

AYSO Region 420
Norfolk, NE
& surrounding areas
Parent/Player Handbook



Website: www.ayso420.org

Facebook: Norfolk AYSO Region 420

Twitter: @AysoNorfolk420

Welcome to AYSO!

History

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) was founded in 1964 in Torrance, California with about 125 enthusiastic players. Today, AYSO has become a vibrant national organization with nearly 650,000 players and 135,000 volunteers.

Vision: Provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives

Mission:

AYSO is a nationwide non-profit organization that develops and delivers quality youth soccer programs in a fun, family environment based on AYSO's six philosophies.

- **Everyone Plays** – Our program's goal is for kids to play soccer, so we mandate that every player on every team must play at least half of every game.
- **Balanced Teams** – Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play.
- **Open Registration** – Our program is open to all children between 4 and 19 years of age who want to register and play soccer. Interest & enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.
- **Positive Coaching** – Encouragement of player effort provides for a greater enjoyment by the player and ultimately leads to better-skilled and better-motivated players.
- **Good Sportsmanship** – We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.
- **Player Development** – We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Your Membership Fee includes:

- Membership Player ID Card
- Annual subscription to the PLAYSOCCKER Magazine

- Newsletters
- Soccer Accident Insurance
- Special offers and discounts
- Access to the AYSO Player website channel

Your Season Registration Fee includes:

- Operating cost (field expense, equipment supplies & etc.)
- Training for volunteers, including: coaches, referees & board members.
- Volunteer recognition each Spring.

Refund Policy

\$20 of the registration fee is non-refundable. Any refund requests made prior to the start of the season will be paid out in the form of a check, minus the \$20 non-refundable portion. Any refund requests made after the beginning of the season will result in a \$20 credit towards registration for the next season you are applying for. Exceptions to this policy include: injury or illness that would prevent play, severe illness of an immediate family member or permanent move outside of the area. If one of these situations occurs prior to the season start, a 100% refund will be received. If one of these situations occurs after the start of the season then all but \$20 will be refunded.

Supporting your Child

Supporting your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are more important than victory – that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game.

We encourage your child to grow as an athlete, to develop a sense of teamwork and good sportsmanship, to gain self-confidence, self-esteem and most of all – to have fun!!

Always Be Positive

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

Remember: Your child wants to have fun

Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Don't put too heavy a burden on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winning team. Children play for the fun of playing.

Reinforce positive behavior

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your child achieve their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your child does make one, remember it is all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good thing your child has accomplished.

Don't be a sideline coach or referee

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's soccer experience a positive one. They need your support too. That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there is always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level & become one yourself.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Regional Commissioner

Samantha Barritt

Regional Registrar

Renee McNeal

Regional Coach Administrator

Shane Graham

Regional Referee Administrator	David McNeal
Regional CVPA (Child/Volunteer Protection Advocate)	Jay Barritt
Regional Safety Director	Lee Hahn
Regional Treasurer	Crysta Wedekind

Safe Haven Program

AYSO is the first youth sports organization to create a formal program to comply with the Child Protection Act and the Volunteer Protection Act called "Safe Haven". The goal is to stop child abuse, educate or remove its perpetrators and screen out predators before they get into the program.

We do this by incorporating 4 key elements:

- Promote Education and Awareness
- Create Policies
- Screen Volunteers
- Train Volunteers

Every volunteer coach, referee, team parent and board member must be Safe Haven certified, and it begins by completing a volunteer form and attending job specific classes.

Equipment your child will need

- Shin guards
- Water bottle or sports drink
- Soccer ball
- Soccer cleats are recommended, but not required

Size of Ball

6U, 8U – Ball size 3

10U – Ball size 4

12U and above – Ball size 5

How can you HELP?

We are always in need of volunteers. If you are undecided, fill out a volunteer form anyway. Go to our website, www.ayso420.org to complete a volunteer application. Please consider helping in any way you can, it really make the season go smoothly.

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure your people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

On Behalf of the AYSO Region 420 Board of Directors, we want to thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to play an important role in your child's development and life! Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you along the way as well!