

Reference: Final Decision on Field Dimensions of U12 Girls' Fields - 105 yards by 60 yards.

***The field size for the U12 Girls of 105 yards by 60 yards will stand.***

This decision has already been communicated to the individuals who filed feedback forms; however, it is my intention that all individuals involved within the U12 girls' division, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Referees, Parents and Players, now have a comprehensive picture as to why the field layout will remain as is. I have conferred with the Area Director, Dena Anderson and upwards as to why this decision was made and why I stand behind it. Everyone conferred with finds this decision sound and justified. If anyone wishes to discuss this issue further, please direct all communication to the Area Director, Dena Anderson, who may be contacted at 775-753-9976 (long distance phone call).

This league lost 5 fields this year, due to football expanding into this area. This caused us to reduce U8 practices from twice a week to once a week. This Region would be sorely hurt if it loses any further field space. The decision to make the U12 fields' size 105 yards by 60 yards was foremost and utmost made to make certain that this Region continues to be able to offer soccer to all the children within the Northern Valley's of Reno.

This Region has strived to demonstrate to the County that we are willing to work with their needs and the community's needs as a whole. It is our hope that by making said decision, this Region will be allowed to continue to conduct games in a centralized area and not have to return to having games played throughout the North Valleys (i.e. Cold Springs, Stead, Red Rock, Raleigh's Heights, etc...)

The Field Director made the U12 fields 105 yards by 60 yards due to several reasons, and those decisions were made by consulting back-up documentation.

Below is the documentation that the Field Director used to lay out the fields:

the AYSO National Rules and Guidelines (quoted below – link:  
<http://soccer.org/Templates/BasicHeader2.aspx?NRORIGINALURL=%2fNR%2fexeres%2fDE9B79EF-1A30-4B6D-BB1E-0E6B85469CB1%2cframeless%2ehmt&FRAMELESS=true&NRNODEGUID=%7bDE9B79EF-1A30-4B6D-BB1E-0E6B85469CB1%7d&NRCACHEHINT=NoModifyGuest#fieldofplay>)

“G. Field of Play

1. Dimensions, the field of play, marking, goal area, penalty area, corner area, and goals will be at the discretion of the particular region, except during post-season play-off games where the field must conform to all FIFA Laws of the

Game requirements, including the size being no less than 100 yards in length and 50 yards in width.

2. On open fields where most youth games are played, the field shall be marked, where possible, with a spectator control line parallel to the touch line (side line) at a distance of at least three (3) yards from the touch line. All coaches, referees, linesmen, and other league officials are asked to ensure that spectators remain behind this line.

3. With the exception of photographers who have received authorization from the referee, and who must remain quiet and sufficiently back from the goal line, spectators should not be allowed behind the goal line.

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#### H. Small-Sided Games

1. It is strongly recommended that U-6 through U-12 divisions play small-sided games.

2. These games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the age appropriate AYSO Coaching Manual.

3. Small-sided games are permitted for all divisions. “

Please note the wording in H. 1. “strongly recommended”, in other words “suggested” is the basis upon which the field size decision was made. Basically, what the above is stating is that National recognizes the fact that such field constraints may need adjustment due to unforeseen circumstances, such as cooperating with another league, dealing with County, etc... National acknowledges the fact that many of the fields that AYSO Region’s utilize are owned by other entities. Such considerations on field size changes are exactly what our Field Director took into consideration when the fields were laid out this year. Also, in conversations with National it was reiterated that the maximum size is “strongly recommended.”

Another document which reinforces this issue is the AYSO Referee Training Program, “Mechanical Aspects of the Game”, Module 8, page 9. Website link for this documentation can be found at:

<http://socref.net/AYSO%20Courses/Module%2008%20Mechanical%20Aspects%20v0.7.pdf> . This document also emphasizes that the Region may override field size suggested by AYSO National.

In addition, Page 46 of the 2006 Guidance for Referees and Coaches states that for short sided games (9v9) the recommended field size is 100 by 50 yards; however, the diagram indicates the field size may range from 100 by 50 up to 130 by 100 yards.

Website link for this documentation can be found at:  
[http://www.aysohelp.org/referee/Manuals/AYSO\\_Manuals/guidance.pdf](http://www.aysohelp.org/referee/Manuals/AYSO_Manuals/guidance.pdf)

In using the above documentation, the Field Director had to deal with certain issues:

1) Both U12 and U14/16 play on the same fields.

The “strongly suggested” maximum for U12 is 100 yards x 50 yards. The “strongly suggested” maximum for the U14/16 fields is 130 yards x 100 yards.

2) This Region currently shares these fields with an adult league that plays on Sundays, who requires 110 yards x 75 yards playing field:

The County strongly requested this year that our Region compromise with the adult league utilizing those same fields on Sundays. The compromise being to go between our 100 yards and the adult league’s 110 yards, equating to 105 yards. They also asked us to compromise on the width at 60 yards. The Field Director also considered that the County has begun to frown upon leagues that are not willing to make such compromises and it was our hope that by doing so, it would show the County that we are accommodating and to at least maintain the fields we currently have.

3) Goal Safety and Goal Damage:

In addition to this request, due to circumstances that happened last year during Sundays, mainly our goals being turned over and players hanging from the back bar and nearly destroying the goals, as well as weakening the goal structure which could lead to child safety issues, the County agreed to allow us to anchor down the goals so that the goals would not be destroyed, but only if we compromised on the field size. The Field Director took in the fact that maintaining the goals’ structural integrity to protect our children had the highest priority, as well as protecting an investment of over \$18,000. He decided it was better to compromise on the field size than having the children’s safety jeopardized and having such an investment destroyed.

4) Expanding the number of players on the field from 9 to 11:

Unfortunately, this year, the teams were formed taking into account there would be 9 players on the field. Currently, most teams only have 12 players on the roster and one team has 11. It would be necessary to deconstruct a team at this point and distribute the players throughout the other teams, in order to raise the number of players on the field from 9 to 11. Next year, if we are still required by the County to continue such compromises, the Region will place the motion before the board to make an amendment to the Standard Regional Rules and Guidelines to change the U12 division from 9 players on the field to 11.

If any U12 Girls' Division parents are unhappy with this decision, since 50% of the season has passed, we will refund 50% of the player's registration costs. Refunds will take 8 weeks to process through AYSO National and uniforms will need to be returned to receive the 50% refund. If a uniform is not returned, the refund will be given at 25% of the original registration cost. Refund requests must be received by the Treasurer in writing by August 21, 2006. Please contact the Treasurer at [treasurer@ayso710.org](mailto:treasurer@ayso710.org). It may also be mailed to: AYSO 710, 216 Lemmon Dr. #363, Reno, NV 89506. Mailed in request must be post dated no later than August 21, 2006.

Sincerely, Lisa Morgan Regional Commissioner AYSO Region 710 Covering the North Valley's of Reno, NV