The Regional Commissioner will present the written report along with the recommendation to the parent, guardian or player ejected from the field at which time that person will be given a reasonable opportunity to explain why such action should not be taken.

These procedures apply in the same manner when a coach or assistant coach is ejected from the game.

PLAYER EJECTION

When a player under the age of 18 is ejected from a game, the player must leave the surrounding area with a parent or legal guardian. If there is no parent or legal guardian the player must stay close to the playing field with adult supervision.

BEHAVIOR TOWARDS REFEREES

Your action toward the referees is an example to your players and parents. **ALWAYS SUPPORT THE REFEREE STAFF AND ALL CALLS AND DECISIONS MADE BY REFEREES.** Protests of Referee calls and results of games thereon will not be entertained. Decisions of the Referee on the field are final and will not be overturned.

Note: As an AYSO volunteer, you are the first line of defense against parents and players who criticize referees. If you witness this behavior from a parent or player on a team you coach, please politely explain the relevant AYSO philosophies and the AYSO Kid Safe Zone and ask that person to immediately stop. If it does not stop, then notify a region 121 board member or field monitor for help.

BEHAVIOR TOWARDS YOUTH REFEREES

YOUTH REFEREE VOLUNTEERS ARE PROTECTED UNDER A **ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY**. ANYONE AT THE GAME WILL BE EJECTED FOR ANY TYPE OF NEGATIVE VERBAL COMMENTS WHILE THE YOUTH REFEREE IS PERFORMING THEIR JOB DUTIES. NO PERSON SHALL USE HIS OR HER POWER AS AN ADULT TO THREATEN, INSTRUCT, RECOMMEND, ADVISE, INSULT OR DEMEAN ANY YOUTH REFEREE. ADVISE YOUR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS OF THIS POLICY. ANYONE FAILING TO FOLLOW THE STRICT ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE DISCIPLINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.

COACH DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

For disputes arising out of a game when the coach or assistant coach is ejected from the field or written up by the referee post-game, we will utilize the following disciplinary process to address:

- The coach administrator will arrange separate discussions off the field (either via email or in person) with the coach and the referee
- These discussions will include a panel of five board members: regional commissioner, assistant regional commissioner, referee administrator, coach administrator, and applicable division director
- Both parties will have the opportunity to present their recollection of the event(s)
- The panel will determine next steps, which may range from a conversation about appropriate coach behavior to game(s) suspension to permanent removal from AYSO Region 121

NOISEMAKERS

Artificial noisemakers such as cow bells, horns, air horns, and megaphones are not allowed.

AGE/DIVISION SPECIFIC GAME RULES

U-6 Division Rules

In this division we do not keep score or standings in either the Fall or Spring season.

- The game will be made up of two 10-minute halves **with a running clock**. Substitutions will occur half-way through each 10-minute half. Halftime will be five minutes. Teams will have five or six players. All players need to have EQUAL PLAY. That means that a player cannot sit out for half of the game again until **ALL players sat out half a game**. Track this rotation.
- There are four players from each team on the field during each quarter.
- No goalkeepers will be used and coaches are to encourage the players to move away from standing in front of the goal
- No goal may be scored directly from the kick-off
- A restart for a ball over the goal line is a goal kick, no matter which team kicked it out. We do not use corner kicks at this age
- All free kicks will be indirect
- No player can be off-side in U6, but try not to encourage “cherry picking”
- No penalty kicks will be awarded
- There is no heading and no punting
- If a foul occurs, opponents must be at least three yards from the ball for the free kick
- The games will be played with **no coaches on the field or behind the goal, and no parents may be behind the goal**. Coach area will be in box marked 10 yards either side of the halfway line and one yard back from the touch line.
- All games will be played at equal advantage with a minimum of three players per team. When a team is short handed, the other team is encouraged to “loan players” in order to maximize playing time
- AYSO Certified Parent Referees will be used for all U6 games. Each team will provide a Parent Referee for ½ the game, with the home team responsible for the first half and the visiting team responsible for the 2nd half. The referee must be an AYSO certified U6 referee and have completed the Safe Haven course, concussion course, and have an updated volunteer form for the current year.
- Practice must take place 30 minutes prior to the “game.” It is not acceptable or allowed to forego practice.
- **NO PRACTICE is allowed other than before each game.**
- All spectators must sit on the same side of the field.

U8 Division Rules

In this age group we do not keep score or standings in either Fall or Spring season. This is where we start to develop player positions. Positive teaching and encouragement is extremely important in this division. Players at this age are beginning to understand the game and negative demands by parents or coaches will tend to discourage the players from wanting to continue playing soccer.

- There will be 6 players on the field - no goalkeepers.
- Games will be played as two 20-minute halves. Approximately halfway through each half (the quarter break) the referee will stop play to allow substitutions.
- When a team is short-handed, the other team is encouraged to “loan players” to maximize everyone’s playing time.
- There is a Build Out Line to promote development of technical skills
- Offside will not be called unless in the judgment of the referee the offside was a deliberate attempt to take advantage (commonly called “cherry picking”).
- A referee or a board member must approve a child who does not want to play the third quarter of his/her three quarters by discussing with the child and parents.
- There is no heading or punting
- Throw-ins should be awarded twice if the first attempt is improper.
- No corner kicks- all balls over the goal line (not resulting in a goal) are taken as a goal kick
- No goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.
- All free kicks will be “**Indirect.**”

- **NO penalty kicks will be awarded.**
- If a foul occurs in the penalty area and the free kick is awarded to the defenders (the attacking team committed the foul), the indirect free kick will be taken from where the foul occurred.
- If a foul occurs in the penalty area and the free kick is awarded to the attackers (the defending team committed the foul), the indirect free kick will be taken from outside the penalty area.
- Practice is one day a week for one hour.
- Each team must supply a volunteer (or more than one) to attend the Referee clinic (please visit <http://www.ayso121.org/> for Referee clinic information). Coaches are encouraged **NOT** to be one of these volunteers, but are strongly encouraged to attend to learn more about the Laws of the Game. Referees must complete Safe Haven, Concussion courses and be registered volunteers. They will referee one half of every game. The home team provides the referee for the first half and the visitors provide the referee for the second half.

U10 Division Rules

In this age group we add in the concept of off side and in the Fall season, standings are kept. **We do not keep standings during spring.** Sportsmanship and Positive Coaching are expected at all times.

- Our main emphasis is to teach the players soccer skills and sportsmanship.
- There is no heading or punting. When a referee determines that a ball was deliberately headed by a player, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.
- There is a Build Out Line to promote development of technical skills
- The games will be played with a total of six players (9 players for boys team) on the field including a goalkeeper.
- **A player may not play more than two quarters of any game as a goalkeeper.** If a player is in goal for two quarters in a game they **MUST** also play one quarter as a field player.
- Game length is two 25-minute halves. Substitutions will be approximately half way through each half (quarter) and **the clock will continue to run, so please make your substitutions quickly.** Players leaving the field should come to the touchline at the halfway point. Players not being substituted out need to **STAY ON THE FIELD.** Have the parents bring them water while you tell them their positions. This is not a half-time break.
- It is AYSO Simi policy for players to play three quarters of each game. Due to some team sizes, this will not be possible in every game. Players playing only half of the game must be rotated from week to week with the same player not playing half the game again until ALL other players have also played only half of the game previously during the season. If the coach deems it necessary to play a player only half a game due to extenuating circumstances, the coach must fill out the three quarters Game Play Reduction Form and obtain approval of the Regional Commissioner.
- A referee or a board member must approve a child who does not want to play the third quarter of his/her three quarters after discussion with parents, if this happens during a game.
- Practice twice a week for 1 - 1 ½ hours each practice for no more than three total hours per week.

U12 Division Rules – Spring Co-Ed Play

This age group adds more tactical and set pieces to the play. In the Fall season, standings are kept; **we do not keep standings during the spring.** Good Sportsmanship and Positive Coaching are expected at all times.

- The games will be played with a total of 9 players on the field including a goalkeeper.
- **Absolutely no heading of the ball is allowed at this age.** This is in accordance with new AYSO rules and regulations which comply with the United States Soccer Federations' policy. When a referee determines that a ball was deliberately headed by a player, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.
- Punting is allowed.
- Game length is two 30-minute halves. Substitutions will be at approximately half way through each half (quarter) and **the clock will continue to run;** please make your substitutions quickly. Players leaving the field should come to the touch line at the halfway point. Players not being subbed out must **STAY ON THE FIELD.** Have the parents bring them water at the touch line.
- It is AYSO Simi policy for players to play three quarters of each game. Due to some team sizes, this will not be possible in every game. Players playing only half of the game must be rotated from week to week with the same player not playing half of the game again until ALL other players have also played only half of the game previously during the season. If the coach deems it necessary to play a player only half a game due to

extenuating circumstances, the coach must fill out the three-quarters Game Play Reduction Form and obtain approval of the Regional Commissioner.

- A referee or a board member must approve a child who does not want to play the third quarter of his/her three quarters after discussion with parents, if this happens during a game.
- Practice twice a week for 1 - 1 ½ hours each practice for no more than three total hours per week.

U14 Division Rules

This age group adds more tactical and set pieces to the play and now plays on a regulation field. In the Fall season, standings are kept; **we do not keep standings during the spring**. Good Sportsmanship and Positive Coaching are expected at all times.

- Both heading and punting are allowed.
- The game will be played with a total of eleven players on the field including a goalkeeper.
- It is AYSO Simi policy for players to play three quarters of each game. Due to some team sizes, this will not be possible in every game. Players playing only ½ the game must be rotated from week to week with the same player not playing ½ the game until ALL other players have also played only ½ the game previously during the season. If the coach deems it necessary to play a player only half a game due to extenuating circumstances, the coach must fill out the ¾ Game Play Reduction Form and obtain approval of the Regional Commissioner.
- A referee or a board member must approve a child who does not want to play the third quarter of his/her three quarters after discussion with parents, if this happens during a game.
- Practice twice a week for 1 to 1 ½ hours each practice for no more than 3 total hours per week.

GAME DAY TASKS

GAME CARDS

All divisions shall complete and turn in game cards for each game during the season. At least 10 minutes prior to each game, the coach of each team must make available to the referee(s) for that game a completed game card. All coaches are asked to check each game card at the end of the game to ensure the referee correctly recorded player substitutions and goal keepers each quarter, while calculating the correct three-quarters play for your game. Any card that is turned in with the phrase "Subs Not Okay" will place the team in a position to forfeit the game. The final decision of a team forfeiting a game will be made by the Regional Commissioner.

Coach Completes	Referee Completes
Player names (last, first) and jersey numbers in jersey number order	Substitutions
Missing players	Goals and who scored
Team/Game Details (date, field, opposing team, division, coach identification, etc.)	Goal keeper by quarter
	Halftime and final scores, and in favor of which team

Official Lineup Form

DIVISION 35 DIV 5 REGION CS21
 TEAM NAME Green Giants
 TEAM COLORS Green/Black
 COACH NAME Susan Verdusco
 ASSISTANT COACH NAME _____ Fed No _____

NO	PLAYER NAME	Coach Scored	Gls. Played			
			1	2	3	4
1	Smith, Jimmy					
2	Hess-Williams, Karen					
3	Wong, Elise					
4	Hernandez, Jen					
5	Johnson, Katie					
6	Kakutani, Kiyomi					
7	Michaels, Serena					
8	Wirth, Tabie SICK					
9	Allen-Goldman, Rachael					
10	Marques, Roberta					
11	Ho, Lisa					
12	Weissman, Sara					
13	Verdusco, Elena					
14	Coppel, Maquast					

* Indicate GK - Goalkeeper, C - Captain, A - Alternate Captain.
 All players on roster must be listed, indicate reason for absence.

Date 9/7/91 Time 8:30 Field J.L.S. 2
 Home Team Score _____ Home GK _____
 Visiting Team _____ Visiting Team _____
 Referee must sign reverse side. Losing Team _____

Game Card Example:
Coach Portion

FIELD SET UP AND TAKE DOWN

This is a very important subject. Please inform your parents each week.

The first match of the day at all fields requires the parents to set up half the field for each team. This includes the goal and net, stakes, two corner flags and marking the fields (includes lines, circles, arcs and penalty marks). The parents must make sure they secure the goals properly with two stakes on the front and rear portion of the bottom legs and three stakes evenly placed on the back of the nets that touch the ground.

The second most important item is take down at the last match of the day; parents must help with this. For Berylwood goals, take the goal down, leaving the net on the top center portion. Place the goal parts, **net still on the center top portion**, all stakes, hammer and the corner flags (2) in the goal bag; it will be picked up for storage. For Foundation, corner flags and plastic trash cans need to be returned to the storage bin, with trash bags emptied into the Dumpster. No goal work is needed.

PLAYER THREE-QUARTER GAME PLAY AND REDUCTIONS TO ONE-HALF GAME PLAY

One of the five core values of AYSO is that EVERYONE PLAYS. This core value is designed to ensure that every registered AYSO player gets a consistent amount of playing time each and every week regardless of whether he or she is considered one of the most talented players on the team. In order to achieve this philosophy, AYSO Simi has instituted the following three-quarter rule for league play:

It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the head coach to ensure that his/her substitutions are properly recorded on the game card by the assistant referee.

Every registered AYSO player is entitled to play in three quarters (3/4) of every game. The only exception is reduction to one-half game play due to the number of players on the roster in a given age group. For example, a U10 roster with 10 players playing 7 on 7 soccer; in this situation, two players must sit out two quarters each game. The Equal Play Rule addresses this situation and is defined below.

If a player arrives after the game has already started, the rules are as follows:

- Player arrives during first quarter: player must play at least two of the remaining quarters.
- Player arrives during second quarter: player must play at least one of the remaining quarters.
- Player arrives during third quarter: player may play one quarter at coach's discretion.
- Player arrives during fourth quarter: player shall not play at all in that game absent circumstances that would permit him/her to enter the game in the fourth quarter (i.e. an injury to a teammate, or his/her team's playing short due to player absence), and then only at the discretion of the coach.

Injury, illness, and non attendance at practice shall be handled as follows:

- Any player that is injured and needs to be removed from the field for the balance of the quarter (or more), is credited with having played the quarter in which he/she was injured. The player coming in for the injured player is not credited with having played that quarter.
- Any player that is injured or ill is not required to play three quarters so long as the decision not to play three quarters is made in good faith by the parents/player, and not by the coach.
- **No player shall have his/her playing time limited because of non-attendance at practice without the prior written approval of the Regional Commissioner.**

EQUAL PLAY RULE

Coaches must rotate the players sitting out during games so as to best achieve equal playing time for all players over the course of a season. One player cannot play all game every game while other players do not. In addition, players sitting out two quarters in a game (for example, U10 teams with 10 players on the roster) must be rotated throughout the season such that no player sits out two quarters twice until all players have sat out two quarters. ***Please note AYSO Simi audits game cards throughout the season specifically looking to ensure everyone plays equally across the season.***

- Violations of this policy shall be handled at the discretion of the AYSO Simi Regional Commissioner and/or Coach Administrator. Specific actions to coaches who violate the three-quarter rule might include forfeiture of game, coach suspension or permanent coach removal.
- Any ambiguity or omission of this policy shall be resolved by the AYSO Simi Regional Commissioner and/or Coach Administrator.

Under National Rules and Regulations Article 7, Sub Division 5b, a coach can reduce the playing time of the player from three quarters to one half of a game with approval of the AYSO Simi Regional Commissioner. The coach must fill the form in Appendix A titled “Reduction In Playing time Request Form” and submit the form to the Regional Commissioner. The questions to be answered by you are:

- Does the child like to play soccer?
- As a coach did you inquire into the players other athletic activities?
- Does the child have an attitude not conducive to the AYSO team?
- Have you spoken with the parents?
- Are the parents cooperative?
- Please explain in detail answers for the above five questions:

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION DURING THE GAME

During substitution coaches must have their players ready to enter the field at the halfway line and know which players are coming off. Players remaining in the game should not leave the field during the substitution period. Due to game schedules and the fact that time will not be stopped for substitutions, unorganized sideline habits will be subject to caution. If a player needs water during substitution, have the parents meet that player at the touch line.

AT THE END OF THE GAME

Players and coaches should thank the referee(s) at the end of the game and high-five the other team’s players. Coaches usually do a cheer (“2,4,6,8 who do we appreciate...” or something similar) before they thank the referees. Once done, players and parents should clear the touch line to allow for the next team to set up. You can move your parents and team to an open space to share comments about the game and distribute the end of game snack.

TRASH

Trash pick -up during/after games and practices is the responsibility of the coaches, players, parents and spectators. Please pickup all the trash and put it in the trash receptacles. If the trash cans are full please find another one. Last games of the day, please bring in trash cans and empty them into dumpster.

PRACTICE FIELD USE

For spring, we use only public parks for practices rather than schools; we do not have valid permits for school use during the spring season.

COMMON PRACTICE COURTESY

Specific practice behaviors include:

- Learn to share space with other AYSO soccer teams
- Please use practice space that is appropriate to the size of your team. Older teams have more players and require more space.
- If you have a problem with an outside athletic team, do not confront or create a conflict. Contact your Coach Administrator.
- Advise your parents to park legally and do not block any driveway in a neighborhood.

UNSUPERVISED PLAY AFTER PRACTICE

- No child shall be left unsupervised after a game or practice.
- Parents who are unreasonably late or consistently tardy may be reported to the Regional Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate for action. Walking home is discouraged and neither AYSO nor the coach can be responsible for the child’s safety.
- **Coaches are prohibited from driving a player home or to the coach’s residence.**
- Note: By keeping with you a copy of copy of the signed medical release forms and roster, you will have the phone numbers of each parent. Call them if their child is not picked up and request that the immediately pick up their child.

AUTHORIZED COACH PARTICIPATION

A current AYSO-registered, certified coach and/or a certified assistant coach are the **ONLY persons** authorized to conduct practices during the week and coach at games on Saturdays. **No parent, legal guardian or spectator is authorized to coach their child or any other child during practice or games.** No adult, unregistered child or siblings are allowed to participate with the registered players during a practice or scrimmage of any type.

AGE SPECIFIC PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

No practice during the week is allowed for U6 teams. For U6 the practice occurs in the half hour before the “game” on Saturday.

Note: If you coach a U6 team, and **if you conduct practice during the week, you will be suspended.** If any parents threaten to or try to hold practices with the team, their child will be removed from the team and a refund will be issued.

- U6: No practice during the week; practice for one half hour before the game on Saturday
- U8: Practice is one day a week for one hour.
- U10 and above: Practice two days per week for 1 to 1 ½ hours each practice (maximum of three hours of practice per week).

SAFETY REMINDERS

- **NO PETS of any kind at any AYSO game or practice (excepted guide dogs with proper paperwork).**
- **NO JEWELRY** of any kind including metal clips or bobby pins in the hair. Earrings for newly pierced ears **MUST COME OUT** for games.
- Any player with a cast may not participate in the game or practice. Soft knee and wrist braces need to be approved at the referee tent.
- If an injury to a player occurs during a game or practice, fill out the incident report found at <http://www.ayso121.org/> under the forms tab, and submit it to the safety director. The player needs to submit a participation release form to return to play if he/she has suffered a concussion. These can be found at <http://www.ayso121.org/>. They are also submitted to the safety director.

STANDINGS

We keep no standings during the spring season.