

AYSO REFERENCE BOOK



AMERICAN YOUTH
SOCCER ORGANIZATION



AYSO Reference Book



PLAYSOCCER.
everyone plays.



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1. AYSO National Bylaws

ARTICLE I: AYSO PHILOSOPHY AND STRUCTURE

SECTION 1.01 PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy of the Organization is to educate and develop young people by encouraging their interest and participation in soccer through its “Everyone Plays®,” “Open Registration,” “Balanced Teams,” “Positive Coaching,” “Good Sportsmanship” and “Player Development” concepts.

SECTION 1.02 GENERAL STRUCTURE

The Organization shall be divided into such operating divisions as the National Board of Directors (the “Board”) may from time to time determine. The present operating divisions are divided by geographical area into Sections, with the responsibility for each Section being vested in a Section Director. Each Section is divided into Areas, with the responsibility for each Area being vested in an Area Director. Each Area is divided into Regions, with the responsibility for each Region being vested in a Regional Commissioner. The Board shall have the right to determine the number of divisions, including Sections, Areas and Regions and their geographical boundaries (which need not be contiguous). The Board grants to the Section Directors the ability to determine which existing Area an existing Region is to be aligned for their Section. The Board shall be notified of any moves as a matter of information. Collaboration with the AYSO Office is required to assist with the timing of registration system updates.

SECTION 1.03 ORGANIZATION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) The responsibilities of the Organization to Regions shall be:
- (1) To define the geographical boundaries of a Region and any boundary disputes between Regions.
 - (2) To provide National Rules & Regulations.
 - (3) To set up standard regulations pertaining to uniforms.
 - (4) To provide a source of insurance for liability coverage and accident reimbursement program.
 - (5) To provide such services and materials for educational purposes and the operation of Regions as the executive members determine are necessary and affordable.
 - (6) To provide guidance in organization and operation of its divisions including Regions, Areas and Sections.
 - (7) To supervise inter-play between Regions, Areas and Sections.
 - (8) To provide legal advice when needed.
 - (9) To provide assistance in developing access to playing fields, including the formation of subsidiary corporations for such purpose consistent with the Organization’s nonprofit status.
 - (10) To provide statements of policy relating to the foregoing areas of responsibility.
 - (11) To conduct the business of the Organization as a nonprofit corporation.

- (b) The Board may grant the right to a Region to operate special programs under certain rules and guidelines as may be approved from time to time by the Board. In addition, the Board may, consistent with these Bylaws, and the policies, rules, regulations and philosophies of the Organization, authorize the Organization and any of its divisions to operate, participate in or sponsor, alone or in concert with other organizations, other similar youth development activities, including soccer camps and after-school soccer programs. In approving applications for such activities, the Board must be assured that any such program will not overburden or conflict with the current existing programs and philosophies of AYSO.

SECTION 1.04 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A REGION

The duties and responsibilities of a Region shall be:

- (a) To operate and offer a quality youth soccer program in a safe, fun, fair and positive environment that complies in spirit and letter with the Bylaws, policies, rules, regulations and philosophies of the Organization;
- (b) To maintain good community relations with the primary objective being youth development and to become involved in other community activities;
- (c) To register all participating players, coaches, referees, administrators and other volunteers, prior to the commencement of the season and, as applicable, throughout the season, in accordance with the registration and application requirements and procedures of the Organization;
- (d) To assign players and coaches to assure proper balance of teams within each age division within the Region or within a reasonable part thereof;
- (e) To obtain and maintain safe playing facilities;
- (f) To obtain and be accountable for uniforms, balls, goals and other equipment and to use such equipment in a safe manner;
- (g) To schedule practices and games;
- (h) To recruit and assign volunteer coaches and referees, and train them through clinics and audio/visual programs;
- (i) To disseminate information to the participants, their families and the community concerning the Region and its programs;
- (j) To recognize volunteer efforts;
- (k) To hold periodic meetings of the Regional Board and disseminate to the participants, their families and the community appropriate information concerning the operation of the Region by the Board;
- (l) To publish for the Region and the files of the Organization, and make available to the participants and their families at least annually, financial statements of the Region and guidelines for the operation of the Region approved by the Area Director and Section Director, or in the absence of such guidelines operate the Region in accordance with the Standard Regional Policies and Protocols as are in effect from time to time;
- (m) To collect and disburse fees and other moneys for the sound financial organization and operation of the Region, to keep and submit to the AYSO Office as required, accurate financial records to insure continuation of the tax exempt status of the Organization, to participate in the National Accounting Program, and to pay to the AYSO Office prior to the start of each season the National portion of its registration fees and all amounts due with respect to its purchases;

- (n) To elect or appoint, at a minimum, a Regional Commissioner, Treasurer, and a third board member to assist with Regional operations. At the discretion of the Region, when volunteers are available, to elect or appoint a Coach Administrator, Referee Administrator, Safety Director, Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) and Registrar. (At least one board member must be trained, designated as, and responsible for the CVPA position; the responsibilities of the remaining unfilled positions should be assumed by the three required members).
- (o) To comply with the Soccer Accident Insurance (SAI) plan and to submit insurance claims according to current procedures;
- (p) To notify the AYSO Office immediately of any threatened or actual claim against a Region;
- (q) To implement the Organization's National programs available to the Region at least once a season;
- (r) To cooperate with neighboring Regions, and Area, Section and development personnel, to promote growth, development and cooperation throughout the Organization;
- (s) To participate in Area, Section and National events and programs and;
- (t) To cooperate in policies and procedures developed by the Board or the AYSO Office with respect to requiring each coach, referee and other designated volunteers to complete a volunteer form, and with respect to verifying the information obtained, before permitting the coach, referee or such volunteer to participate.

SECTION 1.05 PILOT PROGRAM REGIONS

- (a) The Board may from time to time establish a pilot program Region within a geographical area, not in conflict with an existing Region. A pilot program Region may also be established by mutual approval of the Section Director and the National Executive Director.
- (b) A Regional Commissioner for the pilot program will be appointed by the Section Director for a term not to exceed three years. Such pilot Regional Commissioner for the pilot program shall not become an executive member unless and until the pilot program is chartered as a Region and appointed by the National Board of Directors.
- (c) The pilot program will operate and be subject to the Organization's Bylaws, rules, regulations, policies and philosophies.
- (d) The pilot program Region shall apply for its charter within five years of inception. Existing pilots shall apply for their charter within five years commencing July 1, 2004. If deemed necessary, a pilot program Region may be extended for an indefinite period of time with review by the Area Director, Section Director and National Board approval.

SECTION 1.06 CHARTERED REGIONS

- (a) Responsible adults apply for the charter and show a willingness to abide by the Bylaws, rules, regulations, policies and philosophies of the Organization;
- (b) The Region plans to field a reasonably expected number of teams during its forthcoming season, or has reached a reasonably expected number of players based on the demographics of its geographical location;
- (c) No geographic conflict exists with any other Region;
- (d) The Region has maintained financial and administrative stability and fulfilled its financial and other obligations as a pilot Region.

SECTION 1.07 REVOCATION OF CHARTER OR PILOT STATUS

The Board may reduce a chartered Region to pilot status or suspend or revoke the charter or pilot status of any Region not in compliance with its duties and responsibilities as defined in Section 1.04 or for noncompliance with these Bylaws or the rules, regulations, policies and philosophies of the Organization.

ARTICLE II: OFFICES

SECTION 2.01 PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The Organization's principal office (the "AYSO Office") shall be fixed and located in such place as the Board shall determine from time to time.

SECTION 2.02 OTHER OFFICES

Branch or subordinate offices may be established at any time by the National Executive Director at any place or places.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERS

SECTION 3.01 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS

There shall be three categories of members: honorary members, executive members and participating members.

SECTION 3.02 HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary membership may be extended by the Board to individuals who have rendered outstanding or extraordinary service on behalf of youth soccer in America. The term, rights, duties and privileges of each honorary member shall be fixed by the Board.

SECTION 3.03 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Executive membership shall be extended to:

- (a) All members of the Board as long as they remain on the Board.
- (b) All Section Directors, Area Directors, Special Directors, and Regional Commissioners of chartered Regions as long as they hold their respective positions.

No person may hold more than one position within the Organization which is an executive membership position and such memberships shall not be transferable.

SECTION 3.04 PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

(a) Participating membership shall be extended to:

- (1) All youth who exhibit a sincere interest in soccer and who have become registered as a participating player pursuant to the *Rules & Regulations* of the Organization.
- (2) All Region, Area and Section volunteers, other than executive members, who become registered with the Organization, including all Section and Area staff, and all Regional administrators, coaches and referees.

- (b) The term of each participating member shall be the length of time such participating member is registered with the Organization.

SECTION 3.05 RIGHT TO VOTE

- (a) Only executive members shall have the right to vote. Each executive member of record shall be entitled to cast one vote at meetings of the executive members. Whenever any corporate action is to be taken by vote of the executive members, it shall, except as otherwise expressly provided by the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law (the “Law”) or by these Bylaws, be authorized by a majority of votes cast (not counting abstentions) by the executive members.
- (b) Nothing in this Section 3.05 shall be construed as limiting the right of the Organization to refer to persons or entities associated with it as “members” even though such persons or entities are not executive members as defined in Section 3.03, and no such reference shall constitute anyone a member, within the meaning of Section 5056 of the Law or the foregoing provisions of this Section 3.05, unless such persons or entities shall have qualified for executive membership as set forth above. All references in these Bylaws, or in the Law, to “approval by the members” or “approval by a majority of all members” shall be deemed to apply to the executive members only.

SECTION 3.06 REGIONAL REGISTRATION FEE

Each participating player shall pay a registration fee in such amounts and at such times as shall be determined by the Region. These fees shall be sufficient to enable the Region to meet its financial obligations, including its financial and other commitments to the Organization.

SECTION 3.07 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Board, or its designee, may expel an executive member for conduct which the Board shall deem inimical to the best interests of the Organization, including, without limitation, violation of any provision of these Bylaws or any of the rules, regulations, policies or philosophies of the Organization.
- (b) The Board, or its designee, shall give the executive member who is the subject of the proposed action 15 days prior notice of the proposed expulsion and the reasons therefore. The executive member may submit orally or in a written statement to the Board, or its designee, a response regarding the proposed action not less than five days before the effective date of the proposed expulsion. Prior to the effective date of the proposed action, the Board, or a designee authorized to decide that the proposed expulsion not take place, shall review any such statement submitted and shall determine the mitigating effect, if any, of the information contained therein on the proposed expulsion.
- (c) The procedures contained in subparagraph (b) above shall only apply to the termination of an executive member's rights as a member under the Law. The Board, or its designee, may, without notice or hearing, suspend any or all operational powers or authority that an executive member may have by virtue of holding a position described in ARTICLE VII for a period not to exceed 90 days.
- (d) Sections 3.07(a), (b) and (c) do not govern the expulsion or suspension of a participating member. Separate protocols apply to participating members. The Board shall establish standards and procedures for the suspension or expulsion of a participating member.

SECTION 3.08 PLACE OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the entire executive membership shall be held at any place designated by the Board. The Board may also declare that a meeting of the entire executive membership may be held, in whole or in part, by electronic transmission by and to the corporation or by electronic video screen communication pursuant to California Corporations Code section 5510. Executive members who attend meetings of the entire executive membership at the place designated by the Board must cast their votes while in the room in which said meeting is being held.

SECTION 3.09 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of all executive members of the Organization, the “annual meeting” or the NAGM, shall be held within 45 days of the end of each fiscal year but preferably before the end of each fiscal year. Directors shall be elected at the NAGM and any other proper business may be transacted at the NAGM.

SECTION 3.10 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the executive membership shall be held as may be determined necessary by the Board or at the request of one-third of the executive members. In addition, regular or special meetings of executive members within any particular division of the Organization shall be held as may be determined necessary by the Area Director, Section Director or Board.

SECTION 3.11 NOTICE OF ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (a) Written notice of each annual or special meeting of executive members shall be given not less than 10 nor more than 90 days before the date of the meeting to each executive member entitled to notice thereof; provided, however, that if notice is given by mail but is not mailed by first-class, registered, or certified mail, the notice shall be given not less than 20 days before the meeting. Such notice shall state the place, date and hour of the meeting and,
 - (1) in the case of a special meeting, the general nature of the business to be transacted, and no other business may be transacted, or
 - (2) in the case of the annual meeting, those matters which the Board, at the time of the giving of the notice, intends to present for action by the executive members, but, subject to the provisions of applicable law, any proper matter may be presented at the meeting for action.
- (b) Notice of an executive members' meeting shall be given by any means permitted by Bylaw 9.14 or Section 5511(b) of the Law.
- (c) The notice of any meeting at which Directors are to be elected shall include the names of all those who are nominees at the time the notice is sent to the executive members.

SECTION 3.12 QUORUM

A majority of the executive members, present either in person or by proxy, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at a meeting. Any executive member appearing virtually, either by electronic transmission by and to the corporation or by electronic video screen communication, shall be considered to be appearing in person at that meeting for the purpose of determining the existence of a quorum.

SECTION 3.13 ADJOURNED MEETINGS AND NOTICE THEREOF

Any executive members' meeting, whether or not a quorum is present, may be adjourned from time to time by the vote of a majority of the votes represented either in person or by proxy, but in the absence of a quorum no other business may be transacted at such meeting. It shall not be necessary to give any notice of the time and place of the adjourned meeting or of the business to be transacted thereat, other than by announcement at the meeting at which such adjournment is taken; provided, however, when any executive members' meeting is adjourned for more than 45 days, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the meeting as originally called, whether annual or special.

SECTION 3.14 PROXIES

Every executive member entitled to vote at a meeting of executive members or to express consent or dissent without a meeting may authorize another person or persons to act for her/him by written proxy. Every proxy must be signed by the executive member. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of three months from the

date thereof. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the executive member executing it. The proxy, in order to be valid, must be delivered to, and accepted by, the National Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting.

SECTION 3.15 ACTION BY MEMBERS WITHOUT A MEETING BY WRITTEN BALLOT

- (a) Any action which may be taken at any regular or special meeting of the executive members may be taken without a meeting provided there is satisfaction of the following ballot requirements:
 - (1) The Organization distributes a written ballot to every executive member entitled to vote on the matter;
 - (2) The ballot sets forth the proposed action, provides an opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of any proposal, and provides a reasonable time within which to return the ballot to the Organization;
 - (3) The number of votes cast by ballot within the time period specified equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action;
 - (4) The number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot; and
 - (5) The ballot shall be solicited in a manner consistent with Section 5511(b) of the Law and Section 3.16 of these Bylaws. All such solicitations shall indicate that number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirement and, with respect to ballots other than for the elections of Directors, shall state the percentage of approvals necessary to pass the measures submitted. The solicitation shall specify the time by which the ballot must be received in order to be counted.
- (b) Directors may be elected by written ballot.
- (c) A written ballot may not be revoked.
- (d) The Board shall give written notice of the results of any vote taken under this Section 3.15 within 30 days after the time period specified for the receipt of ballots.

SECTION 3.16 FORM OF PROXY OR WRITTEN BALLOT

The form of any written ballot or proxy distributed to 10 or more of the executive members shall afford an opportunity on the form of written ballot or proxy to specify a choice between approval and disapproval of each matter or group of related matters intended, at the time the written ballot is distributed, to be acted on by such written ballot or proxy. The form shall also provide, subject to reasonable specified conditions, that where the person solicited specifies a choice with respect to any such matter, the vote must be cast in accordance therewith. In any election of Directors, any form of written ballot or proxy in which the Directors to be voted on are named therein as candidates and which is marked by an executive member “withhold” or otherwise marked in a manner indicating that the authority to vote for the election of Directors is withheld shall not be voted either for or against the election of a Director.

SECTION 3.17 CONDUCT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER MEETINGS

The National President may preside as chairman at all meetings of the executive members. The chairman shall conduct each such meeting in a businesslike and fair manner, but shall not be obligated to follow any technical, formal or parliamentary rules or principles of procedure. The chairman shall have all of the powers usually vested in the chairman of a meeting of members.

SECTION 3.18 RIGHTS OF INSPECTION

These Bylaws, the Articles and the accounting books and records and minutes of proceedings of the Organization, of the Board, of the committees of the Board, and of each division of the Organization shall be open to inspection upon the written request of any executive member.

SECTION 3.19 POSTPONEMENT OF 2020 NAGM

The COVID-19 virus has created a pandemic that has disrupted all aspects of life. Forty-three states have issued full or partial shelter-in-place orders to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Meetings of more than 10 people are prohibited in the majority of states in the United States, and social distancing is required at any such meeting. It is currently unknown how long these restrictions will last.

Bylaw 3.09 requires AYSO to hold an annual meeting of members (“NAGM”) no later than 45 days after the end of AYSO’s fiscal year. AYSO’s fiscal year ends June 30. At this time, it is unknown if AYSO can timely hold the annual meeting currently scheduled for June 5-7, 2020. As such, the Board considers the COVID-19 pandemic to be a *force majeure* event requiring modification of Bylaw 3.09 as well as other bylaws related to the holding of an annual meeting of executive members in 2020.

The Board hereby postpones the 2020 NAGM such that it will be held on the same date, time and at the same location as the 2021 NAGM. The term of the current President of the National Board of Directors is hereby extended until the election for that position at the 2021 NAGM. To remain consistent with Bylaw 4.03, which requires that Directors hold staggered terms, the terms of each member of the National Board of Directors are also extended by one year. All currently proposed amendments to AYSO Bylaws and/or AYSO National Rules and Regulations that could have been considered at the 2020 NAGM will be considered at the 2021 NAGM should the proponents of those amendments wish to have them considered at that time. All persons currently nominated to the AYSO National Board of Directors shall have their nominations carry over to the 2021 NAGM.

ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS

SECTION 4.01 POWERS

Subject to any limitations contained in the Articles of Incorporation (the “Articles”), these Bylaws or the Law relating to action required to be approved by the executive members or by a majority of all the executive members, the activities and affairs of the Organization shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board. The Board may delegate the management of the activities of the Organization to any person or persons, Management Company, or committee however composed, provided that the activities and affairs of the Organization shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the ultimate direction of the Board. Without prejudice to such general powers, but subject to the same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated in these Bylaws:

- (a) To select and remove all officers (except the National President), agents and employees of the Organization, prescribe powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with law, the Articles or these Bylaws, fix their compensation and require from them such security, if any, for faithful service as the Board may deem appropriate. In the case of the removal or resignation of the National President, under the provisions of Section 6.04, the National Board of Directors shall appoint one of the Directors to fulfill the remainder of the term until the next National Annual General Meeting of the executive members.
- (b) To conduct, manage and control the affairs and activities of the Organization, and to make such Rules & Regulations therefore not inconsistent with law, the Articles or these Bylaws, as they may deem appropriate.
- (c) To adopt, make and use a corporate seal and to alter the form of such seal from time to time, as they may deem appropriate.

- (d) To authorize the issuance of memberships in the Organization from time to time, upon such terms and for such consideration as may be lawful.
- (e) To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Organization, and to cause to be executed and delivered therefore, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecation or other evidence of debt and securities therefore.

SECTION 4.02 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

- (a) The authorized number of Directors of the Organization shall be thirteen until changed by an amendment to these Bylaws duly adopted with the approval of the executive members.
- (b) Eleven of the Directors shall be elected from the membership or from volunteers who have participated within the Organization.
- (c) Two of the Directors (the “Outside Directors”) may be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Directors who were elected by executive members pursuant to Section 4.02(b), or selected pursuant to Section 4.17(b). The Outside Directors shall be selected and appointed to provide outside perspective and bring particular expertise, experience or skills to the Board for the benefit of the Organization, including but not limited to the areas of financial management, fundraising, media, child development, sponsorship, sports medicine, youth sports business and/or strategic expertise, or technology. A person may not serve as an Outside Director if, in the opinion of the Board, such person has a material relationship with the Organization, which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - (i) Employment of such person or any member of such person’s family as an executive officer of the Organization at any time during the past five years; (ii) prior service as a member of the Organization’s Board of Directors at any time during the past five years; and (iii) prior service as a Section Director of the Organization at any time during the past five years.

SECTION 4.03 TERM OF OFFICE

- (a) The eleven Directors elected from the membership or from volunteers shall serve staggered terms of three years each. The executive members, under the procedures prescribed in Section 4.05, shall elect three classes of Directors, with the first class having three Directors, the second class having four Directors and the third class having four Directors. The term of office for the Directors in each class shall expire at the third following annual meeting of the executive members and each succeeding third year thereafter.
- (b) The two Outside Directors shall serve staggered terms of two years; however, similar to the fact that the eleven directors described in Section 4.03(a) may be re-elected to that position, each of the two Outside Directors may be reappointed to that position for another term of two years subject to the discretion of the Board. Except as provided below with respect to the initial terms of the first two Outside Directors appointed by the Board under Section 4.02(c) or as needed in the event of a vacancy in an Outside Director position prior to the end of such Outside Director’s term, the terms of the two Outside Directors shall commence on January 1 and shall end on December 31 two years thereafter. In the case of the initial terms of the first two Outside Directors appointed by the Board and in the case of the term of an Outside Director appointed in the event of a vacancy in an Outside Director position prior to the end of _ such Outside Director’s term, the term of appointment of an Outside Director may have a beginning date other than January 1 and may be more or less than two years, provided that the terms of the Outside Directors shall be staggered such that, in any year, only one Outside Director’s term shall end on December 31.

SECTION 4.04 PROCEDURES FOR THE NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

- (a) A nominating commission shall be formed that is comprised of at least eight (8) commission members for the nomination of candidates for election as Directors and the President at the annual meeting of executive members at which Directors and the President are to be elected. One member shall be a member of the Board whose term of office will not expire at the annual meeting of the executive members with respect

to the election for which the Board member is acting as a member of the nominating commission. The Board member will serve as a non-voting Chair for the commission. All commission members together shall be designated by the Board and charged to seek qualified candidates for election to the Board and President. The members shall be appointed in a manner prescribed in a National Policy Statement of the Board. The term of appointment to the commission shall be for two years, however, the Board member who is Chair of the commission may be appointed for only one year. At least 120 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members at which Directors and the President are to be elected, the nominating commission shall make its report to the Board in which the commission identifies the candidates nominated by the commission. The National Secretary shall forward to each executive member, by means of communication permitted by Bylaw Section 9, a list of candidates nominated by office.

- (1) No person who serves as a commission member concerning candidates for election at a particular annual meeting of executive members shall be eligible to seek subsequently to be, or accept nomination as, or otherwise be, a candidate for election to the Board or as President at the same annual meeting of executive members to which the nominating commission relates. This prohibition includes, without limitation, each method for nomination of candidates specified in this Bylaw 4.04.
 - (2) By serving as a member, each commission member shall be deemed to waive any rights that such person may otherwise have to be a candidate for election to the Board or as President with respect to the election for which such person is acting as a member of the nominating commission.
- (b) Candidates for election as Directors and/or as President at an annual meeting of executive members may be nominated by petition signed by at least six executive members and delivered to the AYSO Office to the attention of the National Secretary at least 75 days prior to the date of such annual meeting. On timely receipt of such petition, the National Secretary shall cause the names of the candidate(s) named on such petition to be placed on the ballot along with all other properly nominated candidates for Director and/or President.
- (c) Any executive member at the National Annual General Meeting present in person or by proxy may place names of candidates for election as Directors and/or President in nomination. Due to the logistical challenges of holding a hybrid in-person and virtual National Annual General Meeting, persons nominated pursuant to this subsection must be present at said National Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 4.05 VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- (a) The Directors and President shall be elected at the National Annual General Meeting.
- (b) At the National Annual General Meeting, the election of the Directors shall precede the election of the National President.
- (c) The eleven Directors to be elected from the membership at large shall be elected by classes, with each class consisting of either three or four seats. The executive members shall cast their votes for all Directors of the same class at the same time. Each executive member shall be entitled to cast one vote for each seat in the class. These votes may not be cumulative, but each vote must be cast in favor of a different candidate. All nominations for the class must close before the first ballot is taken. After the executive members have cast their ballots, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes, either in person or by proxy, are elected.
- (d) The two Outside Directors shall be appointed separately by the NBOD in accordance with 4.02(c).

SECTION 4.06 PLACE OF MEETINGS

Regular or special meetings of the Board shall be held at any place which has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Board. In the absence of such designation, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Organization.

SECTION 4.07 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Board shall hold an annual meeting for the purposes of organization, selection of officers and the transaction of other business. Annual meetings of the Board shall be held on such dates and at such times as may be fixed by the Board.

SECTION 4.08 REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Board may be held without call or notice on such dates and at such times as may be fixed by the Board.

SECTION 4.09 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Board for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Board, the National President, the National Secretary or any two Directors.

SECTION 4.10 NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

- (a) Annual and special meetings of the Board shall be held upon at least seven days' notice by first-class mail or 48 hours' notice given personally or by telephone, electronic transmission, or other similar means of communication permitted by Bylaw Section 9.14.
- (b) Any such notice shall be addressed or transmitted to each Director at such Director's address as it is shown upon the records of the Organization or as may have been given to the Organization by the Director for purposes of notice.
- (c) Notice by mail shall be deemed to have been given at the time a written notice is deposited in the United States mails, postage prepaid. Any other written notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time it is personally delivered to the recipient or is delivered to a common carrier for transmission, or actually transmitted if giving the notice by electronic means. Oral notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time it is communicated, in person or by telephone or wireless, to the recipient or to a person at the office or residence of the recipient who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate it to the receiver.

SECTION 4.11 WAIVER OF NOTICE

Notice of a meeting need not be given to any Director who signs a waiver of notice or a written consent to holding the meeting or an approval of the minutes thereof, whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to such Director. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 4.12 QUORUM

- (a) A majority of the Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except to adjourn as provided in Section 4.15. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Board, unless a greater number be required by the Law, the Articles, or these Bylaws, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section 4.12.
- (b) A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business notwithstanding the withdrawal of Directors, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for such meeting; provided, that the Board can only take action pursuant to this subparagraph (b) on items included in the agenda for the meeting.

SECTION 4.13 PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE TELEPHONE

Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board or a committee meeting through use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment so long as all Directors participating in such meeting can hear one another.

SECTION 4.14 ADJOURNMENT

A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any Directors' meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Directors if the time and place be fixed at the meeting adjourned, except as provided in the next sentence. If the meeting is adjourned for more than 24 hours, reasonable notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the Directors who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

SECTION 4.15 ACTION BY BOARD WITHOUT A MEETING

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board or any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board or the committee shall individually or collectively consent in writing to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and written consents thereto shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board or committee.

SECTION 4.16 RIGHTS OF INSPECTION

Every Director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Organization.

SECTION 4.17 VACANCIES

- (a) Subject to the provisions of Section 5226 of the Law, any Director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairman of the Board, the National President, the National Secretary or the Board, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. If the resignation is effective at a future time, a successor may be selected before such time, to take office when the resignation becomes effective.
- (b) Vacancies may be filled by a majority of the remaining Directors, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining Director at any regular or special meeting of the Board. Each Director so selected shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the executive members and until a successor has been selected to serve the remainder of the vacated Director's term of office.
- (c) A vacancy in the Board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation or removal of any Director, or if the authorized number of Directors be increased, or if the executive members fail, at any regular or special meeting of executive members at which any Director or Directors are elected, to elect the full authorized number of Directors to be voted for at that meeting.
- (d) The Board may declare vacant the office of a Director who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty arising under Sections 5230 through 5238 of the Law. In addition, the Board may remove, and declare vacant, the office of a Director who fails to attend three Board meetings within any one fiscal year.
- (e) The executive members may elect a Director or Directors at any time to fill any vacancy or vacancies not filled by the Directors.
- (f) No reduction of the authorized number of Directors shall have the effect of removing any Director prior to the expiration of the Director's term of office.

SECTION 4.18 REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

Except as otherwise provided herein or by the Law, any or all Directors may be removed with or without cause, by a majority vote of the executive members participating in such vote.

SECTION 4.19 FEES AND COMPENSATION

Directors shall not receive any compensation for their services as Directors or as members of committees or commissions, but reimbursement or advancement may be made for any expenses incurred or paid by them for the benefit of the Organization.

The Organization shall not make any loan of money or property to, or guarantee the obligation of, any Director or officer, unless approved by the California Attorney General; provided, however, that the Organization may advance money to a Director or officer of the Organization for expenses reasonably anticipated to be incurred in the performance of the duties of such officer or Director, provided that in the absence of any such advance, such Director or officer would be entitled to be reimbursed for such expenses by the Organization. Subject to the provisions of Section 5227 of the Law, nothing contained in this Section 4.19 shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the Organization in any other capacity as an officer, agent, employee or otherwise and receiving compensation therefore.

SECTION 4.20 INTERESTED TRANSACTIONS PROHIBITED

No director shall enter into any interested or self-dealing transaction with the Organization except as may be in compliance with Section 5233 of the Law.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

SECTION 5.01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Board may, by resolution adopted by a majority of the number of Directors then in office, establish an Executive Committee consisting of such number of Directors as may be determined by the Board. The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise only such powers as are specifically delegated to it by the Board to manage the business and affairs of the Organization.
- (b) Appointments to the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote of the Directors then in office. A majority of all the members of the Executive Committee may determine its rules of procedure unless the Board shall otherwise provide. The Board shall have the power to change the members of the Executive Committee at any time, either with or without cause, and to fill vacancies; provided, however, that all appointments to the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote of the Directors then in office.
- (c) Any action that under the provisions of the Law may be taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting if authorized by a writing signed by all members of the Executive Committee who would be entitled to vote at a meeting for such purpose and filed with the National Secretary.
- (d) The Board may, at any regular or special meeting, overrule any action or actions of the Executive Committee by a majority vote of all members of the Board, provided that any such action will not affect the contractual rights of parties outside the Organization.

SECTION 5.02 STANDING OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- (a) If the Board determines that the management of the Organization would be benefited by the establishment of one or more standing or special committees, in addition to the Executive Committee, the Board may from time to time establish one or more such committees.

- (b) The term “standing committee” or “special committee” shall mean any committee appointed by the Board which is authorized by specific delegation, without further Board action, to make and implement decisions on behalf of the Board, or to implement, with some degree of discretion, decisions of the Board pursuant to guidelines established by the Board.
- (c) The establishment of a standing or special committee shall be effected by a resolution of the Board approved by the vote of the majority of the Directors then in office, which specifically sets forth the powers and duties delegated to such committee and specifically identifies the committee as a “standing” or “special committee.” Each such committee shall consist of two or more Directors and shall be presided over by a Director selected by the Board.
- (d) Notice of, and procedures for, meetings of standing or special committees shall be as prescribed by the chairman of each such standing or special committee, and meetings of standing or special committees may be called by the Board or the chairman of the standing or special committee.

SECTION 5.03 LIMITATIONS UPON COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

No committee of the Board shall have any of the authority of the Board with respect to:

- (a) The approval of any action for which the Law also requires approval of the executive members or approval of a majority of all executive members;
- (b) The filling of vacancies on the Board or on any committee that has the authority of the Board;
- (c) The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws;
- (d) The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board that by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable;
- (e) The appointment of other committees of the Board or the members thereof if such committee will have the authority of the Board;
- (f) The expenditure of corporate funds to support a nominee for Director after there are more people nominated for Director than can be elected; or
- (g) The approval of any self-dealing transaction, except that when it is not reasonably practicable to obtain approval of the Board prior to entering into such a transaction, a committee authorized by the Board may approve the transaction in a manner consistent with the standards set forth in Section 5233(d) of the Law subject to ratification by a majority of the Directors then in office (without counting the vote of any interested Director) at the next meeting of the Board.

SECTION 5.04 ADVISORY COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS

The Chairman of the Board, the Board, or the National President may from time to time appoint such advisory commissions as deemed appropriate, consisting of Directors or persons who are not Directors, but such advisory commissions and councils shall not be deemed committees of the Board and shall not exercise any powers of the Board. Notice of, and procedures for, meetings of advisory commissions and councils shall be as prescribed by the chairman of each such advisory commission and councils, and meetings of advisory commissions and councils may be called by the Chairman of the Board, the Board, the Executive Committee, the National President or the chairman of the advisory commission and council.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

SECTION 6.01 OFFICERS

The officers of the Organization shall be a National President, a National Secretary and a National Treasurer. The Organization may also have, at the discretion of the Board, a Chairman of the Board, a National Executive Vice President, one or more National Vice Presidents, one or more Assistant National Secretaries, one or more Assistant National Treasurers, a National Executive Director, and such other officers as may be elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.03. No person shall hold more than one office.

SECTION 6.02 ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

After all the Directors have been elected under the provisions of Sections 4.05 or 4.17, the executive members shall elect one Director, by a majority of the votes cast, to serve a one year term as National President.

If no Director receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the executive members shall elect one of the two Directors receiving the highest total of votes cast on the first vote. All other officers of the Organization, except such officers as may be elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.03 or 6.05 shall be chosen annually by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the Board. They shall hold their respective offices until their resignation, removal, or other disqualification from service or until their respective successors shall be elected.

SECTION 6.03 SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

The Board may elect, and may empower the National President to appoint, such other officers as the business of the Organization may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority and perform such duties as are provided in these Bylaws or as the Board may from time to time determine.

SECTION 6.04 REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

The National President can be removed only under the provisions of Section 4.17(d) and 4.18 of these Bylaws. Any other officer may be removed at any time, either with or without cause, by the vote of two-thirds of the entire Board or, in the case of an officer, who is chosen under Section 6.03, by any officer upon whom such power of removal may be conferred by the Board. Any such removal shall be without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the officer under any contract of employment.

Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chairman of the Board, National President or National Secretary of the Board, but without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Organization under any contract to which the officer is a party. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

SECTION 6.05 VACANCIES

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws for regular election or appointment to such office, provided that such vacancies shall be filled as they occur and not on an annual basis.

SECTION 6.06 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Chairman of the Board, if there be such an officer, shall assume the duties and responsibilities normally associated with the position or those duties assigned by the Board.

SECTION 6.07 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The National President shall be the chief executive officer of the Organization and, subject to the control of the Board, shall:

- (a) Provide leadership and broad guidance to the Organization in all its activities;
- (b) Preside, when present, at the meetings of the executive members and at the meetings of the Board;
- (c) Nominate, subject to the approval of a majority of the entire Board and without prejudice to the rights of all Board members to make such nominations, members of Board committees as and when needed;
- (d) Have the general powers and duties usually vested in the office of President of a nonprofit volunteer organization;
- (e) Prepare and submit at each NAGM a written annual report covering the Organization's activities for the twelve months ending on the date of the Meeting; and
- (f) Have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or these Bylaws.

SECTION 6.08 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The National Executive Vice President if any, shall assume the duties of the National President in the latter's absence and perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board.

SECTION 6.09 NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

The National Vice Presidents, if any, shall perform such duties as may be directed by the National President and have such other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Board.

SECTION 6.10 NATIONAL SECRETARY

The National Secretary, or a designee, shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of all Board and executive members' meetings, certify official records, maintain a list of names and addresses of all executive members, and issue notice of meetings of the executive members and the Board. The National Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of California the original or a copy of the Organization's Articles and Bylaws, as amended to date.

SECTION 6.11 NATIONAL TREASURER

The National Treasurer, or such person designated by the Board, shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Organization, have custody of all funds, securities, evidence of indebtedness and other valuable documents, and deposit funds and securities in the name and to the credit of this Organization in a bank or depository. The National Treasurer, or such designee, may invest such funds under the supervision of the Board in such investments as may comply with Section 5240 of the Law. The National Treasurer, or such designee, shall keep in appropriate books an accurate account of all money received and paid out. The National Treasurer or such designee shall render a report of the funds, receipts and disbursements of the Organization annually or at such other times as requested by the Board.

SECTION 6.12 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The National Executive Director shall be the chief operating officer of the Organization and, subject to the supervision of the Board, shall:

- (a) Manage the business and affairs of the Organization;

- (b) Hire, supervise, and direct all employees of the Organization, and have the power to delegate responsibilities and commensurate authority to subordinates;
- (c) Manage the collection, deposit, investment and disbursement of all funds of the Organization in accordance with the specific or general instructions of the National Treasurer.
- (d) Be a nonvoting staff advisor to the Board, Executive Committee, if any, and all standing committees, if any, and when invited, shall attend meetings of the Board, Executive Committee and/or standing committees;
- (e) Have the power to suspend a Section Director, Area Director or Regional Commissioner for conduct which the National Executive Director believes inimical to the best interests of the Organization, including, without limitation, violation of any provision of these Bylaws or any of the rules, regulations, policies or philosophies of the Organization;
- (f) Have the general powers and duties of management usually vested in the office of a National Executive Director or general manager of a nonprofit volunteer organization; and
- (g) Have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: SPECIAL DIRECTORS

SECTION 7.01 SECTION DIRECTOR

A Section Director shall be nominated by themselves and the Area Directors within each Section. Such nomination shall be submitted to the National Board of Directors for its consideration. The National Board of Directors shall have the discretion whether or not to appoint the nominee as Section Director, and shall have the discretion to make the appointment for a term of three years or for such shorter time period as the National Board of Directors deems appropriate in its sole discretion. Each Section Director shall:

- a) Report to the Board and be responsible for the performance and growth of his or her Section and all inter-Area activities within such Section.
- b) Organize and maintain volunteer staff to assure adequate support and services to the Area in his or her Section.
- c) Be the official spokesperson for the Section with respect to all AYSO matters, including, without limitation, publicity, outside development, business systems and budgets.
- d) Be responsible for such other matters that directly relate to the operation of the Section, and
- e) Oversee dispute resolution within the Section.
- f) A Section Director may be suspended or removed by the Board.

SECTION 7.02 AREA DIRECTOR

An Area Director shall be nominated by themselves and the Regional Commissioners within each Area. If the Section Director, whose territory includes that Area approves the nomination of that person as Area Director, then, in such event the nomination subsequently (i) will be delivered to the National Board of Directors for its consideration; and (ii) the National Board of Directors shall have the discretion whether or not to appoint the nominee, and, if the National Board of Directors elects in its discretion to appoint the nominee, the National Board of Directors shall have the discretion to make the appointment for a term of three years or for shorter time period as the National Board of Directors deems appropriate. Each Area Director shall:

- (a) Report to the Section Director and be responsible for the performance and growth of their Areas and all inter-Regional and extra-Regional activities within their Areas;
- (b) Organize and maintain volunteer staff to assure adequate support and services to the Regions in their Areas;
- (c) Be the official spokesman for the Area in regard to publicity, outside development, cultural exchange, internal development, business systems, budgets, bylaws, Board policies, Rules & Regulations;
- (d) Be responsible for such other matters that directly relate to the operation of the Area; and
- (e) Oversee dispute resolution within the Area.

An Area Director may be suspended by the Section Director responsible for such Area and suspended or removed by the Board.

SECTION 7.03 REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

A Regional Commissioner shall be nominated by a majority of the Regional Board in accordance with the Standard Regional Policies and Protocols as properly amended, if at all. If the Area Director and the Section Director whose territory includes that Region both approve the nomination of that person as Regional Commissioner, then, in such event the nomination subsequently (i) will be delivered to the National Board of Directors for its consideration; and (ii) the National Board of Directors shall have the discretion whether or not to appoint the nominee, and, if the National Board of Directors elects in its discretion to appoint the nominee, the National Board of Directors shall have the discretion to make the appointment for a term of three years or for a shorter time period as the National Board of Directors deems appropriate. A Regional Commissioner shall have the responsibility and authority to administer the day-to-day business of the Region within the framework of these Bylaws, including without limitation, Section 1.04 hereof, and the Standard Regional Policies and Protocols as properly amended, if at all. A Regional Commissioner shall maintain close liaison with the Area Director and coordinate inter-Area activities through the Area Director. A Regional Commissioner may be suspended by the Area Director or the Section Director and suspended or removed by the National Board of Directors.

SECTION 7.04 OTHER SPECIAL DIRECTORS

It shall be within the authority of the Board to establish positions that are not set forth within these Bylaws and to appoint Special Directors to fill those positions. Any person appointed to a position established under this Section 7.04 shall become an executive member of the Organization. Special Directors shall be appointed by the Board for a term of three years, or such shorter term as the Board may prescribe.

SECTION 7.05 MULTIPLE TERMS

Nothing contained in Section 7 shall limit the number of terms that an executive member may serve.

ARTICLE VIII: RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION 8.01 NATIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS

The Organization shall adopt a set of Rules & Regulations to be known as the “*National Rules & Regulations*” governing the conduct, playing, and scheduling of soccer games.

SECTION 8.02 AMENDMENTS

- (a) The *National Rules & Regulations* may be amended or repealed at the annual meeting of executive members if approved by the executive members provided that the proposed change has been submitted

by an executive member in writing to the AYSO Office no later than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members.

- (b) The requirement that a proposed change be submitted by an executive member in writing to the AYSO Office no later than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members may be suspended by the vote of two-thirds of the executive membership, either in person or by proxy.
- (c) *National Rules & Regulations* may be amended by the Board by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present and voting (but not less than a majority of the entire Board) at a Board meeting.

SECTION 8.03 SECTION RULES & REGULATIONS

- (a) Each Section may adopt such Rules & Regulations governing the conduct, playing, and scheduling of soccer games within the Section as may be deemed appropriate which are not inconsistent with the *National Rules & Regulations* as may be in effect from time to time.
- (b) The Section Rules & Regulations may be amended or repealed if approved by a majority of the chartered Regional Commissioners, Area Directors, and Section Director of the Section as a group, each being entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE IX: MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 9.01 INSPECTION OF ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

The Organization shall keep in its principal office in the State of California the original or a copy of its Articles and of these Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by the executive members at all reasonable times during office hours. The Organization shall upon the written request of any executive member furnish a copy of the Articles or Bylaws as amended to date.

SECTION 9.02 ENDORSEMENT OF DOCUMENTS: CONTRACTS

Subject to the provisions of applicable law, no note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between the Organization and any other person shall be valid and binding on the Organization unless the signing officers had the authority to execute the same. Unless so authorized by the Board, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Organization by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

SECTION 9.03 CONSTRUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the General Provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

SECTION 9.04 MAINTENANCE OF CORPORATE RECORDS

The accounting books, records, minutes of proceedings of the executive members, the Board and the Executive Committee shall be kept at such place or places designated by the Board or, in the absence of such designation, at the principal business office of the Organization. The minutes shall be kept in written, typed or printed form, and the accounting books and records shall be kept either in written typed or printed form or in any other form capable of being converted into written, typed or printed form.

SECTION 9.05 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board shall cause an annual report to be furnished to the Directors and executive members not later than 120 days after the close of the Organization's fiscal year. The annual report shall be accompanied by any report thereon of independent accountants, or, if there is no such accountant's report, the certificate of an authorized officer of the Organization that such statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the Organization. The annual report shall contain in appropriate detail the following:

- (a) The assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the corporation as of the end of the fiscal year;
- (b) The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the fiscal year;
- (c) The revenue or receipts of the Organization both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the fiscal year;
- (d) The expenses or disbursements of the Organization, for both general and restricted purposes, during the fiscal year; and
- (e) Any information required by Section 9.06.

SECTION 9.06 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS AND INDEMNIFICATION

- (a) The Organization shall furnish annually to its executive members and Directors a statement of any covered transaction or indemnification described below, if such covered transaction or indemnification took place. Such annual statement shall be affixed to and sent with the annual report described in Section 9.05. A covered transaction under this Section 9.06 is a transaction in which the Organization was a party, and in which any Director or officer had a direct or indirect material financial interest (excluding a mere common directorship).
- (b) The statement required by this Section 9.06 shall describe briefly:
 - (1) Any covered transaction during the previous fiscal year involving more than \$50,000 or which was one of a number of covered transactions in which the same interested persons had a direct or indirect material financial interest and which transactions in the aggregate involve more than \$50,000.
 - (2) The names of the interested persons involved in such transactions, stating such person's relationship to the Organization, the nature of such person's interest in the transaction, and, where practicable, the amount of such interest; provided that in the case of a transaction with a partnership of which such person is a partner, only the interest of the partnership need be stated.
 - (3) The amount and circumstances of any indemnification or advances aggregating more than \$10,000 paid during the fiscal year to any officer or Director of the Organization pursuant to Section 9.07; provided that no such report need be made in the case of indemnification that has been approved by the executive members.

SECTION 9.07 INDEMNIFICATION

The Organization shall, to the maximum extent permitted by Law, indemnify each executive member and the National Executive Director against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding arising by reason of the fact that such person is or was acting as an agent of the Organization and shall advance to such persons expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by law. The Board may, in its discretion, provide by resolution for such indemnification of, or advance of expenses to, other agents, members and employees of the Organization, and likewise may refuse to provide for such indemnification or advance of expenses except to the extent such indemnification is mandatory under the Law.

SECTION 9.08 INSURANCE

The Organization shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any agent of the Organization against any liability asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such whether or not the Organization will have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of Section 9.07, provided, however, that the Organization shall have no authority to purchase and maintain such insurance to indemnify any agent of the Organization for a violation of Section 5233 of the Law.

SECTION 9.09 PROHIBITED USES OF MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The membership list is a corporate asset. Without consent of the National Executive Director the membership list or any part thereof may not be used by any person for any purpose unrelated to an executive member's interest as an executive member. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, without the consent of the Board, or its designee, the membership list or any part thereof may not be:

- (a) Used to solicit money or property unless such money or property will be used solely for the benefit of the Organization;
- (b) Used for any purpose which the user does not reasonably and in good faith believe will benefit the Organization;
- (c) Used for any commercial purpose or purposes in competition with the Organization; or
- (d) Sold or purchased by any person.

SECTION 9.10 FEES

Each Region shall remit a membership fee to the Organization for each participating player in the Region in such amount as shall be determined from time to time by the executive members.

SECTION 9.11 FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Organization shall commence on July 1 of each year and end on June 30 of the following year.

SECTION 9.12 BUDGET PRESENTATION BY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Annually, the National Board of Directors shall present to the executive members at the National Annual General Meeting a set of goals and objectives for the American Youth Soccer Organization. The proposed budget for each fiscal year, which shall also be presented annually to the executive members, shall be predicated and based upon the stated goals and objectives. The proposed budget shall provide a thorough and specific analysis and explanation of how the proposed amount and type of expenditures assists the Organization in attaining its stated goals and objectives.

The National Board of Directors shall provide periodic status reports not less than quarterly through the AYSO National Web site and at the National Annual General Meeting regarding each goal and objective presented to the executive members.

SECTION 9.13. RIGHTS OF REGIONS

Regions have the right to choose their own suppliers.

SECTION 9.14 NOTICE, PUBLICATION, SOLICITATIONS OR COMMUNICATION

Any written notice, publication, report, solicitation or other communication required under these Bylaws or the Law, or in conducting the business of the Organization, may be made by electronic transmission or through any other means of communication permitted under the Law.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 10.01 BYLAWS

- (a) New Bylaws may be adopted or current Bylaws may be amended or repealed by the vote of two-thirds of the executive members, either in person or by proxy or ballot, except as otherwise provided by the Law. Amendments to be considered under the provisions of the section at the annual meeting of executive members must be submitted by an executive member in writing to the AYSO Office no later than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members.
- (b) The requirement that a proposed change be submitted by an executive member in writing to the AYSO Office no later than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members may be suspended by the vote of three-quarters of the Executive Membership, either in person or by proxy.
- (c) In addition to the right of the executive members as provided in subparagraph (a) to adopt, amend or repeal Bylaws, and except as otherwise provided in the Law, Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the Board by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present and voting (but not less than a majority of the entire Board) at a Board meeting unless the action would materially and adversely affect the rights of the executive members as to voting.
- (d) From time to time, AYSO Bylaws may be amended to impose limits on the terms that some or all executive members may serve in a particular executive member position. Should such term limits be imposed, they will not apply to any person serving as an executive member on the date that any such bylaw is approved. Should any such term limit be repealed, said term limit will not be applicable to persons who become executive members subject to that term limit while said term limit was in effect. This provision will also be applicable to any current executive member who became an executive member while any prior term limit provision previously contained in these bylaws was in effect.

SECTION 10.02 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The Articles of Incorporation may be amended if approved by a two-thirds vote of the executive members, either in person or by proxy or ballot, except as otherwise provided in the Law and if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present and voting (but not less than a majority of the entire Board) at a Board meeting.

SECTION 10.03 ADOPTION

The National Bylaws of the American Youth Soccer Organization which appear in the text of the preceding document are those in effect as of Saturday, August 22, 2015 and have been adopted pursuant to Bylaw Section 10.01, other provisions of the Bylaws and applicable California law.

2. National Rules & Regulations

The American Youth Soccer Organization (“AYSO”) within its operating framework of Sections, Areas and Regions, offers a variety of player program options for delivering a quality soccer experience to all participants. Additionally, alternative soccer play programming may include indoor soccer, futsal, AYSO Playground Soccer, AYSO Schoolyard Soccer, jamboree format or monitored pick-up play, Soccerfest, camps, technical training, skills clinics and other offerings across the Organization.

AYSO primarily delivers outdoor soccer match play. The following Rules & Regulations shall be used for Region, Area, Section and tournament play within AYSO. Some flexibility in these rules may be allowed for other forms of match play with the approval of the Area Director and Section Director.

I. MATCH CONDUCT

AYSO matches shall be conducted in accordance with the current *IFAB Laws of the Game* and decisions of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in effect on August 1 each calendar year and the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives, with the following exceptions and clarifications:

A. COMPETITION

1. Coaches, officials and spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the referee.
2. Except for small-sided matches (Article I.H), a scheduled match shall not commence nor be continued unless both teams can field at least seven eligible players.

B. DURATION OF MATCHES

1. Matches shall be of two equal halves, not to exceed the following maximum durations:

Division	Maximum Duration of Half
Playground Soccer	Not Applicable
Schoolyard Soccer	10 minutes
6U	10 minutes
8U	20 minutes
10U	25 minutes
12U	30 minutes
14U	35 minutes
16U	40 minutes
19U	45 minutes

2. Half-time periods shall be a minimum of five and a maximum of ten minutes as designated by the referee.
3. Player Safety is paramount. Water breaks are allowed at the referee’s discretion when heat conditions warrant this consideration.

4. Where necessary due to scheduling time constraints, the duration of the two halves is to be reduced by an equal amount to allow for substitution in accordance with Article I.C.1.

C. **PLAYING TIME AND SUBSTITUTION**

1. Except as noted in Article I.C.3, all eligible team members in attendance at AYSO matches must play at least half of the match, excluding overtime.

Such participation is controlled as follows for 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions:

- a. Approximately midway through each half the referee shall permit substitution. This normally occurs during a regular stoppage in play, and the match is resumed with the appropriate restart (i.e. throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick-off, free kick, penalty kick or dropped ball). On occasion the referee may need to stop play for substitution while the ball is in play, in which case the match is resumed with a dropped ball.
 - b. Substitutions may also be made at half-time and at the start of any overtime periods.
 - c. When the referee signals for substitution, the coaches should have all substitutes entering the match immediately report to the referee or the designated assistant referees, who shall note on the lineup cards those team members substituting.
 - d. During such stoppages, the coach of each team may substitute as many team members, or none, including previously substituted team members, as long as all eligible team members meet the minimum playing requirements.
 - e. The referee shall allow for any time lost due to substitution or other cause by stopping his/her watch or adding playing time. (See Article I.B.4. regarding reducing the length of halves to permit proper substitution.)
 - f. If a Section, Area or Region elects to use free substitution, then it shall abide by the rules enumerated for 16U/19U (See Chapter 13 Additional Programs, 16U/19U Play).
 - i. If a contradiction within a jurisdiction in this provision exists between a Section, Area or Region, the hierarchy is as follows: (1) Section; (2) Area; (3) Region (See Article IX, sec. 8.03).
2. Substitution for injury:
 - a. If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until the beginning of the next "quarter". Only the player who is injured is credited with a "quarter" played regardless of the actual time played.
 - b. The coach may choose to not substitute and "play short" thereby allowing the injured player to return during the "quarter" in which he or she was injured.
 - c. The player must receive a signal from the referee in order to return to the match.
 3. Late arriving team members shall be substituted as follows:
 - a. If the team member arrives during the first "quarter", the team member must play a minimum of two of the remaining three "quarters".
 - b. If the team member arrives during the second or third "quarter", the team member must play a minimum of one "quarter".

- c. Late arriving team members for 14U games using the standard substitution format will follow item 3a:
 - i. Late arriving team members shall be substituted as follows for 14U games if using the free substitution rule:
 - If the team member arrives prior to the first 17.5 minutes, the team member must play a minimum of 50% (35 minutes) of the total allotted time available.
 - If the team member arrives during the 17.5 – 52.5 minute time span, the team member must play a minimum of 25% (17.5 minutes) of the total allotted time available.
 - This provision may be suspended by a Section, Area or Region.
4. Signed lineup cards must be completed by the referee and forwarded to the Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.

D. OFFICIATING

1. Referees shall officiate in accordance with the current versions of *AYSO Rules & Regulations* (the rules of competition), the *IFAB Laws of the Game* (AYSO Edition) and decisions of the IFAB.
2. Referees shall officiate in a manner inducing clean competition and good sportsmanship, placing great emphasis on the welfare of the players. If a player is injured, the referee, at his/her discretion, may stop play to ensure the welfare of the player even if the ball has not gone out of play.
3. The *Laws of the Game* are intended to provide that matches should be played with as little interference as possible, and in this view it is the duty of referees to penalize only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feeling and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators.

E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS, OTHER VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, TEAM MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

1. It shall be the duty of each coach, referee, official, other volunteer, spectator, team member and other participant to:
 - a. Conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming a member of AYSO and consistent with the AYSO Six Philosophies and the highest standards of conduct.
 - b. Work together as a team in support of the children playing the match and in alignment with the Stewards of the Game and Kids Zone programs to promote a safe, fair, fun environment.
 - c. Comply with and promote compliance with the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and policies, including those related to registration, certification and training.
 - d. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
 - e. Prohibit and abstain from making negative comments and complaints about officiating.
 - f. Present a healthy and safe athletic environment for team members, including but not limited to, not consuming alcoholic beverages, using tobacco products or smoking or simulating smoking or the use of tobacco products during practices or matches or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.
2. It shall also be the duty of each coach to:

- a. Effective August 1, 2015, all coaches in all age divisions shall be trained consistent with the AYSO National Coaching Program standards for the age/skill level of the team he/she will coach; and train and coach the team to the best of his/her ability.
- b. Remain within the coaches' technical area (Article I.G.2) during the match; a maximum of two coaches is permitted for each team.
- c. Limit his/her sideline participation during AYSO matches to comments that are positive and/or encouraging, with limited supportive instruction.
- d. Upon team formation, and during all subsequent team gatherings, practices, scrimmages, and (Regional, Inter-Regional, Area, Sectional, National and tournament play), have in his/her possession all signed forms, rosters, waivers and/or identification cards as may be required by AYSO policies so as to verify registration of team members or confirm volunteer qualifications.
- e. Ensure that a player is designated as the captain on the field of play but is not required to be wearing a Captain's armband.

F. **SIZE OF BALL**

Ball size for each division shall be as follows:

Age Division	Size	Circumference	Weight
AYSO Schoolyard Soccer, 6U & 8U	3	23.0 - 25.0 inches	10 - 12 oz.
10U & 12U	4	25.0 - 26.5 inches	12 - 14 oz.
14U, 16U & 19U	5	26.5 - 28.0 inches	14 - 16 oz.

G. **FIELD OF PLAY**

1. The dimensions and markings of the field of play and goals shall be at the discretion of the Region and, whenever possible, conform to the IFAB *Laws of the Game* for 13U and older or to AYSO/US Soccer Player Development Initiative small-sided match requirements- as follows:

Field Sizes by Age Division					
	Schoolyard, 6U, 7U, 8U	9U, 10U	11U, 12U	13U, 14U	15U,16U, 17U,19U
Length (Yards)	25 to 35	55 to 65	70 to 80	100 to 130	100 to 130
Width (Yards)	15 to 25	35 to 45	45 to 55	50 to 100	50 to 100
Center Circle Radius (Yards)	5	8	8	10	
Goal Area Length/Width (Yards)	None	4 x 8	5 x 16	6 x 20	
Penalty Area Length/Width (Yards)	None	12 x 24	14 x 36	18 x 44	
Goal Line to Penalty Spot(Yards)	None	10	10	12	
Max Goal Size Height/Width (Feet)	4 x 6	6.5 x 18.5	7 x 21	8 x 24	
Recommended Goal Size (Feet)	4 x 6	6.5 x 12	6.5 x 18.5	8 x 24	

2. The coaches' technical area on each side of the halfway line shall be marked by two lines off the field of play and perpendicular to the touch line. The area shall be as long as the diameter of the center circle. Where possible, the coaches' technical area shall include two additional lines, with one line parallel to and at least one yard from the touch line, and a second parallel line no more than three yards from the touch line.
3. The field shall be marked, where possible, with a spectator control line parallel to the touch line at a distance of at least three yards from the touch line. Coaches and officials should help the assistant referees keep spectators behind the spectator control line and between the top lines of the penalty area.
4. Spectators shall not be allowed behind the goal lines, with the exception of photographers who have received authorization from the referee, and who shall remain quiet and sufficiently back from the goal lines.

H. SMALL-SIDED MATCHES

1. US Soccer has mandated for its member associations small-sided matches as part of the Player Development Initiatives. Match play shall be governed by the *IFAB Laws of the Game* as modified by AYSO (with permission), the *AYSO National Rules & Regulations* and the age appropriate AYSO Coach Manual.
2. Small -sided games are permitted for all divisions.

I. HEADING THE BALL

1. Consistent with the US Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division players 11U and below (12U and below for programs without single age divisions) in both practices and matches.

Heading for players in 14U is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers, per player. There is no restriction on heading in matches.
2. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player in the above-stated divisions, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a match. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head with the following exceptions:
 - a. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area, must be taken on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.
 - b. An indirect free kick awarded to the defending team in their own goal area may be taken from anywhere in that area.
3. Neither cautions nor send-offs shall be issued for persistent offenses or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infractions.

J. THROW-INS

1. For 6U, the throw-in is replaced with the pass-in. Opposing players must be at least two yards from the ball until it is kicked.
2. For 8U, each Region shall have the discretion to use either throw-ins or pass-ins or dribble-ins to restart play.
3. Training of throw-in technique may begin at 8U and up.

K. GOALKEEPER PUNTS

1. For 9U to 10U, the goalkeeper shall not punt, nor drop kick the ball.
2. An indirect kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the offense if a goalkeeper for 9U to 10U deliberately punts the ball during a match, except that an indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area must be taken on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the goalkeeper punted the ball.

L. BUILD-OUT LINE (9U AND 10U)

1. The build-out line shall be placed across the field equidistant between the top of the penalty area and the halfway line.
2. The opposing team must move behind the build-out line for a goal kick or when the goalkeeper has possession.
3. The player taking the goal kick, does not have to wait for opposing players to move behind the build-out line to put the ball into play. The goal kick, may be played to either side of the build-out line. The ball is in play after the ball is kicked and clearly moves, after which the opposing team may cross the build-out line. If an opponent crosses the build out line before the ball is in play and interferes with the goal kick, the kick is retaken.
4. The goal keeper in possession of the ball in their hands does not have to wait for the opposing players to move behind the build out line to release the ball. The ball may be released to either side of the build out line, after which the opposing team may cross the build out line. If an opponent crosses the build out line before the ball is released and interferes with play, an indirect free kick is awarded to the goal keepers team at the point where the opponent crossed the build out line.
5. The build-out line in the opponents half of the field shall be used as the line to determine offside. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and that build-out line.

II. TEAMS

A. TEAM NAMES

1. Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion, race, ethnicity or nationality.

B. TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. Teams shall participate only in matches approved by their respective Regional Commissioners and/or presiding AYSO governing authority.
2. Participation in tournaments requires a signed roster.
3. Participation in tournaments or soccer play outside of the United States requires US Soccer approval.

C. TEAM SIZE

1. The following are the recommended team sizes:

Age Division	Players per team on field	Maximum no. of team members	Minimum no. of team members
19U	11-a-side	18	12
16U	11-a-side	18	12
14U	11-a-side	15	12
12U	9-a-side	12	10
10U	7-a-side	10	8
8U	4-a-side (No goalkeepers)	6	5
6U	4-a-side (No goalkeepers)	6	5
AYSO Schoolyard Soccer	4-a-side (No goalkeepers)	6	5

2. Regions may allow 8U specific teams the option to play 5v5, with no goalkeeper, instead of 4v4, with no goalkeeper. This option is not available for Regions that have 8U teams with 7U players.
 3. All divisions may play optionally with teams of smaller sizes for mini-soccer, indoor soccer or small-sided matches.
- D. The maximum number of team members listed in Article II.C may be increased with approval of the Area Director, but no more than would allow each team member to play at least half of each match.
- E. Each primary season, every effort shall be made to balance team strengths within each age division, within a reasonable geographical area.
- F. A Region or Area shall not form leagues on a major and minor basis within any age division.
- G. The only team member(s) a head coach may specify be on his/her team is his/her own child or children.

III. REGISTRATION

- A. The standard age divisions for the Boys and Girls programs are as follows:

Age	Division
Ages 3, 4 or 5 by the date of program commencement	AYSO Playground Soccer
5 years but not younger than 4 years	AYSO Schoolyard Soccer
6 years and Under	6U
8 years and Under	8U
10 years and Under	10U
12 years and Under	12U
14 years and Under	14U
16 years and Under	16U
19 years and Under	19U

- B. The player's age division shall be determined by birth year as per the AYSO Age Determination Chart.

- C. AYSO Playground Soccer is a program for learning fundamental motor skills and physical literacy using soccer as a theme. AYSO Playground Soccer shall not have competition in training (1v1, 2v2) or match play of any kind.
- D. AYSO Schoolyard Soccer and 6U divisions are primarily for the introduction of soccer skills.
- E. In Regions where there are not enough registrants to make any or all standard age divisions, divisions may be combined so that teams may be formed.

Such divisions shall be classified on the basis of the oldest registrant and shall not, after the start of the season of play, be reclassified to a lower age division should the oldest registrant(s) then be removed from the roster. A Region approved exception to allow a player to play down will not affect the age division of the team for play within the Region only.

- F. Regions with a sufficient number of registrants within a standard age division may, with the approval of the Area Director and Section Director, form single-year sub-divisions within the standard age divisions defined in Article III.A.
- G. No potential team member may register without the written consent of his/her parent or guardian, unless the registrant is of the age of majority in his/her respective state.
- H. A registrant becomes an official team member upon:
 - 1. Payment of the National Membership Fee and payment to the Region of its required registration fee, and
 - 2. Placement on a team by the Regional Commissioner or the Regional Commissioner's designated representative.
- I. The Regional Commissioner is responsible for assuring the eligibility of all team members on teams within the Region. Upon request of the Regional Commissioner or Area Director, a team member must present his/her birth certificate or other legal proof of age.
- J. Boys and girls may play on the same teams where there is an insufficient number of registrants to establish separate teams with reasonable application of Article III.D. It is strongly recommended, however, that separate boys and girls teams be instituted and maintained wherever possible.

IV. TRANSFER OF TEAM MEMBERS

A team member may transfer from one team to another within a Region, or from one Region to another, after the following three conditions have been met:

- A. Approval of both coaches of the teams involved.
- B. Approval of Regional Commissioner(s) or his/her designee.
- C. Approval of team member and parent/guardian; parent/guardian approval is not required if team member is of the age of majority in his/her respective state.

V. DURATION OF REGISTRATION

- A. The period of official membership shall be from August 1st through the following July 31st each year.

- B. The AYSO competition year or soccer calendar coincides with the Membership Year. Competition may begin on August 1 of the Membership Year and ends on July 31 of the Membership Year.

VI. Proper Dress

A. Uniform Specifications and Variance Requests

- Each chartered, pilot and/or affiliate AYSO Region shall provide for team members to wear a matching team uniform consisting of a jersey or t-shirt, shorts and socks through either bulk ordering or via a link for the parents to purchase directly. Such uniform shall be properly marked with the AYSO Traditional logo, described in these AYSO Brand Specifications.
- The Region may apply to the AYSO Office Marketing Department by [clicking here](#) to include local sponsor/city/community/neighborhood or special event markings on either their uniform sleeve or short.
- These markings may not interfere with the AYSO branding. If there are questions of interpretation or additional flexibility needed, please contact the AYSO Office Marketing Dept. at Marketing@ayso.org.

AYSO UNIFORM BRAND SPECIFICATIONS										
	TRADITIONAL LOGO / LEFT CHEST	REGION OR PROGRAM LOGO / LEFT CHEST	TRADITIONAL LOGO / LEFT SLEEVE	CITY / COMMUNITY MARKINGS	SPONSORS ON FRONT OR BACK OF JERSEY	NBOD-APPROVED SPONSOR LOGO	LOCAL SPONSOR LOGO	T-SHIRT OPTION	PLAYER NAME	REPLICA JERSEYS
AYSO PLAYGROUND	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	YES	YES ¹	YES	NO	NO	
SCHOOLYARD JAMBOREE	YES	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES	YES ¹	YES	NO	NO	
CORE (6U-19U)/VIP	YES	NO	YES ¹	NO	YES	YES ¹	YES	NO	NO	
EXTRA	YES	YES ²	YES ¹	NO	YES	YES ¹	YES	NO	NO	
CLUB-TYPE	YES	YES ¹	YES ¹	NO	YES	YES ¹	YES	NO	NO	
¹ - Application and approval required. See AYSO National Uniform Specifications. ² - The EXTRA logo is optional and may only be used by approved EXTRA programs.										

B. Uniform Basics

- Each AYSO jersey or game t-shirt will include the AYSO Traditional Logo that is a minimum of three (3) inches in diameter located on the upper left chest area of the jersey and otherwise shall conform to the markings on Exhibit "A."
- The AYSO uniform, including goalkeepers' jerseys, may bear a manufacturer's name and/or logo. The manufacturer's name and/or logo must not be displayed more prominently than the AYSO Traditional logo or be larger than 3 inches and it must not be placed on the upper left front of the jersey. In no

event shall a manufacturer's name and/or logo appear in the area designated for the AYSO Traditional logo. Except as provided in these Brand Specifications or as reflected in Exhibit "A", no other markings may appear on the uniform without the prior approval of the AYSO Marketing Dept.

3. No AYSO uniform may bear a team member's name (i.e. Johnny Jones).
4. No AYSO uniform may bear a team name, league name, or program name.
5. No replica jerseys are allowed.
6. The team member's uniform number shall appear on the back of the jersey in a color or outline that contrasts with the jersey color, and (optionally) may be placed on the front of the uniform on the jersey and/or on the leg of the shorts.
7. Jerseys must have sleeves.
8. The AYSO Traditional logo must appear in a color that contrasts with the player's primary uniform color. The AYSO Traditional logo must have a prominent appearance on the uniform.
9. All AYSO logos must be used without modification. No person may use any of the AYSO trade names, trademarks or logos for any use other than AYSO-authorized activities without the prior written consent of the National Office. This includes having the AYSO Traditional logo stamped on soccer balls, soccer shoes or other equipment, or used in association with the products or services of any person.
10. AYSO's Official Uniform Sponsors will be the preferred provider of uniforms.
11. These Brand Guidelines may be altered from time to time by the AYSO Office Marketing Department.

C. Logo Options

1. An AYSO Region may include city/community/neighborhood markings on their right sleeve, short or socks.
2. The AYSO uniform may bear an optional emblem representing Region, skills, local sponsor, Sportsmanship, tournament or event on the upper right sleeve or the lower front of the shorts. Such emblems shall be no more than three inches in diameter (or equivalent diagonal) and must be approved by the Marketing Dept.
3. For the AYSO EXTRA program, an AYSO Region may choose to display the official AYSO EXTRA logo on the jersey left chest area, with the AYSO Traditional Logo on the left sleeve. Both logos will be no less than three (3) inches in diameter.

D. Sponsor Marks

1. No Region sponsor logo on any AYSO uniform may conflict with an AYSO National Sponsor.
2. The AYSO National Board of Directors may designate that the AYSO uniform bear sponsors emblems in locations of its choosing. No Region or other logo will interfere with this sponsor emblem.

Exhibit A



VII. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- A. No person, company or business entity may use any of the AYSO trade names, trademarks or logos for any use other than AYSO-authorized activities without the prior written consent of the AYSO Office. This includes, but is not limited to, having the AYSO Traditional logo stamped on soccer balls, soccer shoes or other equipment, or used in association with the products or services of any person. Those types of activities weaken any national licensing program and may violate license agreements then in force. Any approved use shall require that an ® should be placed next to the AYSO registered trade name or trademark or, if the trade name is not registered, a ™ should be placed next to such trade name or trademark. These symbols serve notice that the trade names and trademarks belong to AYSO.
- B. Athletic footwear (with or without cleats) are permissible in all AYSO competitions subject to the referee's approval regarding their safety under Law 4.
- C. Team members must wear shinguards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any practice or match. Though the Laws of the Game impose responsibility for the size and suitability of shinguards upon the players, the referee will remain responsible for determining the safety of each player's equipment. The lone exception is sanctioned beach futsal soccer tournament play where players may opt out of wearing shinguards.
- D. Team members shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any match with any type of cast or splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area in order to participate shall disqualify the team member from practice or match participation.
- E. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to either themselves or other players subject to the referee's approval under Law 4 of the IFAB Laws of the Game. AYSO, in accordance with permitted modifications for youth games, allows the following:
 - Hair Beads and Clips
Hair control devices and other adornments, such as beads, worn in the hair must meet the following criteria:
 - Be securely fastened to the head.
 - Do not present an increased risk to the player, teammates, or opponents.
 - Flat clips less than two inches in length may be used to hold the hair in place close to the head so long as their placement on the head does not present an increased risk to the player, teammates or opponents.
 - Hair charms are still considered jewelry and are not permitted.

- Medical Devices
If the device is needed to restrict mobility, protect an injury or support proper alignment to expedite the healing process of a temporary injury and is hard (cast, splint, etc.) then it is not allowed. If, on the other hand, the protective device is used to provide support, flexibility or enable an otherwise healthy player to function normally such as a knee brace, prosthesis, hearing aid, insulin pump/monitor, etc. then this would be allowed provided the device was sufficiently padded to prevent injury to other players. The Laws of the Game specify that “A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.”

The Referee is the sole judge of whether or not the individual item in question is permissible to wear in the game.

- F. AYSO does not require the use of Captain armbands. They are optional, but when used, shall be to identify the captain of the team on the field of play.

VIII. OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY OF UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The custodianship and disposition of equipment and supplies purchased by an individual Region shall be the responsibility of that Region.

IX. INCIDENTS AND INJURIES

- A. All incidents, injuries or property damage involving an AYSO participant or occurring at an AYSO event shall be reported to, and by, the Regional Commissioner or safety director on the AYSO Incident Report Form in accordance with the directive of AYSO. Incident Report Forms with the appropriate attachments shall be delivered to the Risk Management Department of the AYSO Office at the earliest possible opportunity.
- B. Subject to the terms and conditions from the current carriers of AYSO’s insurance policies, there is a limited time for filing claims. It is the responsibility of the claimant to initiate and complete the process.

AYSO EXTRA Rules & Regulations

INTRODUCTION

AYSO EXTRA is an optional tryout based program that provides an option to play soccer at a more challenging level for those youth players who possess the desire, appropriate skills and abilities. AYSO EXTRA is a player development, player focused program within the AYSO player development pyramid. AYSO's Six Philosophies apply to the program:

The EXTRA program is:

- An approved program (April 2015).
- For teams participating from AYSO Regions that shall be formed through tryouts.
- Designed to supplement and support a primary AYSO program.
- Shall not harm or detract from a Region's primary program.

The player base within a Region or Area and the available volunteers to organize, to administrate, to operate and to support the program effectively will determine the Areas and Regions ability to facilitate EXTRA.

The Section Director or his/her designee will collaborate with the appointed staff to assist in managing the program through AYSO volunteers.

The AYSO EXTRA program and its matches shall be conducted under the AYSO National Rules and Regulations that include the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives with the following exceptions and clarifications:

I. MATCH CONDUCT

- A. EXTRA supplements a Region's primary program. EXTRA may not be the only program a Region operates.
- B. The Section Director or his/her designee is responsible for:
 1. Sanctioning of the EXTRA gaming circuit
 2. Oversight of EXTRA program operations
 - a. Inside the Section or
 - b. Section Interplay and/or play-offs or
 - c. Allowing participation of non-AYSO teams in the gaming circuit
 - d. Allowing play in non-AYSO gaming circuits if an AYSO only EXTRA gaming circuit is not feasible.
 3. Ensuring dispute resolution and due process are handled quickly and appropriately.
- C. GAMING CIRCUIT GUIDELINES

MATCH CONDUCT

1. Shall be a formal written document widely posted and/or published to be available to participants, current and prospective.
2. Shall comply with AYSO National Rules and Regulations.
3. Shall conform to AYSO National Bylaws and National Policy Statements.
4. Must include a disciplinary/misconduct policy.
5. Are to adhere to US Soccer Player Development Initiatives related to age guidelines for training, number of matches in a day and year, and rest days.
 - a. Two to three training sessions per match
 - b. Limit of 20 matches per calendar year for 10U
 - c. Limit of 30 matches per calendar year for 11U and 12U
 - d. Limit travel times
6. Teams participating in a non-AYSO gaming circuit must adhere to the rules and regulations for AYSO as well as the other gaming circuit.

D. OFFICIATING

1. Referees participating in the EXTRA program must be currently registered and accepted volunteers.
2. Referees shall be a minimum of two years older than the oldest players in the division to which they have been assigned.
3. Referees shall be approved by the Region Referee Administrator (RRA) and/or Area Referee Administrator (ARA).
4. Referees shall be evaluated and approved each Membership Year.
5. Participating Regions must supply referees to cover the games being played in their Region.
6. Referees will be assigned to games in divisions for which they are certified based on certification badge level as follows:
 - a. 10U Basic – Regional or higher
 - b. 12U/13U/14U Intermediate or higher
 - c. 14U to 18U Advanced or National
 - d. Recommended to be one badge level higher than the above with experience in positive sideline management.
7. Participation in non-AYSO gaming circuits may require USSF certified referees

E. COACHING

1. Selection

- a. Coaches participating in the EXTRA program must be currently registered and accepted volunteers.
 - b. Must be an active participant in the Region's standard primary program as an instructor, coach or referee mentor, or other volunteer service the Region determines adequate to fulfill this requirement.
 - c. Coach and assistant coach assignments shall be renewed each season.
2. Coaches must have completed the AYSO training levels below:
 - a. 10U Division - U10 Certified or higher
 - b. 11U/12U Divisions - U12 Coach Certified or higher
 - c. 13U/14U Divisions - Intermediate Coach Certified or higher
 - d. 15U Division and Up – Advanced Coach Certified or higher
 3. Each EXTRA Program Team shall have a trained and certified head coach and trained and certified assistant coach.
- F. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS, OTHER VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, TEAM MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**
1. All participants in EXTRA shall exemplify the highest standard of AYSO's Six Philosophies.
 2. All participants will provide signed Kids Zone pledges to the Region or coach.
 3. Are subject to the code of conduct policy set by the gaming circuit and National Policy Statement 2.12.

II. TEAMS

- A. Area Directors shall approve the number of teams participating from each of their Regions.
- B. Shall be formed in advance of primary program team formation.
- C. Must undergo new selections each Membership Year with no guaranteed rosters positions for coaches or players.
- D. Team Rosters are to be entered in AYSO's Registration System of Record, before the primary program, and shall include:
 1. Regional and divisional identification;
 2. Coach's and assistant coach's names, address, home and work phone numbers, e-mail addresses, coach training level and Safe Haven certification date;
 3. Player information: name, address, phone number, birth date, AYSO registration number and date of registration and jersey number;
 4. Team number, uniform colors and team name (if available); and

5. Approval of the Regional Commissioner certifying players and coaches.
- E. The determination of the appropriate number of teams in a division should be based on:
1. The population of available players in the divisions in a Region;
 2. The effect the creation of the teams will have on the standard primary program;
 3. The capability of the player pool from within the Region;
 4. Field availability;
 5. Age-appropriate referee support; and
 6. The effect on the program-wide team balancing.
- F. Regions forming more than one team in a gender/age division must receive written approval from their Area Director prior to the formation of the teams.
- G. Regions may not have more teams in an EXTRA Program division than in its Standard Primary Program division.
- H. Regions that create multiple teams in the same gender/age division shall be balanced. A/B teams shall NOT be created.
- I. Single-year age bracketing is permissible and recommended. A gaming circuit may also have two-year age bracketing where such action may be in the best interest of a sustainable program. In such cases, the age of the oldest player will determine the age bracket placement of the team.
- J. AYSO Identification Cards shall be used for players and coaches. Outside gaming circuits may require additional ID cards.
1. Player ID cards shall bear the name, AYSO ID number, a recent photo and the signature of the Regional Commissioner.
 2. Coach ID cards will be specified by the Program Administrator and shall bear the name, AYSO ID number, a recent picture and a Section/Area/Region (nn/a/nn) designation. Coaches shall wear ID cards visibly on their person during pre-game check-in and for the duration of all matches.
 3. Any ID cards required by outside gaming circuits shall meet their requirements.
- K. Coaches must have an official AYSO roster, ID cards and copies of AYSO Player Registration Forms (medical release forms) for each participating player as well as their own ID cards. These must be at all events (games, practices, scrimmages, parties, etc.) in which the team participates.

III. REGISTRATION

- A. Player Eligibility:
1. Each Regional Commissioner of a Region electing to and accepted by the gaming circuit to participate in the EXTRA Program is responsible for his/her Region's compliance with established player eligibility requirements.
 2. Player eligibility, as it pertains to age requirements to participate in a specific gender/age bracket, is defined in the AYSO National Rules & Regulations.

3. Players not currently registered as a member of AYSO may attend a tryout by completing the non-AYSO player tryout form and paying the appropriate nominal fee.
4. Players eligible to participate in match play must be currently registered in AYSO and have participated in a scheduled player evaluation at dates and times determined by the Region.
5. The AYSO System of Record shall be the source of determining all players' current registration status.
6. An EXTRA side-by-side player may not play on another AYSO standard primary program team during the same season, nor will they be eligible for All-Star play.
7. An EXTRA concurrent player may play on another AYSO standard primary program team during the same season, and they will be eligible for All-Star play.
8. Players may be added to an EXTRA program team as long as they are not rostered on another AYSO team and comply with the requirements herein. The additional player must be approved by the Regional Commissioner and the Area Director.

B. Player Selection:

1. AYSO EXTRA teams must be chosen by fair and impartial tryouts. Tryout dates for AYSO EXTRA teams will be posted on the host Region's website and communicated to the player participants.
2. The tryout date will be set by a Region's EXTRA Coordinator with the approval of the RC and/or Region's Board of Directors.
3. AYSO EXTRA Programs will make every effort to hold multiple tryout sessions (at least two) on alternating days of a week to allow players to select when they may tryout.
4. Copies of tryout records may be requested by the EXTRA Section Coordinator. Regions are advised to maintain records.
5. Players may only be selected from candidates who attended tryouts. The Section Director or his/her designee overseeing the gaming circuit must approve any exceptions.
6. Once selected and position accepted, the player may not drop off one team and be picked up by another team during that season. All players and parents will sign the team commitment form, which prohibits all participants in the AYSO EXTRA Program from switching teams during the season.
7. Tryouts require standard format and evaluation forms available from the AYSO AYSO Office Programs Department.

C. Player Selection Procedure:

1. Evaluators shall be Advanced or National Coach Certified. AYSO Camps Coaches and/or United Program DOC's may be used as an alternative.
2. Evaluations shall be as impartial as possible.
3. Coaches of an EXTRA Program Team may not participate in their team's evaluation. Coaches should observe all the players throughout the evaluations.

4. A parent of a player trying out for an EXTRA Program Team may not participate as an evaluator for his/her child's gender/age bracket.
5. Evaluators are strongly encouraged to use a small-sided game format to evaluate players. Evaluators are strongly encouraged to utilize the AYSO Player Evaluation Procedure available at ayso.org.
6. Evaluators shall submit player rankings/ratings and recommend the most capable and deserving players.
7. The Selection Committee should consist of the Regional Commissioner, the Regional Coach Administrator, the Regional EXTRA Program Administrator, the EXTRA Program Coach and any other designees by the Regional Commissioner.
8. Regional Commissioners shall attest to coach compliance, with the respective Area Director's oversight/verification. The list of approved coaches and assistant coaches shall be submitted to appropriate gaming circuit administrator/registrar.

D. Player Commitment

1. Players selected to the EXTRA Program will commit to their teams as their priority non-school activity.
2. It is expected that every player attends each practice and game at the scheduled times.

E. Ineligible Participants

1. Use of ineligible player or coach will result in consequences for those responsible for the transgression.
2. Consequences may affect participation by the player, coach, or other AYSO volunteers responsible.
3. Disciplinary actions are subject to AYSO's Dispute Resolution and Due Process procedures.
4. Non-AYSO gaming circuits may have additional sanctions and Dispute Resolution and Due Process procedures.

IV.PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- A. All Uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations
- B. The home team in a match is responsible for wearing uniform jerseys (or scrimmage vests) that clearly distinguish them from the other team. In case of color conflicts, the home team is required to change uniform colors.
- C. The home team in a match is responsible for wearing uniform jerseys (or scrimmage vests) that clearly distinguish them from the other team. In case of color conflicts, the home team is required to change uniform colors.

V.FINANCE AND SERVICES

- A. Regions are to set EXTRA program fees for participants to cover costs of participation.

- B. EXTRA player fees may include payment for paid trainers for development and continuing education of coaches and players and must comply with National Policy Statement 2.5.
- C. Coaches or administrators shall not be paid.
- D. Gaming circuits shall set budgets as part of the Area or Section.
 - 1. Budgets are to be approved by the Executive Members of the participating Regions and Areas in the gaming circuit.
 - 2. Gaming circuits should be self-sustaining and may participate in an outside gaming circuit as deemed necessary with AD/SD approval.
 - 3. Team fees are to be agreed on an annual basis.
 - 4. Accounting shall be tracked in NAP Online as required for Areas and Sections.

3. AYSO National Policy Statements

Article One: Use of AYSO Name, Trademarks, Mailing List and AYSO's Licensing Program

1.1 Use of AYSO Name and Trademarks

AYSO has various registered trade names and trademarks such as "AYSO," "Everyone Plays," "SOCCER NOW" and "PLAYSOCCER." In addition, AYSO has proprietary rights in other names it uses from time to time, and may from time to time add others. All such names are valuable assets of AYSO, and their protection is essential to our national licensing program.

In order to protect AYSO's rights in and to the trade names and trademarks and their association with our organization, the visual image of the trade names and trademarks should be consistent in terms of configuration and color combination.

In the case of the "AYSO" logo, red and blue letters enclosed in an outer circle in the color white in a blue square surrounds the "AYSO" letters.

In the case of "Everyone Plays," the type style is extremely important, since the words are not unique in themselves.

In the case of "PLAYSOCCER," the use of the colors is most important so that the "AYSO" is in a different color from the other six letters.

In the case of other trade names and trademarks, please refer to the AYSO Office, Attention: Creative Services Department, for guidance on their proper use.

No Region may use any patch combining any of the AYSO trade names or trademarks other than those authorized by AYSO's Office without the prior written consent of the AYSO Office. In the case of uniforms, while every Region is encouraged to use patches authorized by the AYSO Office, silk screening will continue to be permitted without the need for consent of the AYSO Office, provided that the geometric configuration is correct. Silk screening is less desirable because it only provides for a two-color combination, rather than the red, white and blue combination on the patch.

No person may use any of the AYSO trade names for any use other than AYSO-authorized activities without the prior written consent of the AYSO Office. This includes having the AYSO logo stamped on soccer balls, soccer shoes or other equipment, or used in association with the products or services of any person. Those types of activities weaken any national licensing program and may violate license agreements then in force.

Whenever possible, an "®" should be placed after the registered trade name or trademark when used and, if the trade name is not registered, a "™" should be placed after such trade name or trademark. These symbols put the world on notice that the trade names and trademarks belong to AYSO.

1.2 AYSO Mailing Lists and Executive Member Directory and AYSO Databases

The names and addresses and other information about the members of AYSO constitute a very valuable asset of AYSO. If used properly and sparingly, they can be an important source of fund raising, give AYSO valuable publicity that will benefit the entire organization and keep registration fees to a minimum. At the same time, AYSO recognizes the need to protect the right to privacy of individuals who are participating in AYSO programs. Improper use of the names and

addresses of AYSO members may substantially dilute the value of such asset and, in certain circumstances, endanger AYSO's nonprofit status.

(a) Regional Use of Member Names and Addresses

Regions may use the names and addresses and other information about the participants in their respective Regions for those purposes they deem proper, provided that:

- (i) The use does not conflict with one of AYSO's national licensing programs;
- (ii) The use does not unduly expose the Region's participants to outside solicitations; and
- (iii) The association with an organization or product is consistent with the AYSO philosophy and would not otherwise bring into disrepute AYSO's name, reputation or programs.

For example, it would be improper for a Region to associate itself with a cigarette manufacturer (which would hurt our image) or endorse a soccer ball manufacturer, but it would be appropriate for a Region to arrange for a promotion with a local professional soccer club.

If a Regional Commissioner has any questions as to the applicability of the above guidelines, he/she should consult with the AYSO Office, Attention: Marketing Department, before taking any action.

(b) Use of Member Names and Addresses for AYSO Business Purposes by Persons Other than Regional Commissioners

The use of member names and addresses and other information about members by persons other than Regional Commissioners, such as Area Directors or Section Directors, requires the prior approval of the AYSO Office if it is for a use other than for a mailing by such officer to communicate with the members of his/her Area or Section. This is because such communication then becomes "national" in scope, since all officers other than Regional Commissioners are AYSO Officers and their use of such lists or information becomes a matter of National rather than Regional policy.

(c) Use of Executive Member Directory or AYSO Databases

Under no circumstances should any member give to any person outside of AYSO a copy of his Executive Member Directory or provide to any person outside of AYSO access to AYSO databases or to data extracted there from. This information is the exclusive property of AYSO and is confidential. Upon the termination of his position with AYSO, any executive member in possession of such a directory or data must surrender his copy either to his successor in such position or, if there is none, to the AYSO Office.

(d) Mailing Labels – Procedures

AYSO members with the proper rights can access lists and print mailing labels directly from the AYSO database system. Additionally, requests for labels can be made to the AYSO Office, Attention: Registration Department.

1.3 AYSO Licensing

AYSO may from time to time grant licenses to raise funds to support AYSO programs and to keep AYSO's name and activities in the public eye. The program involves the licensing of one or more of AYSO's trade names and trademarks for use on or in association with a product for distribution in retail markets. In some cases the license may be exclusive; in other cases it may not. The thrust of such program is in retail distribution to persons outside the AYSO community and does not affect the use by Regions of products for Regional play. Products under license change from time to time, and have in the past involved soccer balls, soccer shoes, wearing apparel and related soccer equipment and accessories. Obviously, each Region is encouraged to support the program by buying, whenever feasible, AYSO-licensed products. For a list of current licensees and retail outlets carrying such products, please consult the AYSO Office, Attention: Marketing Department. No Region may, in its own right, license the use of any of AYSO's trade

names or trademarks, except that vendors to the Region may use such trade names and trademarks for soccer uniforms used by the Region upon completion of a vendor authorization form obtainable from the AYSO Office.

Article Two: AYSO Activities

2.1 Participation in Non-AYSO Tournaments and Games

A Regional Commissioner may sanction participation of his Region or teams from his Region in a non-AYSO tournament, game, parade or other event with the prior approval of the Area Director, but such Regional Commissioner is responsible for advising participants of the then applicable rules relating to Soccer Accident Insurance (SAI) and liability insurance coverage and their limitations.

2.2 Participation in Secondary Programs

The definition of “secondary programs” is any program other than the Standard Primary program (whether in single or split format) and any playoffs associated with the Standard Primary program. Special or experimental programs may be excluded from inclusion in some or all secondary programs depending upon the specifications of the event and/or the national policy.

While the format of a secondary program may differ from the Standard Primary program, it must comply with the spirit and philosophy of AYSO and use the AYSO National Rules & Regulations applicable to the Standard Primary program to the maximum extent possible and may include concurrent play. Secondary programs must be self-supporting and be maintained from funds collected by the Region for such programs.

Tournaments desiring to include U-10 teams must follow the AYSO Small-Sided U-10 Guidelines for play in this age division. The field and goal size should conform to the guidelines in the U-10 coaching manual whenever possible.

(a) Player Participation

Participation in organized tournaments by U-8 division players (those players just completing the U-8 and under Standard Primary program) is not appropriate and will not be approved by AYSO. Refer to the AYSO Tournament Handbook under I. INTRODUCTION, D. AYSO Tournament Vocabulary and Definitions, “U-8 and Under Soccerfests.”

Player participation in secondary programs (a) shall require prior participation as a team member in the concurrent or just-concluded Standard Primary program, absent special circumstances (described below); (b) should be inclusive (open registration) and not exclusionary, but may be limited by age and/or gender. A player may participate on a Standard Primary program team and on a secondary program team at the same time, but may not participate on more than one Standard Primary program team at any one time unless participation on the additional Standard Primary program team is permitted in connection with a special program approved by the National Board of Directors. (See Bylaw Section 1.03(b) and Rules & Regulations Article III, I.) It is recommended that, to be eligible for participation in a secondary program, a team member should have played in a minimum of one-half of the Standard Primary program games.

Special circumstances would include, but are not limited to, an illness; a soccer-related injury; a player’s change of address (moved to a new Region); parental custodial rights; conflict with secondary or high school rules of state which prevent the registered player from completing the Standard Primary program; guest players; and/or players enrolled in any special or pilot program that has been approved for inclusion in AYSO secondary programs by the National Board of Directors.

If such a special circumstance arises within a Region, the Regional Commissioner must request approval, in writing, from the Area Director and/or Section Director prior to adding the child to a secondary program roster.

In rare or special cases where all efforts have been exhausted to obtain a replacement player within the Region or a neighboring Region, the Area Director and Section Director may approve an outside player to participate.

Said approval shall be sought in writing and shall state the name(s) of the tournament(s) the outside player(s) will be permitted to participate in. No outside player shall be permitted to participate without first registering with the AYSO Office.

(b) Coach Participation

All AYSO coaches and assistant coaches who wish to coach in the AYSO National Games, concurrent secondary play competitions or nationally sanctioned AYSO Tournaments must, at a minimum:

1. Be a registered volunteer in eAYSO for the current year.
2. Have AYSO Safe Haven for Coaches certification.
3. Be trained per the National Coaching Program Guidelines at the age/skill level of the team they wish to enter/coach.

Following are the required certifications for each of the age levels:

Division	Minimum Required Certification
10U	U-10 Coach
12U	U-12 Coach
14U	Intermediate Coach
16U, 18U, U19	Advanced Coach

In open invitational tournaments, non-AYSO teams must comply with the spirit of AYSO, whether co-sponsored or otherwise, and the rules of player eligibility, team formation, and roster numbers must be followed. Non-AYSO teams may observe their organization's small-sided team roster size provided that all rostered team members are assured playing time of at least one-half of every game.

Nothing in this policy statement is meant to suggest that a Region, Area or Section is required to conduct a secondary program.

2.3 Sponsorship by Regions or Areas of Summer Camp Programs

In the case where a Region or Area runs its own summer camp, there is exposure on the part of AYSO, as well as the particular Region or Area, resulting from injuries to campers and damages to facilities. Accordingly, each such child must be either (a) a currently registered AYSO participant; or (b) immediately registered with AYSO, upon payment of the annual player registration fee. No Region or Area may sponsor a camp run by another organization, whether for profit or otherwise, because of the exposure of AYSO to liability, and the possible danger of AYSO's loss of its not-for-profit status. Sponsorship by AYSO of any such camp may imply that AYSO's insurance and SAI program support the camp and that the AYSO principles will be followed. All Regions and Areas should avoid permitting any of the AYSO trade names or trademarks to be included in any advertisements or brochures for any camp. A Region or Area may cooperate, however, with a camp in establishing a mutually beneficial program.

2.4 Application of "Everyone Plays" Rule to AYSO Teams Playing Non-AYSO Teams

The AYSO "Everyone Plays" rule, requiring each player to play at least one-half of every game, and the number of players on a team rule, shall apply to AYSO teams (whether Standard Primary program teams or teams specially constituted for such event) participating in non-AYSO tournaments or games within or without outside the U.S.A., regardless of whether the other team, the referee or the sponsors of the tournament or game apply or follow such rule.

2.5 Paying for Outside Services

AYSO permits the use of paid service providers when utilized by Regions, Areas and other members of the organization to improve the delivery of AYSO's programs. However, when using paid service providers, it is absolutely imperative that such arrangements follow certain protocols to ensure that AYSO and individuals within the organization are not harmed.

Numerous federal and state tax, labor, employment and benefit laws may apply when paying for services. If these laws are not followed, it could lead to significant liability to AYSO and personal liability for executive members and/or board members who approve or permit such payments. Moreover, it is possible that such liability may not be shielded by the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 or insurance policies, such as Officers and Directors Insurance.

In order to assist its Members, AYSO has prepared guidelines for use which have been approved by the NBOD for distribution. Members contemplating paying for services must consult these guidelines prior to engaging a paid service provider first, and then follow those guidelines.

No contractual arrangements for pay-for-services should be entered into, and no payments for services may be made, unless done in strict compliance with the guidelines. This includes proper execution of the Paid Services Agreement and Questionnaire, and furnishing of supporting documentation (W-9, CGL COI, Business License, etc.). Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in any number of measures, including but not limited to the following: forbidding any future business with the identified business entity (ban), suspension or removal of the person(s) responsible, revocation of the Region and/or Area's Charter, tournament cancellation, program cancellation and/or any other actions necessary to address the situation presented.

Further Guidance

If there is ever any question regarding pay-for-services, members are strongly encouraged to contact their Area Director or the AYSO Office Risk Manager.

2.6 Player Conflicts Between AYSO and Other Activities

AYSO has no policy restricting its players from participating in other programs or activities that take place during the same season as the AYSO program. Regions have from time to time excluded children from AYSO programs where the dual participation results in the inability of such child to participate effectively in the AYSO program. That means that, if a child is continuously unable to adequately participate because he or she is enrolled in another program or activity, then the Region may require such child to choose between AYSO and the other program. Of course, the Region should take such action only as a last resort, and every effort should be made to accommodate every child who wishes to participate in an AYSO program.

2.7 All-Star Programs

An "All-Star" program is, in accordance with Policy Statement 2.2, a secondary program. It is hosted by a Region, Area or Section, and it includes only team members who have participated as players in the Standard Primary program (i.e., the first playing season in the Region in which all registered players participate) and which selects players for participation based primarily on their ability.

An All Star program is a specific set of competitions in AYSO played in close proximity to the end of the Standard Primary program and should not be confused with "select", "travel" or "tournament" programs or other competitions that, with a few exceptions, typically take place at times further removed from the completion of the Standard Primary program.

The National Board of Directors (NBOD) recognizes that the All-Star program is a historical AYSO program in some parts of the country and allows it organization-wide as an optional offering.

An All-Star program, if implemented, shall abide by the following policies:

- (a) It shall not be allowed to become more extensive or important than the Standard Primary program.
- (b) Team members must have participated as players in the Standard Primary program. (It is recommended that to be eligible for participation in an All-Star program, a team member should have played a minimum of one-half of the Standard Primary program games.)
- (c) It must be self-supporting and not use general Region funds.
- (d) It shall not involve Jamboree, U-6 or U-8 divisions.
- (e) AYSO principles, Everyone Plays (one-half of every game), Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship, and Player Development will be emphasized.

Each Section may adopt All-Star Rules & Regulations that further define and restrict their All-Star competition.

Each of Sections One, Two, Ten and Eleven will continue to operate the All-Star Program as a Special Program with regard to its funding – an approved exception by the National Board of Directors due to elements approved in 1965 for these founding programs, which largely operate as extensions to their Standard Primary programs.

2.8 Tournaments

- (a) All tournaments sponsored by an AYSO program or with which the AYSO name is associated must comply with the letter and spirit of the AYSO Tournament Handbook.
- (b) All tournaments, excluding Standard Primary program playoffs and excluding All-Star playoffs in Sections One, Two, Ten and Eleven, which involve teams from more than one Region within the Area, must have prior written approval of the Area Director; all tournaments which involve teams from more than one Area within the Section, must have prior written approval of the hosting Area Director and Section Director; all tournaments which involve teams from more than one Section or non-AYSO teams must have prior written approval of the hosting Area Director, Section Director and the National Director of Tournaments.
- (c) The National Board of Directors, on recommendation from the National Tournament Advisory Commission, may approve a fee to be submitted with a Tournament Authorization packet.
- (d) The Referee Plan of the tournament may require teams to pre-pay a refundable “referee commitment fee” as a guarantee that the team will furnish referees for the event, in addition to the entry or participation for the event, as long as the following conditions are met:
 - (i) The referee commitment fee shall be in a reasonable amount approved by the Section Director and must be paid with a Regional check.
 - (ii) In all cases where the referee completes the assigned games, the referee commitment fee is refunded to the Region that pre-paid the fee immediately at the conclusion of the event, or by mail no later than fourteen (14) days following the conclusion of the event.
 - (iii) In cases where the referee fails to complete his or her assigned games, the referee commitment fee may be retained to pay expenses of the tournament, or applied to the use to which tournament proceeds were specified in the event announcement.
- (e) Regions, Areas, and Sections that host an AYSO tournament must have a healthy financial standing in the organization. Tournament hosts must not have outstanding debts, balances or invoices due the organization, its sponsors or suppliers. Failure to comply in bringing accounts current may result in the tournament not being approved or as Paragraph (f) describes other applicable steps that may be taken by the National Board of Directors.

- (i) A Region that has submitted a tournament authorization package for approval that is found to have outstanding invoices due in excess of 90 days shall have the approval process immediately suspended until the past due invoices are paid.
 - (ii) A Region that is found to be 90 days past due on outstanding invoices AFTER the tournament approval process has been completed, and is within 30 days prior to the tournament, shall have 10 days to satisfactorily resolve the outstanding delinquent balance or risk revocation of approval resulting in cancellation of the event.
 - (iii) A Region that is found to have balances in excess of 90 days, and less than 30 days remain until the tournament, will receive a financial evaluation by the Section Director and Section Tournament Administrator to the viability of the Region's ability to host a financially successful event. At this point, a determination will be made as to whether or not to allow the event to proceed regardless of subsequent financial compliance.
 - (iv) Good financial standing must be maintained. If a Region is held in financial non-compliance (outstanding invoices in excess of 90 days) two or more times during a fiscal year, it risks program sanctions including the revocation of tournament approval for the next fiscal year.
- (f) Tournaments held in AYSO shall comply with the following oversight dependent upon the scope of the tournament. The oversight includes the following, but is not limited to: all areas of compliance; filing of an annual budget and Regional rules and guidelines; annual coach and referee training and certification and input into eAYSO; tournament administrators and organizers properly trained and certified; all Regional players properly registered in AYSO and eAYSO; and the Region is otherwise held in good standing in the organization.
- (g) If a tournament does not comply with Paragraph (a), (b), (e) and (f) above and, if applicable, Paragraph (c) and (d), or if the tournament host has an outstanding financial balance with the organization which is over 90 days past due, Paragraph (d), the AYSO National Board reserves the right to:
- (i) Suspend such tournament through its designees, the National Director of Tournaments;
 - (ii) Discipline individuals administering or organizing such tournament;
 - (iii) Deny liability insurance coverage for such tournament or SAI coverage for participants in such tournament; or
 - (iv) Revoke or suspend the charter of the Region or Regions hosting such tournament.
- (h) The tournament Treasurer will be responsible for completing the financial accounting of the tournament and assisting the Regional treasurer with submitting the Tournament Income and Expense Statement on all AYSO Open, Open Invitational and International tournaments to the appropriate Section Tournament Director within 90 days after the event. This form must be submitted with sign-off approvals by the Regional Commissioner, Area Director and Section Director. This financial statement shall be made immediately available to anyone requesting it.
- Section Tournament Administrators are responsible for following up with tournament directors to bring all tournaments into compliance. No further tournaments will be approved unless they are in compliance with the above stated requirement.
- (i) Tournament proceeds may only be used for approved AYSO-related purposes which are consistent with AYSO's not-for-profit, IRS Code 501(c) (3) status. This includes program operation and/or enhancement such as: registration scholarships, EPIC programs, equipment purchases, field development, acquisition and maintenance, etc. Tournament proceeds may also be allocated to a Region's secondary season teams for uses including, but not limited to, tournament fees, team parties and player and/or coach mementos, as long as such items are approved AYSO-related expenditures.

- (i) All tournament sponsorship letters and solicitations, as well as all businesses being contacted, must first be approved by the Regional Commissioner.
 - (ii) The intended use of tournament proceeds must be indicated on all advertising and sponsorship solicitations, and proceeds must be used as stated.
 - (iii) The Regional Commissioner is ultimately responsible for all funds collected and disbursed in the name of AYSO at the Regional level. Therefore, the Regional Commissioner can disallow any disbursement that he/she deems inappropriate.
- (j) Prior to final approval at the appropriate level, only proposed tournament dates and notification that approval is pending may be posted on the tournament or Region Website. E-mail blasts are permitted but must include the caveat that applications will not be accepted until the tournament is approved. The following activities are prohibited prior to approval:
- (i) posting on the tournament or Region Website anything other than the tournament date and its status (pending approval)
 - (ii) mailing or e-mailing tournament applications, rules, etc.
 - (iii) soliciting or accepting applications to the tournament
 - (iv) accepting payment of tournament entry fees

Any tournament not in compliance with this policy will be required to cease all advertising, including removing all tournament information from the Web. Non-compliance with this policy may result in tournament cancellation and/or sanctions on future tournament events.

2.9 Knee Braces

AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; provided that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field of play.

2.10 Goal Safety

As part of our mission, AYSO must provide a safe playing environment for our players. We have found over the years that a very high number of accidents involve goalposts — children playing on unattended goalposts, improperly anchored goalposts which fall over, and goalposts with hooks to hold the nets rather than the newer Velcro-secured goalposts. The National Board of Directors advises each Regional Commissioner and safety director to:

- (a) inspect the goalposts to ensure that they are properly assembled and safely maintained;
- (b) never leave portable goalposts unattended (they must be either disassembled after the day's usage or moved to an Area where they are inaccessible);
- (c) ensure that portable goalposts are properly anchored in the ground with a combination of permanent in-ground metal sleeves and weights/sandbags; and
- (d) use only goalposts that do not have hooks to secure goal netting.

2.11 Religious Activities

For the common good of the AYSO programs, and in respect of its philosophy of Open Registration, all volunteers and participants are expected to be considerate of others involved in the soccer program, and that they not impose their

personal religious beliefs upon others by conducting, encouraging or promoting any religious activities or functions at or during AYSO programs and activities.

This policy would not prohibit a moment of silent reflection prior to or as an invocation to any AYSO event. Nor would this policy prohibit an individual expression of faith or silent prayer at a soccer match that does not delay the game, interfere with the game, and which does not put official or peer pressure on teammates or others to join in such activity. AYSO recommends that no Regional official or volunteer prohibit or interfere with any individual expression of religious belief unless and until such activities unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment or safety of others during or within such AYSO programs or events, including any AYSO practice, game or function.

2.12 AYSO Code of Conduct - Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, Abuse or Violence

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

AYSO commits fully to its founders' legacy of diversity, equity and inclusion. Providing fun and enriching soccer programs is what we do. We welcome everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social-economic position, ability or disability. Differences are respected and embraced. AYSO is proud to be at the heart of communities where all feel that they belong.

Diversity encompasses the variety of experiences, influenced by culture and circumstance, which affect each person's thoughts, ideas, values and views of the world. AYSO embraces diversity and offers Open Registration to all age-eligible players -- anyone who wants to play soccer is welcome to register where it is convenient and most supportive for the family. Adults are invited to join the community of volunteers who make AYSO soccer programs run -- administrators, coaches, referees and a myriad of other positions. AYSO believes in and values diverse representation at all levels of our organization. Positive Coaching affirms these efforts through encouragement in a safe learning environment where all players can try, falter, learn and succeed without prejudice or bias. Good Sportsmanship encourages respect for differences and the enrichment they contribute to the AYSO team and family experience.

Equity aims to ensure that access, opportunity and needed resources are available for all eligible players and volunteers to participate in a fair, fun and safe environment. Balanced Teams provides for each player to have a positive experience by playing with a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels while socializing with diverse groups. Player Development defines the desire for every individual to enjoy playing and growing in soccer as differences are respected and embraced. AYSO strives to develop the whole player by focusing on skill-building on and off the field -- instilling confidence, understanding, resilience, problem solving, self-care and how to win and lose graciously. AYSO programs provide the opportunity for any adult willing to undergo a background check and complete necessary training to participate as a volunteer -- there is always a way to contribute.

Inclusion creates an AYSO environment in which every individual player, volunteer, caregiver and family member feels welcomed, valued, respected, supported and has a sense of belonging because AYSO values empathy and understanding of differences. Everyone Plays® ensures that each player participates as a team member on the field and has the opportunity to learn while having fun playing soccer. AYSO promotes an inclusive environment to make everyone feel accepted and seen as part of the larger AYSO organization both locally and globally. As a child development organization that provides soccer programs, inclusion applies to AYSO volunteers, too, where the sense of community is built by creating pathways to friendships among players, families and volunteers alike.

AYSO has a well-deserved reputation for quality youth soccer which is played in a safe, fair, fun, positive family environment as established by the expectations of AYSO in its governing documents and educational programs. Consistent with Child Protection laws and the SafeSport Act, AYSO prohibits all forms of child abuse, including emotional, physical, sexual, ethical abuse and neglect. As a mandated reporter, AYSO requires good faith reporting of suspected child abuse to local law enforcement agencies and the Safe Haven Department at the AYSO Office.

This Code of Conduct Policy supports AYSO's Vision, Mission and Philosophies by providing guidelines for AYSO entities to report, track and respond to inappropriate behavior for any incident that detracts from AYSO's stated beliefs and reputation, including but not limited to, any type of discrimination, harassment, abuse or violence. This Policy will cover incidents before, during and after an AYSO activity. Incidents that involve players or substitutes during a match are typically handled by the referee subject to further action pursuant to Region, Area, or Section procedures. All other incidents will be subject to this Policy.

Retaliation against persons who report discrimination, harassment, abuse, or violence, or who cooperate in any related investigation, is not acceptable. Reports of discrimination, harassment, abuse or violence, as well as any related investigation, will be kept as confidential as possible, consistent with the need to investigate any such report and comply with AYSO's policies, procedures and applicable laws.

Harassment and Discrimination

AYSO is committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment of any kind. Therefore AYSO maintains a strict policy of prohibiting all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment including sexual harassment and harassment based upon sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or related medical conditions), race, religion (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, sexual orientation, military or veteran status or any other basis protected by federal, state, and local law or ordinance or regulation. This policy applies to all persons considered to be members of AYSO in accordance with AYSO policies, procedures and guidelines and prohibits discrimination against or harassment of all members at any AYSO activity by any person, including spectators, vendors and visitors. This policy prohibits unlawful harassment in any form, including verbal, physical, visual, retaliation or threats or demands.

A player, volunteer or other person who believes they have experienced discrimination or harassment by any other person while at an AYSO activity should report the incident to the Regional Commissioner (RC), Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) or other AYSO board member designated by the RC to receive such complaints. The RC, CVPA, or other appointed AYSO board member will take reasonable care to ensure that all such claimed incidents are investigated and that any corrective or disciplinary action deemed warranted as a result of that investigation is imposed. The AYSO Safe Haven Department will work with the RC, CVPA, or other appointed AYSO board member as those persons work to investigate and resolve the issues raised by such incidents. RCs should immediately communicate any corrective or disciplinary action arising from such incidents to their Area Director. To the extent that any incidents occur at an Area or Section activity, then the Area or Section Directors will have such incidents investigated and resolved as set forth in this paragraph.

When an AYSO Region, Area or Section receives allegations of misconduct, it will undertake a fair, timely, thorough and objective investigation of the allegations. AYSO Regions, Areas and Sections are directed to reach reasonable conclusions about allegations of misconduct based on information obtained during any such investigation.

AYSO volunteers investigating allegations of misconduct will make a good faith attempt to maintain confidentiality to the extent possible. However, AYSO volunteers investigating allegations of misconduct cannot promise complete confidentiality. The obligation of AYSO volunteers to investigate and take corrective action may require the disclosure of information to individuals during the course of said investigation.

If the AYSO Region, Area or Section determines that harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct has occurred, AYSO Regions, Areas and Sections are directed to take appropriate and effective corrective and remedial action in accordance with the information revealed by the investigation at issue. AYSO Regions, Area and Sections are also directed to take appropriate action to deter future misconduct.

Any AYSO member determined by any AYSO Region, Area or Section to be responsible for harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. AYSO members should also know that if they engage in unlawful harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct, they can be held personally liable for such misconduct.

Harassment

AYSO prohibits all conduct that is considered to constitute harassment including but not limited to, making unwanted sexual advances and requests for sexual favors where either (1) submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of participation in an AYSO activity; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the participation of the individuals in an AYSO activity; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's performance as a player or volunteer or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. Individuals who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action up to and including immediate removal from the organization.

Harassment includes:

- Verbal conduct, such as epithets, derogatory comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations or comments.
- Visual conduct, such as derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings or gestures.
- Physical conduct, such as assault, blocking normal movement or interference with an activity which is directed at a player or volunteer because of the player's or volunteer's sex or other protected characteristic.
- Threats or demands to submit to sexual requests in order to remain an AYSO member or to avoid some other loss, and offers of other benefits in return for sexual favors.
- Retaliation for having reported harassment.

A player, volunteer or other person who believes they have experienced harassment by any other person while at an AYSO activity should follow the reporting procedures described in 2.12.a above.

AYSO prohibits the unjust or prejudicial treatment of people on the grounds of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social-economic position, ability or disability. AYSO seeks to protect its members from all types of discrimination.

Volunteer Abuse, or Violence

An AYSO Region, Area or Section may take action toward individuals involved with AYSO who do not adhere to the behavioral standards described in this policy. All persons, adult and youth, may face disciplinary action for various offensive conduct, which conduct can generally be classified as minor, significant, major or extreme. Disciplinary actions that may be taken against such individuals set forth below in statement 7.4.

(a) Abuse

Abuse is described in AYSO Safe Haven Training and may include a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to an individual or the individual's property. Abuse includes but is not limited to the following acts directed at an individual: using foul or abusive language that implies or threatens physical harm to the individual targeted by that language; spilling any beverage on an individual's personal property; spitting at (but not on) another individual.

(b) Violence

An intentional act of physical violence directed at or upon an individual, for purposes of this Policy, includes an act intended to cause the individual targeted to be fearful of injury to himself or herself, to a member of his or her family or to said individual's property or the property of said individual's family members. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

Acts of violence also include, but are not limited to, the following acts committed upon an individual: hitting, kicking, tripping, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into an individual; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at an individual that could inflict injury; damaging the individual's clothing or personal property, e.g., car, equipment, etc. Acts of violence also include what is considered to be any type of criminal assault or battery by law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over the location of the incident.

Acts of Violence May Result in Immediate Suspension

For acts of violence where physical contact was made, the police should be summoned and reports/charges filed. From an organization standpoint, automatic suspension of the offending member is desirable. A timely due process review shall be conducted in accordance with existing AYSO guidelines and policies, and sanctions should be imposed if warranted.

Method of Communicating Behavioral Issues

Misconduct by individuals may be communicated by players, volunteers, parents, and/or spectators to a board member of the AYSO Section, Area, Region sponsoring the activity, or to any other person believed to be an AYSO

official. Referees and/or board or staff members shall complete and submit reports to their supervisory volunteer and any Incident Report prepared should be sent to the AYSO Office.

2.13 Severe Weather

Thunderstorms and Lightning

If a Region has a frequency of thunderstorms, a safety policy should be posted on the Region's website, discussed in Safe Haven® courses, emphasized at all coach, referee and team parent orientation meetings and be contained in the Region Handbook distributed to participating families.

In tournament play or other special events, if there is a possibility of thunder and lightning storms, a pre-event meeting to assure that guidelines, safety procedures, duties and responsibilities are reviewed and clearly understood by all event staff and participants should be conducted. If this is not possible, then a communication plan should be incorporated to ensure this information is given to all participants and volunteers to ensure safe and orderly execution of emergency planning procedures.

Event officials will consult and determine the course of action – give the “all clear” sign for games to resume, cancel the balance of ongoing games or cancel games for the day. Event administrators, Regional Commissioners or their designees, including Coach Administrator, Referee Administrator or referees, will have the authority, as so designated, to delay the start of play, call a halt in play or suspend/terminate a game due to severe weather conditions.

- (a) Many communities and parks systems have lightning detection and tornado warning systems in place. Obey the rules established by the community. When storm warning technology indicates severe weather danger, cease all field activities and seek shelter immediately.
- (b) Know how to use the warning systems in place and heed all warnings even if you are told there is a possibility of a false alarm.
- (c) When thunder is heard it is within striking distance. – seek shelter immediately. Do not wait for the rain to start before seeking shelter, and do not leave shelter just because the rain has ended. Enact the safety plan now!
- (d) Restart games after no thunder has been heard for 30 minutes, or if there is a warning system in place, the community ALL CLEAR SIREN has been sounded.

2.14 Concussion Awareness and Safety

The Concussion Awareness and Safety Policy shall consist of the following component policies:

- (a) Information - Information regarding the signs and symptoms of concussions, and what to do if concussion signs or symptoms are evident, will be broadly disseminated throughout AYSO.
 - (i) The AYSO/CDC Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet will be used to implement this policy through electronic distribution and, where possible, through a hard copy.
 - (ii) Signatures will be required in states where receipt of the concussion information must be acknowledged by signature of a parent and/or athlete.
- (b) Training - Concussion Awareness Training is strongly recommended for all coaches, referees, Executive Members, Advisory Commission Members and Section/Area/Region Boards and Staff. Concussion awareness training shall be required for coaches and other “Officials” as required by states which have a concussion law that applies to AYSO programs.
- (c) Participation Release – Return to Play

- (i) If a player exhibits any signs or symptoms of having a concussion, AYSO strongly recommends that parents and guardians seek medical attention and obtain clearance by a medical professional before the athlete returns to play.
- (ii) In states that have a concussion law that applies to AYSO programs and requires a medical clearance if a player had a concussion or exhibited any signs or symptoms of a concussion, AYSO requires that parents and guardians seek medical attention and obtain clearance by a medical professional before the athlete returns to play.
- (iii) Regardless of whether there is a concussion law that applies to AYSO programs in the particular state, a player may not return to play on the same day that the player was removed from play, or not permitted to participate, because the player exhibited signs or symptoms of a concussion.

2.15 Youth Volunteers

Although AYSO appreciates and encourages young people to participate in all aspects of soccer including coaching and officiating, an individual under the age of majority, a youth volunteer, may not be listed as the Team Coach or Assistant Coach and may not be responsible for or in the position of supervising children.

Each of the seven required Regional Board positions including Regional Commissioner, Treasurer, Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate, Registrar, Safety Director, Regional Coach Administrator, and Regional Referee Administrator must be held by an adult volunteer. In addition, youth volunteers may not hold any other Regional Board position other than in a non-voting capacity.

Careful consideration should be given to the duties associated with other volunteer positions before assigning them to youth volunteers. Youth volunteers should not be assigned to any position with responsibility for the administration, management or supervision of an AYSO program including areas such as custodial supervision of youth participants, finances, personal data confidentiality, dispute resolution and risk management. Youth Volunteers may not be certified as an Instructor or serve as a Lead Instructor in any discipline.

2.16 Excluded Activities

As insurance carriers move to exclude activities from coverage plans as a result of rising costs for claims from injuries related to these activities, AYSO must also move to exclude these activities as the only means for protecting the Organization.

Regions are advised that the following activities are excluded from AYSO's insurance coverage and must not be included as AYSO sponsored activities:

- Inflatable amusement devices which participants can climb or play on.
- Fireworks or the sale of fireworks.
- Amusement or carnival rides.
- Tractor pulls or hay rides.
- Rock climbing walls.
- Bungee jumping or bungee type rides.
- Trampolines.
- Other potentially high risk, non-soccer related activities.

Additionally, AYSO insurance does not cover adults, including registered volunteers, playing in a game of soccer. This exclusion includes coach versus referee goodwill games, parent scrimmages and especially parent versus player scrimmages. Because of the risk of serious injury, under no circumstances should adults engage in scrimmages or games against minors. Adults registered in the AYSO Adult Soccer program will be covered by the Adult Soccer program insurance for official AYSO Adult Soccer activities.

2.17 Playing Up or Down an Age Division

AYSO's National Rules and Regulations define AYSO's Standard Age Divisions, consistent with US Soccer's Player Development Initiatives, AYSO's Age-Appropriate Coaching methodologies, and in the best interest of the player. From time to time, Regions may receive requests from parents for their child to be placed in an age division other than his/her standard division. These requests for an exception should be handled on a case-by-case basis annually and considered in the context of what is in the best interest of both the specific child as well as those children affected by the exception.

Requests to "play up" in the next older age division may be considered if doing so would be of genuine benefit to the child socially, developmentally, as well as athletically and as long as:

1. The Region secures formal written acknowledgement that this is what the parents want for their child and confirming that they believe their child is developmentally ready for that age division. Parents should acknowledge that this exception does not guarantee that future exceptions will be granted.
2. The Region determines that the child is developmentally able to safely play and compete in the next division. Children restricted by age from heading the ball should not be allowed to play up in a division where heading the ball is allowed.

Similarly, requests for an exception to "play down" an age division may be considered if doing so would be of genuine benefit to the child socially, developmentally, as well as athletically and as long as:

1. The Region secures a formal written request for an exception, expressing the need to play down and the need is determined to be truly warranted based on the developmental readiness of the child as opposed to a preference to be with classmates, friends or siblings.
2. The Region determines that the child does not pose any greater safety risk to the children in the younger age division.
3. The Region secures confirmation from the child's parents that the child may not be eligible to play with his/her team in competitions outside of the Region.
4. Full disclosure to all division coaches of the fact that a player has been approved to play down is required, but the reason for the approval is not subject to the disclosure to the coaches.

2.18 AYSO Firearms Policy

In furtherance of its Safe Haven and Kids Zone policies, it is the policy of AYSO to prohibit, to the maximum extent allowed by all applicable laws, the open or concealed carrying of firearms in the vicinity of playing fields during practices or games, as well as at any other AYSO sanctioned events. In jurisdictions where open and/or concealed carrying of firearms is legally allowed, AYSO strongly discourages the carrying of such firearms in the vicinity of any AYSO practices, games, or events.

Article Three: Rules Relating to Regions, Areas and Sections

3.1 AYSO Volunteer Reimbursement Policy

Volunteer expenses are funded by player fees and sponsor contributions. Please be prudent.

(a) Purpose

- (i) To provide American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) volunteers with policy and procedural guidelines and limitations regarding business, travel and entertainment expense reporting and reimbursement, consistent with AYSO business practices, ethics policy and IRS guidelines.
- (ii) To provide volunteer management with the policy information necessary to properly review and approve volunteer business expenses as well as travel and entertainment expenses.

(b) General Policy Provisions

- (i) Volunteers are expected to adhere to these guidelines and exercise good overall judgment with respect to all expenditures.
- (ii) Volunteers are encouraged to make travel arrangements through the most economical means possible.
- (iii) If traveling to an AYSO-sponsored meeting (EXPO, Board Meeting, etc.), lodging arrangements should be made through the conference registration system. If traveling outside of an AYSO event, volunteers may make their own hotel reservations at a reasonably priced (mid-priced) accommodation (*see Schedule of Limits for Maximum amount allowed) given the location.
- (iv) AYSO reserves the right to refuse reimbursement payment to volunteers, recover money previously reimbursed to volunteers, or recover money paid on behalf of volunteers for reimbursements that are not in compliance with AYSO policies and procedures.
- (v) If volunteers are traveling and expect to incur expenses that are not addressed within this policy, or require deviations from this policy, it is the volunteer's responsibility to obtain prior written approval for these exceptions from the National President or designee.
- (vi) No one is allowed to approve their own travel or expenses.

(c) Accessibility

These policies and procedures are available to all volunteers posted on the website.

(d) Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

- (i) The Finance Department will monitor compliance with the policies and procedures and will periodically provide exception reporting to the National Executive Director or designee.
- (ii) Specific areas that will be monitored will include:
 - a. Air, lodging, and rental car reservations that are outside of policy guidelines.
 - b. Expenditures that are above stated policy dollar limits.
 - c. Expense reports that have been submitted but not approved.

(e) Entertainment

- (i) Entertainment expenses are reimbursable when a business discussion includes or occurs during the expenditure. The person entertained must be an actual or potential business partner.
- (ii) A receipt must accompany all entertainment expenses.

- (iii) Entertainment expenses should not be extravagant or go beyond the bounds of good taste.
 - (iv) An explanation of the business purpose of the expenditure, as well as the business partner name and the names of all individuals present, must be included in the documentation included with the reimbursement request or AYSO credit card transaction.
 - (v) The use of alcohol by AYSO in entertaining its employees, representatives, customers or vendors should be reasonable (e.g. 1-2 drinks per person).
- (f) Expense Reporting
- (i) Expense Reimbursement Request Submission and Settlement
 - a. An AYSO Expense Reimbursement Request through the AYSO expense reimbursement system must be submitted within 30 days of the date the expense was incurred. All expense reimbursement requests received by the finance department more than 30 days after any business expense or travel event MAY BE REJECTED AND THIS EXPENSE WILL BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VOLUNTEER.
 - b. The request must be generated by the requesting party and all appropriate receipts must be attached. Lack of proper receipts and approval(s) may result in denial of reimbursement.
 - (ii) For AYSO Office Budget items:
 - a. All Volunteer expenses with the exception of Section Directors, Commission Members (not needed) and National Board of Directors (NBOD) will have their reimbursement approved by the Section Director and then the National Executive Director or designee.
 - b. Section Directors, Commission Members and NBOD members will have their expenses approved by the National Executive Director or designee.
 - c. The National President's expenses will be approved by the National Treasurer.
 - d. For any individual who incurs a charge related to another department's budget, the appropriate Manager or Director will need to approve as well.
 - (iii) For Section/Area/Region Discretionary Budget:

Volunteer Reimbursement Approval (Not Reimbursed out of the National Budget)			
Volunteers	Required Authorizations		
Regional Volunteers	Regional Commissioner	AND	Regional Treasurer
Area Staff	Area Director		Area Treasurer
Section Staff	Section Director		Section Treasurer
Regional Commissioner	Area Director		Regional Treasurer
Area Director	Section Director		Area Treasurer
Section Director	Section Liaison or National President		Section Treasurer
Instructors	Event Host		Event Host Treasurer

(iv) Documentation

- a. "Documentation" is a receipt, or other form of evidence, which can be used to substantiate an expense and trace it to its source.
- b. Regardless of the amount or form of payment, receipts are required for all expenditures, or reimbursement may be denied.

(g) Travel

(i) Air transportation:

Unless otherwise authorized, all travelers must follow the following guidelines:

a. Reservations and Ticketing

- i. Volunteers are required to make airline reservations at least 21 days in advance of departure whenever possible to take advantage of discounted fares.
- ii. There are two choices available to volunteers who must travel for the organization with the objective of obtaining the lowest cost option:
 - a. Travelers may purchase airfare using an AYSO approved payment card.
 - b. Or purchase airfare and submit a reimbursement request.

b. Airfares

- i. Volunteers will be reimbursed for the price of "Coach" or "Economy" airfare only.
- ii. Unless otherwise authorized, all travelers MUST use the lowest available Coach/Economy fares available within a 2-hour travel window, with the following stipulations:
 - a. Travelers will be required to use connecting service if the roundtrip airfare results in \$250 or more in savings over non-stop service, and the layover or additional duration of the trip is less than 2 hours.
 - b. Specific airlines or flights will be honored only if they provide the lowest available fare.
- iii. Travelers may NOT refuse the lowest fares, or select preferred carriers for the purposes of:
 - a. Accruing frequent flier mileage.
 - b. Obtaining upgrades to higher classes of service.
 - c. Obtaining preferred seating arrangements.

(h) Ground Transportation

- (i) The least expensive, practical ground transportation alternative should be used (e.g. shuttle, taxi, ridesharing service, personal car, or rental car). In some cases, the lower cost driving option may be to rent a vehicle rather than use a personal car.
- (ii) Parking fees and tolls, if rental or personal car travel is the least cost practical transportation will be reimbursed. Prior approval is required for use of a personal automobile for a trip of over four (4) hours driving time. Prior approval requests should include documentation of the cost of advance purchased

airfare. For those events, the volunteer will be reimbursed at the lesser of the current IRS non-profit mileage rate and the documented advance purchased airfare

(iii) Incidental transportation at destination will be reimbursed.

(iv) Use of a personal automobile will be reimbursed at the current non-profit rate outlined in the "Schedule of Limits."

(v) Rental car fuel is reimbursable with receipts.

(i) Hotel Expenses

(i) For National Meetings, all hotel reservations must be arranged through the AYSO conference registration system. Room, tax and internet services are the only expenses that may be charged with an AYSO issued payment card. The only person who may authorize direct charges to the AYSO Office is the National Executive Director or Designee approved by the National Executive Director.

(ii) Outside National Meetings, Travelers are expected to exercise good judgment when making hotel selections and request properties that are mid-priced or those that provide the best value to AYSO. Rooms may be booked directly.

(iii) Staying at a particular property at a higher rate or one that will require the additional cost of a car rental so that the traveler can accrue or utilize frequent traveler points is strictly prohibited.

(iv) Volunteers should always request the lowest applicable rate upon check-in.

(i) Hotel Expenses Reimbursement

(i) A hotel folio must be submitted with the volunteer's reimbursement request or as documentation for an AYSO payment card transaction, along with proof of payment.

(ii) Expenses that are charged to a hotel folio must be itemized on the volunteer's expenses..

(iii) Volunteers have two choices for paying for a hotel folio.

a. The preferred method is to pay for their hotel folio with an AYSO approved payment card.

b. Pay for their hotel folio upon checkout using a personal credit card and submit for reimbursement.

(j) Hotel Reservations

(i) If reservations are made for AYSO business and are not properly cancelled, any associated fees/charges will be the responsibility of the traveler and will not be reimbursed.

(ii) If a traveler chooses to stay with friends or relatives, gifts (including monetary) given in lieu of hotel charges are not reimbursable.

(k) Hotel Room Rate Limitation

(i) The lowest rate available at time of booking will be reserved based on guidelines detailed under "General Policy" above. Any upgrade of room type or additional hotel room expense, other than that authorized by the policy, must be approved as an exception or paid for by the traveler.

(ii) Refer to the "Schedule of Limits" for maximum reimbursement amounts for hotel.

(l) Meals

- (i) When meals include one or more AYSO members it is classified as a business meal. Business meals are defined as meals that can include customers, vendor, volunteers and employees where a specific business discussion has taken place.
- (ii) An explanation of the business purpose of the expenditure, as well as the company name and the names of all individuals present must be on the receipt and must be reported on the expense documentation.
- (iii) Personal meals are defined as meal expenses incurred while traveling on approved business trips. Meal reimbursements will commence from the time the volunteer leaves home until their return.
 - a. AYSO does not reimburse for mini-bar purchases.
 - b. Receipts are required to document meal reimbursement.
 - c. Any exception or deviation from these guidelines must be approved by the National Executive Director or designee.
 - d. Refer to the "Schedule of Limits" for maximum reimbursement amounts for meals.

(m) Gratuities

Reasonable skycap, bellman, doorman, maid, and taxi gratuities are permitted (generally, 18% to 20% for food and beverage and ground transportation) and are acceptable without an original receipt.

(n) Parking

When the length of your trip is such that a roundtrip ridesharing (Uber, Lyft, etc.) or Taxi fare is less than long-term parking, we recommend that this option be exercised.

(o) Telephone and Internet

The AYSO National Budget is not to be used for telephone and/or internet service or equipment including cell phones and hot spots. Requests for exceptions may be directed to the National Executive Director. See Schedule of Limits for maximum reimbursable expense.

(p) Awards, Trophies and Gifts

- (i) Awards, Trophies and Gift expenditures are permissible from discretionary funds but are not authorized expenditures from the National Budget.
- (ii) All recognition and gift items including but not limited to: trophies, plaques, shirts, sweatshirts, backpacks and the like should be limited to a maximum outlined in the Schedule of Limits.
- (iii) Gift cards as used in volunteer recognition is strongly discouraged. If you choose to purchase cards, they may be issued in no more than the maximum outlined in the Schedule of Limits, and must be applied per the following protocol.
- (iv) The following must be documented:
 - (a) Name of person receiving gift card
 - (b) Purpose (i.e.: referee party)
 - (c) Amount of the gift card
 - (d) Date distributed

(q) Printing, Postage and Other Communication

Submit receipts. These are recognized as necessary operating expenses.

(r) Computer Equipment and Software

- (i) Computer equipment and software expenditures are permissible from discretionary funds but are not authorized expenditures from the National Budget. Computer equipment includes, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, printers and scanners.
- (ii) In some instances, to simplify acquisition, a volunteer may be reimbursed for purchases with the prior approval of the appropriate executive member and as long as original receipts are presented. All equipment and software, whether purchased directly or reimbursed, remains the property of AYSO. Please see the Schedule of Limits for maximum reimbursable values.
- (iii) These items shall be tracked using the following information:
 - a. Name of person in possession
 - b. Item description
 - c. Serial number
 - d. Date Issued

(s) Non-Reimbursable Expenses

- (i) Non-reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Attendance of family of the participants at any meeting or program.
 - b. Fees in connection with Operating Division programs or Operating Division training events, including coach, referee or management are not reimbursable from the National Budget.
 - c. Attendance of participants at Operating Division meeting or program.
 - d. Undocumented, unexplained, or unidentified expenses.
 - e. Laundry or dry cleaning (Exception: While on approved company business for a duration of five days or more, and then limited to regular hotel laundry/valet charges)
 - f. Traffic violations
 - g. Personal reading material
 - h. Barber or hairdresser
 - i. Shoeshine expenses
 - j. Personal telephone use or postage (see "Telephone" section for additional details)
 - k. Theft or loss of personal or company funds
 - l. Baby-sitting expenses
 - m. Kennel expenses

- n. Health club expenses
- o. Clothing, toiletries, or personal articles
- p. Medications (unless immunizations are required for travel)
- q. In-room movie expenses or airplane headphones
- r. Mini-bar expenses

3.12 AYSO National Player Fee Refund Policy

A. AYSO National Player Fee (NPF): AYSO receives a NPF for each player who registers in a membership year. These fees fund the operation of the AYSO Office to support AYSO programs across the country. The NPF is a non-refundable fee that:

- That applies to an entire membership year (June 1 through June 30 of each year).
- Is applicable to any AYSO Regional Program that occurs during a membership year.
- Will not be charged more than once if a player signs up for more than one program during the same membership year.

B. Special Circumstances that warrant a refund of the NPF to the Section, Area, or Region: Even though the NPF is non-refundable, there may be extenuating circumstances in which a Section, Area, or Region may request a refund of these fees on behalf of member families. These would include:

- A duplicate payment or payment collected on a test membership account.
- The player registers and pays a membership fee, but before beginning participation in a local program moves to a neighborhood where there is no AYSO program.
- When there is no division or program in which the player can participate, or the program is unable to operate at any time during the AYSO membership year.
- The participant dies or experiences an injury that prevents any level of participation in the program.

C. Extreme Circumstances: In the event of a pandemic, such as COVID-19, or other widespread occurrence that impacts the financial viability of AYSO, the ability to issue refunds may not be financially feasible. In those instances, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be executed for the purpose of repaying those membership fees over time.

D. Clarifications:

1. All refunds to participants will be the responsibility of the program in accordance with their Refund Policy as defined by the Standard Regional Guidelines. A program may decide to provide a refund of the AYSO NPF but, any reimbursement to the program of the NPF is subject to the criteria listed above.
2. These are all contingent upon AYSO's financial ability to issue a refund of the NPF.
3. No requests will be granted after any level of participation in any AYSO program during a membership year.
4. Requests for refunds will be processed no more than once per month to the Section, Area, or Region.

3.2 Publishing Regional Financial Statements

Each Region must disseminate to all of its participants (coaches, referees, parents of AYSO players and administrators) its financial statements at least once a year. Such financial statements may be in the form of the annual report required and filed with the AYSO Office and shall consist of (a) a statement of receipts and expenditures for the previous twelve months, and (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Region as at the end of such twelve months. A copy of such financial statements, if different from the Region's annual report, should be sent to the AYSO Office, Attention: Finance Department, with a cover letter indicating the date and method of dissemination of such information. In order to facilitate such dissemination, the AYSO Office shall send to each Regional Commissioner a suggested form of annual report.

3.3 Region, Area and Section Officials

The Executive Member (Regional Commissioner, Area Director or Section Director) and the Treasurer of the Region, Area or Section may not be members of the same immediate family or the same household nor may more than one signatory on the bank account be from the same family or household, without the prior written consent of the National Board of Directors.

Personal credit histories may be considered when determining eligibility to hold positions with fiduciary responsibilities. Personal bankruptcies, levies or garnishments may disqualify a candidate for these positions or as an account signatory.

3.4 Regional Charters

The National Board of Directors shall not consider granting charter status to any pilot Region until it has gone through one season, has played at least one season (in the case of split-seasons, one part of the split-season), is utilizing AYSO's National Accounting Program (NAP) or has fulfilled its financial accountability to the satisfaction of the Director of Finance, and during such period, has met its financial obligations on a timely basis. In the case of splits of existing charter Regions, the National Board of Directors may grant charter or pilot status to either or both surviving entities depending upon the relevant circumstances.

3.5 Legal Support from AYSO National, Lawsuits Involving AYSO

AYSO is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of California. Each of the Regions is not separately incorporated, but is part of the parent corporation. That means that each Regional Commissioner is an officer of AYSO, the assets and liabilities of each Region are the assets and liabilities of AYSO and the actions of each Region and its Regional Commissioner are the responsibility of AYSO and the other Regions.

AYSO's legal affairs are conducted exclusively by the Legal Commission of the National Board of Directors with the support of outside legal counsel. No Region may bring a lawsuit in the name of AYSO or its Regional name without the prior approval of the Legal Commission. This is because a lawsuit, however strong the case may appear, may result in a serious counterclaim or protracted defense and hence legal fees and/or liability in excess of what any Region can bear. If a Region and/or any of its officers are sued, the AYSO Office, the Area Director and the Section Director must be immediately notified and copies of all papers received sent promptly to the AYSO Office.

The AYSO Office shall provide legal defense for the Region in one of three ways. Normally it will be through AYSO's insurance carrier if the matter is a claim covered by insurance. If not, AYSO shall seek the help of local outside counsel, hopefully on a pro bono basis. Sometimes, the AYSO Legal Commission will directly defend the matter. If individuals in the Region, including the Regional Commissioner, are also joined in the lawsuit, AYSO may, but is not obligated to, defend them depending upon the circumstances surrounding the claim and their role in the matter and subject to the Bylaws of AYSO.

Since AYSO is responsible for the actions of the Regions, all material contracts, which a Region is proposing to enter into, must be submitted to the Legal Commission, particularly written leases for playing facilities in excess of one year. Such contracts will be analyzed to determine whether the costs contained therein can be reasonably borne by the

Region and whether AYSO's insurance programs cover the potential liability of the Region hereunder. In addition, its impact on the AYSO Office and national policies and programs (such as licensing) will also be considered.

3.6 AYSO Legal Representation and Fees

The AYSO Office reserves the right to charge back to the Region all or a portion of the legal costs involved in a lawsuit if the Region (a) has failed to follow the advice of the Legal Commission or the AYSO Office, or (b) has failed to notify the AYSO Office in a timely manner of any threatened claim, or (c) has commenced a lawsuit without the prior written consent of the AYSO Office.

3.7 Registration of Players and Volunteers; Filing of Player and Volunteer Registration Forms; Use of eAYSO as Exclusive Registration System; eSignature Requirement

Players and volunteers must register with the AYSO Office (AYSO) in the manner defined by AYSO and it is the responsibility of each Region, Area, Section, United Program, and Affiliate (AYSO Entity) to comply fully with this requirement at their cost. In order to conduct business, AYSO requires timely registration and payment for all players and volunteers. No player or volunteer can receive benefits from AYSO unless they are properly registered for the current membership year as required by AYSO.

To register with AYSO, Players and Volunteers are required to exchange information with the AYSO Office. This information includes, but is not limited to, information about the Players, Guardians, Volunteers, Participant Consent, Waivers, Signatures, and Submitting to Background Checks. Payment of all National Membership and Participation fees is also required at the time of registration. Registration will take place in the manner that AYSO sets forth and publishes.

In 2017, AYSO established an electronic platform (AYSO Platform) to receive these required registrations and payments. All AYSO Registrations are now required to be done electronically using a method which AYSO has certified and approved. AYSO's National Executive Director and AYSO's National Board President are responsible to certify methods for registering and will recommend updates to the National Board of Directors for approval. AYSO can charge AYSO Regions, Areas, Sections, United Programs, and Affiliates for costs incurred by the AYSO Office for the use of any certified methods. Certified registration with the AYSO Platform is the only way to be officially registered with AYSO and receive membership benefits. For consideration to become an officially registered platform, please email ned@ayso.org.

Currently approved AYSO Certified Registering Methods are:

1. Use of Stack Sports and use of their Mobile First Platform which is integrated into the AYSO Platform (AYSO Partnered League Management and Registration System) – Certified and Approved
2. Use of inLeague League Management and Registration System – Certified and Approved

3.8 Cultural Exchange Programs

In cultural exchange programs, AYSO players travel to a host foreign country or a Region hosts a foreign country's visiting team(s) for the dual purpose of playing soccer and learning about different cultures and geographic areas, and making friends through the universal language of soccer.

Such programs have been highly successful and rewarding to those participating and should be encouraged. However, because participation in such programs is necessarily limited to a small number of participants from the Region, no general Region funds may be used to subsidize a team travelling to participate in a foreign country's cultural exchange program. A Region may use general Region funds to cover the Region's expenses of hosting foreign teams if the competition is part of a Region-hosted tournament or other competition that is open to all Region players. Special fund-raising to finance such programs in whole or in part is allowed if the purpose is published to the Region members.

Regions should refer to the AYSO Tournament Handbook and contact the Risk Management Coordinator at the AYSO Office for additional information, guidelines, and rules relating to cultural exchange programs.

3.9 Bank Accounts

Only Regions, the AYSO Office and such other officers of AYSO as are permitted from time to time by the National Board of Directors may maintain accounts in the name of AYSO. Money collected by or on behalf of AYSO must be deposited in an AYSO account. Funds deposited in AYSO accounts, and all other property acquired by the Region, are assets of the organization and may not be used, contributed, or transferred to any other person, organization, or other entity except in exchange for goods or services provided to the Region for the operation of its programs.

3.10 Player Fee Refund

One of the biggest areas of complaints that the AYSO Office has to deal with is the question of refunds to participants who drop out of the program for good, bad or indifferent reasons. The range of Regional policies on this subject varies from a full refund to a partial refund to no refund, sometimes depending on the timing of the request for the refund. Based on the experience of the AYSO Office, it is the wisest and least problematic policy to refund the entire amount. In exceptional circumstances, the Region may consider deducting from the refund the cost of a uniform if it has already been used or cannot be used again, even if it is new, or other specific non-recoverable costs. It is tempting to reduce the refunds in the case where a child leaves the program to play in another program or for no good reason, but in the end, the amount of time spent defending the refund policy is not worth the funds kept. The Standard Regional Guidelines reflect this policy.

3.11 Land Ownership

It has been a long-standing policy of AYSO not to own land dedicated to playing fields or other facilities because needs and resources of a Region may vary greatly over time, and the responsibilities of ownership include year-round maintenance and surveillance obligations, expenses and potential liability.

However, with field space becoming a premium and with the hindsight of some experiences where a facility was created with the time, money and energy of volunteers, but, because AYSO did not own it, fees were increased over the years to extremely high figures to the disadvantage of AYSO, AYSO has decided to reconsider this policy.

Accordingly, AYSO will consider land ownership on a project-by-project basis provided that the following requirements, at a minimum, can be met: (1) The establishment under the supervision of the Legal Commission of a separate corporation or foundation (with ownership held by AYSO); (2) demonstration by the Region of its ability to raise funds necessary to purchase, construct and maintain the facility; (3) adoption of a realistic budget for the project; (4) presentation of a realistic business plan for the on-going operation of the facility; and, (5) presentation of a plan to secure adequate resources for the project as well as on-going maintenance of the facility and of the corporation or foundation.

No such project may be undertaken without the prior written consent of the National Board of Directors. Inquiries in the first instances should be made to the AYSO Office.

Article Four: Rules Relating to Regional Commissioners and other Executive Members

4.1 Interim Appointment of Regional Commissioners

The Executive Committee may approve Regional Commissioner appointments or changes (whether with respect to a new Pilot or an existing Pilot or Charter Region) in extraordinary circumstances when a regular meeting of the Board is not scheduled within a reasonable period of time after the request is made. Such approval will only be considered based on a request by a Section Director, if both the Section Director and Area Director approve the application, and the Area Director submits a written request for expedited treatment, stating the reasons therefore in detail (e.g., immediate need to start the program or order supplies) and what steps (in addition to normal procedures) were taken by the Area Director to ensure that the Regional Commissioner appointment is a good one. Such approval will be subject to review at the next National Board of Directors Meeting.

4.2 Accountability of Executive Member upon Resignation

Each executive member who is a Regional Commissioner, Area Director or Section Director is an officer of AYSO and as such is responsible for all assets of AYSO in the AYSO subdivision (Region, Area, or Section) for which that executive member is responsible, all books and records regarding that AYSO subdivision, and for all reports required to be filed with the AYSO Office. This includes all documents concerning the administration, finances or other operations of the AYSO subdivision, all cash, and all bank accounts and every other form of asset in which funds were deposited with any person or entity, PLUS all of the following: goal posts, anchors, nets, referee corner flags, field lining equipment, paint and chalk, uniforms, balls, ball bags, computers, hard drives, notebooks, modems, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners, LCD projectors, overhead projectors, audiovisual equipment, shredders, telephones, cell phones, Blackberry and Bluetooth equipment, other PDA's, receivers, pagers, 2-way radio walkie talkies, cameras, memory cards, camcorders, tape recorders, televisions, radios, calculators, carts, wagons, storage facilities and containers, easels, charts, signs, posters, ink, toner, clipboards, binders, paper, all other types of equipment and supplies, and all other items of personal property. No resignation of an executive member will be accepted by the National Board of Directors, nor will the executive member be released from liability, unless (1) the AYSO Office receives an accounting satisfactory to it for all such assets and reports and (2) such assets and reports have been transferred to the charge of those persons directed to receive them by the AYSO Office.

4.3 Political Activities

AYSO, being a nonprofit Organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is subject to certain limitations when it comes to involvement in election campaigns and initiatives related to public policy. Frequently there are local campaigns for political office or ballot initiatives that have a direct impact on AYSO Regions, and local leadership feels compelled to get involved in the best interests of the local AYSO organization(s). Nevertheless, executive members and representatives of Region, Area and Section Boards must proceed with caution so as not to jeopardize AYSO's non-profit status.

AYSO Regions, Areas or Sections, and individual members serving in their official AYSO capacity or otherwise communicating through official AYSO communications channels are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Political intervention is defined as "any and all activities that favor or oppose one or more candidates for public office." The prohibition extends beyond candidate endorsements. It includes, "contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made by or on behalf of an organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office."

AYSO entities and representatives may take positions on public policy issues (ballot initiatives, public park bond issues, etc.) including issues that divide candidates in an election for public office. However, in communicating AYSO's position on any ballot initiative that might impact local soccer activities, Regions must avoid any issue advocacy that functions as political campaign intervention, as defined in the second paragraph above. Even if a statement does not expressly tell an audience to vote for or against a specific candidate, a Region or AYSO representative delivering the statement is at risk of violating the political campaign intervention prohibition if there is any message favoring or opposing a candidate. In such a case, statements from AYSO representatives should stick to the ballot initiative and what it means to AYSO. Do not make any reference to any candidate who might support the initiative or who might oppose it.

The law, and this policy statement, are not intended to restrict any individual citizen's right to free speech. However, AYSO members cannot make partisan comments in official AYSO publications or at official AYSO functions. AYSO leaders who speak or write in their individual capacity must clearly indicate that their comments are personal and not intended to represent the views of AYSO. Anything a member wishes to say or publish would have to be outside of a Regional meeting, game or other activity and cannot appear through a communication channel paid for or otherwise supported by AYSO. Any such speech or published material put forth as an individual must contain a disclaimer stating that the opinions expressed are of the individual and not those of AYSO.

Hence, no member of AYSO may in his capacity as an AYSO member or otherwise use any AYSO facility, including the bulk mailing permit or membership list (Regional or national), in an attempt to influence (for or against) a candidate's campaign for public office at any level, local or national. Nothing in this Policy Statement shall prohibit the

dissemination of information regarding city or county governmental meetings, or the organization of other political action directly relating to the soccer program (such as hearings regarding field allocations, etc.). However, the use of Regional funds to promote or to defeat any candidate for government office would be a prohibited use of Regional resources. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in immediate expulsion of the member from AYSO.

4.4 Player Fees Assessed by Area Directors

An Area Director may assess the Regions in his/her Area a per-player or other fee, in addition to the National registration fee, which is reasonably related to services or programs to be provided by the Area Director and the costs associated therewith and not covered by his Area budget funded by the AYSO Office. Any such assessment on a Region may only be made with the approval of the Regional Commissioner of such Region, but the Area Director may deny access to a Region that declines to pay such assessment to the programs or services supported by such assessment. The Area Director shall be accountable to the Regions in his/her Area for the funds collected from the Regions in such Area and shall place such funds in a National Accounting Program (NAP) account, and quarterly reports of such account shall be furnished to each Region in such Area upon request.

4.5 Supply Contracts by Area and Section Directors

Area and Section Directors may enter into supply contracts or other group purchasing arrangements for their respective Regions and Areas under the following conditions:

- (a) The Area or Section Director has the prior written approval of all Regions or Areas covered by the arrangement. No Region or Area may be forced to participate in any such arrangement. Without prior approval of the AYSO Office, any such arrangement shall be on a non-exclusive basis only. Such arrangements may not exceed three years in duration.
- (b) Any benefit, directly or indirectly, from any such supply contract or other group purchasing arrangement shall be for the general benefit of the Area or Section, is fully disclosed in advance, and is agreed to by all the Regions or Area within the Area or Section.
- (c) All such supply contracts or other group purchasing arrangements which exceed one year in duration, shall be submitted to the AYSO Office for review 30 days before being agreed to by the Area or Section Director.

This policy statement shall not limit Regions from entering into their own supply contracts (subject to AYSO conflict of interest policies).

4.6 Cessation of Rights and Privileges

Any executive member who is a Regional Commissioner, Area Director or Section Director and remains in that position longer than the final date in the period of time for which she/he was appointed by the National Board of Directors (the "Final Date") shall cease enjoyment of all rights and privileges of the position at 12:00 midnight at the end of the Final Date, unless a fully completed application for re-appointment is received by the AYSO Office prior to the Final Date. Despite a cessation of rights and privileges, each such executive member shall remain bound by the same fiduciary obligations that are summarized in Policy Statement Section 4.2 regarding a voluntary resignation, until the two events, numbered 1 and 2, described in the final sentence of Section 4.2 are satisfied.

Article Five: Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest

5.1 Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy statement is to set standards for the activities of Officials ("AYSO Officials") in order to ensure that an AYSO Official's actions would always be in the best interests of AYSO and that he/she does not take advantage of his/her position in AYSO for his/her own benefit or to the detriment of AYSO or others. AYSO Officials include all Regional Commissioners, Area Directors, Section Directors, Area and Section staff members, special

executives, members of the national commissions, members of the National Board of Directors and the members of the AYSO Office, as well as the husbands or wives or members of the immediate family of each of the above.

5.2 General Policy

AYSO Officials are expected to adhere to high ethical standards of conduct in the performance of their duties, observing all laws and regulations governing business transactions, competing fairly with others and using AYSO funds only for legitimate and ethical purposes. The rights of AYSO Officials in their activities outside their AYSO duties or employment that are private in nature and which in no way conflict with or reflect upon AYSO will be respected. Although AYSO Officials have been carefully selected and are assumed to possess integrity and judgment, to avoid any misunderstanding, the following guidelines are issued with respect to proper conduct:

5.3 Conflict of Interest Policy

- (a) AYSO Officials must act always in the best interests of AYSO and avoid incurring any kind of financial interest of personal obligation that might affect their judgment in dealings on behalf of AYSO with firms or individuals. Each person must examine his/her own activities and those of his/her family to be sure that no condition exists that could create a self-dealing situation in respect of financial transactions of AYSO.
- (b) There are certain Areas with which each individual must be especially concerned. Areas giving rise to possible conflicts of interest include the following:
 - (i) Holding a material financial interest, directly or indirectly (as an owner, stockholder, partner, joint venture, employee, creditor or guarantor), in a firm which provides services or supplies, materials or equipment to AYSO, any of its Regions or any of its participants (such as a vendor of uniforms, soccer shoes, soccer balls, goal posts or other soccer equipment or a director or owner of a soccer camp for children), or in an organization to which AYSO or any of its Regions provides services.
 - (ii) Accepting gifts or favors for himself or herself or for family members, or entertainment or other personal benefits in excess of \$100.00 from an outside organization or individual with whom AYSO or any of its Regions does or may do business. This does not apply to acceptance of a casual gift of a nominal value, nor reasonable personal entertainment (but not paid travel expenses), but care must be exercised to be sure that continuation of such matters does not gradually create or appear to create an obligation. Gifts of a substantial nature should be returned to the donor with the explanation that AYSO's policy would not permit the acceptance of the gift.
 - (iii) Serving another organization in any capacity whether such service includes activities, compensated or not, which can affect or appear to affect an individual's ability to discharge his/her duties to AYSO. This includes, but is not limited to, those activities related to AYSO Standard Primary programs, secondary programs and special programs that interface with other youth soccer organizations and their programs and their local and national governing bodies.
- (c) Therefore, to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest, it is the policy of AYSO that:
 - (i) Each executive member shall disclose in the executive member application or in the candidate statement the existence of any relationship by which the executive member might benefit, directly or indirectly by immediate family relationship, through ownership (including ownership of corporate shares exceeding 5% of a publicly traded company or 20% of a privately traded company) or employment of or with any vendor, supplier, contractor, service provider or sponsor of goods or services to AYSO or its members or participants. Such relationship shall be disclosed before the time for appointment or election.
 - (ii) Each executive member shall disclose the existence of any relationship by which the executive member might compete directly or indirectly with any program offered by AYSO directly or through contractors. Such relationship shall be disclosed before the time for appointment or election.

- (iii) In the case of any relationship described in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above, the executive member shall, upon appointment or election, immediately terminate such relationship unless the relationship is authorized by the express written consent of the National Board of Directors or its designee. The executive member affected shall refrain from participating in or seeking to influence any discussion, debate or vote concerning whether to allow such relationship to continue. The National Board of Directors may revoke with or without cause consent once given at any time.
- (iv) No executive member, after appointment or election, may enter into any relationship described in paragraphs (i) or (ii) except with the express written prior consent of the National Board of Directors or its designee. The executive member affected shall refrain from participating in or seeking to influence any discussion, debate or vote concerning whether to allow such relationship to be created. The National Board of Directors may revoke with or without cause consent once given at any time.
- (v) No executive member who is permitted to continue in or to embark upon a relationship described in paragraph (i) may participate in any discussion, debate or vote concerning the relationship, the vendor, supplier, contractor, service provider or sponsor with whom the relationship exists. No executive member who is permitted to continue in or to embark upon a relationship described in paragraph (ii) may participate in any discussion, debate or vote concerning the relationship or the programs with which the executive member competes and no such executive member shall obtain or seek to obtain information from AYSO beneficial to the promotion of such competing program.
- (vi) Any executive member who violates this policy is subject to immediate termination of executive membership status by the National Board of Directors, regardless of whether the executive member is appointed or elected. In the case of a member of the National Board of Directors, removal process shall comply with Section 4.18 of the National Bylaws.

5.4 Possible Improper or Illegal Conduct

AYSO Officials are not expected to be familiar with every law and regulation relating to this statement or affecting AYSO operations. When in doubt, however, it is incumbent upon each AYSO Official to consult with the National Executive Director. However, your attention is called to the following special Areas:

- (a) Each AYSO Official must avoid improper acts and the violation of any governmental law or regulation in the course of performing his/her duties or employment.
- (b) No AYSO funds, property or resources may be used to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation or support any political candidate or party. An AYSO Official's political activity must, therefore, be consistent with the direction provided in National Policy Statement 4.3 above.
- (c) No AYSO Official, in the course of his/her duties, shall accept or receive any payment or other thing of value (whether characterized as kickback, bribe, rebate, refund or otherwise, and whether intended by the payer to be for AYSO or the personal benefit of such AYSO Official) if the payment or receipt or tender thereof is illegal or is designed or intended to cause such AYSO Official to grant a privilege, concession or benefit to the payer in connection with AYSO business.

Article Six: Standard Regional Policies and Protocols

6.1 Adoption of Standard Regional Policies and Protocols

If a Region does not have in force Regional Policies and Protocols approved by the Area Director and the Section Director and the National Board of Directors or its delegate and on file in the AYSO Office, the Standard Regional Policies and Protocols shall apply. Regions are strongly encouraged to adopt Regional Policies and Protocols substantially in the form of the Standard Regional Policies and Protocols with Addenda A and B.

Article Seven: Dispute Resolution

7.1 Adoption of Dispute Resolution/Discipline Procedures

Each Region, Area and Section shall adopt dispute resolution and discipline review procedures, consistent with those recommended in Article 9 of the Standard Regional Guidelines, applicable to disputes that may arise within the Region, Area or Section.

7.2 Dispute Resolution/Discipline Where More Than One Region, Area or Section Is Involved

The Area Director shall have responsibility and authority to resolve disputes and conduct discipline review proceedings involving matters between or among participants from two or more Regions within the Area, and any review of such action(s) shall be heard by the Section Director or disinterested hearing panel he or she may appoint. The Section Director shall have responsibility and authority to resolve disputes and conduct discipline review proceedings involving matters between or among participants from Regions from two or more Areas within the Section, and any review of such action(s) shall be conducted by a disinterested panel the National President may appoint. The National President shall have responsibility and authority to resolve disputes and conduct discipline review proceedings involving matters between or among participants from Regions from two or more Sections, and any review of such action(s) shall be conducted by the National Board of Directors or a disinterested panel the National Board of Directors may appoint.

7.3 Cooperation with Dispute Resolution/Discipline Review Proceedings and Decisions

Each Regional Commissioner, Area Director and Section Director shall take all reasonable steps necessary to make sure that anyone with any supervisory authority over any incident requiring dispute resolution or discipline subject to Policy Statement 7.2 will immediately inform the appropriate Area Director, Section Director and the AYSO Office of such incident, fill out an appropriate Serious Incident Report, Misconduct Report or other similar report, promptly forward the report to the executive member with responsibility and authority to conduct the discipline review proceeding and to the AYSO Office, and otherwise cooperate with such proceeding.

Each Regional Commissioner, Area Director and Section Director shall be responsible for carrying out and implementing the final dispute resolution and discipline decisions of any review panel properly constituted within these Policy Statements.

7.4 AYSO Recommended Sanctions for Various Offenses

The following chart provides guidance and recommendations that Regions, Areas, and Sections may use as a basis for determining what they believe to be appropriate sanctions for violation of this policy. Due process review must be conducted in accordance with existing AYSO guidelines and policies before issuing any sanctions in accordance with this policy, including the actions described in the chart below. In addition to the use of the material detailing the expected behavior, all non-player program participants should be made aware of the potential consequences for their actions.

GRADUATED SCALE OF ACTIONS AND SANCTIONS		
Category	Description – Non-Player Behavior	Action by Region, Area, Section

Minor	<p>Minor offenses include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent dissent • Failing to adhere to the positive coaching philosophy. • Failing to adhere to the AYSO philosophies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-player committing a minor offense should be placed on probation for the remainder of the season (Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer) up to one calendar year. • A second minor offense while on probation may result in suspension for a period determined by the appropriate Executive Member. The CVPA will notify the National Risk Management Coordinator (NRMC) of the suspension. • A third offense while on probation or suspension may result in barring the person from attending all AYSO events for a period defined by the appropriate Executive Member.
Significant	<p>Significant offenses include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of profane, offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures • Any situation during a game for which play is stopped to deal with misconduct by a non-player. • Persistent minor offenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-player committing a significant offense may be suspended for a period determined by the appropriate level of Executive Member, for duration from a single game to one calendar year. All suspensions are reported to the NRMC by the CVPA. • A second offense while under suspension, the non-player may be barred from attending AYSO events for a period defined by the appropriate Executive Member.
Major	<p>Major offenses include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any situation during a game where a non-player is asked to leave the game by a referee, coach, board member, or other AYSO Official • Persistent significant offenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-player committing a major offense may be suspended for a period determined by the appropriate level of Executive Member or barred from attending any AYSO event depending upon personal history. All major offenses are reported to the NRMC by the CVPA. • A second offense while under a suspension, the non-player may be barred from attending AYSO events for a period of time determined by the appropriate Executive Member.
Extreme	<p>Extreme offenses include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any situation resulting in a game abandoned or terminated by a referee, board member, or other AYSO Official due to non-player misconduct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-player committing an extreme offense may be barred from any AYSO event for a period of time determined by the appropriate Executive Member.

Article Eight: Organization Operations

8.1 Change Implementation

To assure an orderly process for the development of new and amended Bylaws, rules and regulations, programs, policy statements, procedures and guidelines, all such additions and changes approved by the National Board of Directors or the executive members prior to June 1 will go into effect on August 1 of the year following approval unless earlier implementation is specified in the approval. Any such change or addition approved between June 1 and December 31 in a given year will go into effect on August 1 of the second year following approval unless an earlier implementation is specified in the approval.

8.2 Expenses of Candidates for Director

To help ensure free and open elections for the position of Director, as defined in Section 4.02(b) of the AYSO National Bylaws, a non-incumbent candidate for the office of Director who is not an executive member and who is nominated pursuant to Bylaw 4.04(a) or 4.04(b), will be reimbursed from the National Budget for those reasonable expenses incurred to attend the NAGM where the individual is a candidate for election. Reimbursement will be limited to the first five (5) such candidates in any one year, based on the date on which their application is received at the AYSO Office. Details regarding this reimbursement policy can be obtained from the office of the Chief Financial Officer at the AYSO Office.

8.3 Nomination Commission for the American Youth Soccer Organization

Vision Statement

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) will, by the eliciting of applications for election as a Director or President from persons who are highly qualified to serve in the position, strengthen the organization and enhance its ability to develop and deliver premier youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on AYSO's Six Philosophies, and enrich children's lives.

Mission Statement

It shall be the mission of AYSO to elicit applications from persons who possess exemplary attributes, which may include substantial skills, education, training and experience, that makes them highly qualified for the position of Director or President, and to encourage such persons to prepare an application for the position and submit it to the National Secretary as provided in AYSO Bylaw 4.04(a).

Procedures

The establishment of the Nominating Commission

- (a) The President, with concurrence of the National Board of Directors (NBOD), shall appoint as non-voting Chair of the AYSO Nominating Commission (NC or Commission) by July of each year, a member of the NBOD whose term of office as a Director will not expire at AYSO's immediately subsequent national annual general meeting (NAGM).
- (b) The appointment as Chair of the NC shall be for one year to expire the following June 1.
- (c) Whoever is selected as Chair of the NC cannot be a candidate for President at the NAGM which follows his/her appointment as Chair.
- (d) The appointed Chair of the NC, with concurrence of the President, shall make recommendations to the NBOD for seven voting members of the Commission with the goal of obtaining NBOD approval by August 31.
- (e) Consideration may be given to select the seven voting members of the NC so that:
 - 1) They may include the following experiences:
 - i. One person who currently is a Regional Commissioner.
 - ii. One person who currently is an Area Director.
 - iii. One person who currently is a Section Director.
 - iv. One at-large representative who currently is not an AYSO executive member (EM).

- v. Three other persons.
- 2) They may include gender diversity and geographic diversity:
 - i. Of the seven voting members of the NC, at least two shall be women, and at least two shall be men; and
 - ii. No two voting members of the NC shall be current residents of the same AYSO Section.
- (f) Each person selected as a voting member of the NC:
 - 1) At the time of selection must be a validly registered AYSO volunteer whose term of office has not expired; and
 - 2) Shall not be a candidate for the NBOD or President at the next NAGM.
- (g) Each voting member of the NC shall be appointed for two years.

Criteria for Selection as Candidate for NBOD or President

- (a) AYSO is significantly benefitted by having elections during each NAGM in which there are multiple candidates for the position of Director or President who possess exemplary attributes, which may include substantial skills, education, training and experience, that make them highly qualified to accept the enormous responsibilities of the position and capable of successfully fulfilling those responsibilities.
- (b) The exemplary attributes which cause a person to be a highly qualified candidate for the NBOD or President should be evidenced in the background of a candidate and, in any event, may include a record of success in leadership positions.

Application Process for Candidates

- (a) The Application Form which shall be utilized by any person who wishes to be considered as a candidate for the NBOD or President, and procedural information regarding elections for the NBOD or President positions, shall be established by the NBOD.
- (b) The Application Form and procedural information established by the NBOD shall be made available as directed by the NBOD from the AYSO Office or downloaded from the website – www.ayso.org.
- (c) Any person may submit to the National Secretary by timely delivery to the AYSO Office, a completed Application Form for the NBOD. Each year the AYSO Office shall publish the deadline for submitting a completed Application. While there is no guarantee the same will happen in future years, the deadline for submitting a completed Application generally has been in early January.

Following receipt of completed Applications, the AYSO Office, in the manner directed by the NBOD, shall provide them to the Chair of the NC for subsequent consideration by the Commission.

Encouragement of Applications

- (a) The Nominating Commission shall not participate in any politics or partisan activities, and members of the NC must perform their responsibilities with fairness and objectivity.
- (b) It is in the best interests of AYSO for an effort to be made by a Nominating Commission to encourage persons who possess exemplary attributes, which may include substantial skills, education, training, and experience, that make them highly qualified for the position of Director or President, to submit an application for participation as a candidate in an election.
- (c) The NC shall be pro-active in searching AYSO resources, including hard copy and electronic records stored and maintained by the AYSO Office, in order to attempt to identify persons who possess exemplary attributes that make them highly qualified for the position of Director or President.

- (d) The NC shall be pro-active in encouraging the highly qualified persons who have been identified during the Commission's search of AYSO resources, to submit to the National Secretary an application for participation as a candidate in an election.

Selection Process for NBOD Candidates

- (a) Within a reasonable period of time after expiration of the published deadline for submission of applications for the election at the subsequent NAGM:
- 1) The NC shall thoroughly examine all of the applications for the NBOD election, and ultimately determine as to each applicant whether or not, in the best judgment of the commission members, the applicant possesses exemplary attributes, which may include substantial skills, education, training and experience, that make him/her highly qualified for the position of Director.
 - 2) The NC shall thoroughly examine all of the applications for the President election, and ultimately determine as to each applicant whether or not, in the best judgment of the commission members, the applicant possesses exemplary attributes that make him/her highly qualified for the position of President.
- (b) After formulating the determinations discussed in paragraphs 1) and 2) which immediately precede this paragraph, the NC shall as soon as practical provide a written report to the NBOD which summarizes the determinations and identifies each applicant who, in the best judgment of the Commission members, is highly qualified for the position of Director, or for the position of President, as the case may be.

Bylaw 4.0.4(a)

In any event, the NC shall make its report to the NBOD at least 120 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of executive members at which Directors and President are to be elected. The National Secretary shall forward to each EM, via means of a communication permitted by Bylaw 9.14, a list of candidates nominated by office.

8.4 Operation of Advisory Councils

A. Purpose:

Discipline specific councils are advisory in nature and exist to provide subject matter expertise to the programs, education, and business actions of AYSO. The work of advisory councils includes recommending actions that the National Board of Directors (NBOD) may want to implement to improve the delivery of programs and services to AYSO members.

B. Organization:

Volunteer Members of an advisory council will typically be representatives from each AYSO Section, but in certain cases, may not be. Each council will have a Chair, a National Board of Director as the liaison to the Board (NBODL), and an AYSO Office staff member, at a minimum. Each Section Director (SD) will appoint a council member, who will typically be, but not required to be, that Section's discipline specific administrator for that council's specific discipline. In some cases, a council may be created solely with representatives who are not currently any type of Section Administrator, typically because that discipline specific position does not exist at the Section level.

C. Council Members' Duties

1. Council Chair – Oversees the council, schedules meetings, creates agendas, designates areas of responsibility, assigns task due dates, maintains minutes of meetings, and works with the NBODL and assigned AYSO staff. The Council Chair is a voting member of the council.
2. Council Members – Are the discipline specific Section Administrator or discipline specific designee appointed by that person's SD. They create, update, and modify content of the council's discipline specific programs in alignment with the current soccer standards as directed by the Council Chair. Council Members should keep their respective Section Directors apprised of council activities. Council Members are voting members of the council.
3. NBODL – Ensure that the efforts of the council align with the goals and objectives of AYSO. The NBODL will provide regular updates (quarterly at a minimum) to the NBOD and Section Directors regarding council

progress on any related issues. The NBODL will present items on behalf of the council that require a vote of the NBOD. The NBODL is not a voting member of the council.

4. AYSO Staff – Assist as a SME where appropriate, and assist with facilitating the branding, online content creation, and publishing of material created by the council. The AYSO Staff member is not a voting member of the council.
5. Subject Matter Experts (SME) – Persons who are recruited and appointed by the Chair, who are not Section appointed Council Members. These people are non-voting members of the council who can provide specific expertise that otherwise may not be present on the council and are primarily added to assist with task oriented items in which they have expertise.

D. Voting:

A Council may, from time to time, need to vote on various issues. The voting members of the council are defined as above. The Council Chair will be selected by a majority vote of council members and is approved by the President of the NBOD (NPRES).

E. Duration of Membership:

1. Council Chair is a 1-year term as voted on by eligible council members.
2. Council Member is a 1-year term upon appointment by an SD as their Section Administrator or their designee.
3. SME – are task oriented members and may be reappointed by the Council Chair if needed to complete additional tasks.
3. NBODL – is a 1-year term upon being appointed/re-appointed by the NPRES each year after AYSO's National Annual General Meeting ("NAGM").
4. AYSO Staff – is appointed by the Executive Director of AYSO and serves at the pleasure of that person.

F. Additional NBODL Duties: The appointed NBODL will:

1. Work with the Council Chair to create an annual work objectives document for approval by the NBOD. Any changes or deviations from the approved work plan must be submitted for review and approval by the NBOD.
2. Schedule agenda time with the NPRES to present issues to the NBOD of which the NBODL believes the NBOD and SD should be aware or issues that may require NBOD approval such as:
 - Modifying any AYSO policy;
 - Modifying any AYSO procedures or programs;
 - Modifying any volunteer training;
 - Modifying requirements for any volunteer position; and
 - Approving actions that may have financial impact on the organization.

Article Nine: Safe Haven Child and Volunteer Protection

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is member organization of US Soccer and as such, adopts the established guidelines under the U.S. Soccer Model Minor Athlete Abuse and Prevention Policy (MAAPP) www.ussoccer.com/governance/bylaws.

AYSO's Safe Haven® Program was the first of its kind in youth sports to address the growing need for child and volunteer protection in youth sports. AYSO's Safe Haven strives to create an environment where both children and adults are able to participate in a safe, fair, fun, positive environment or "safe haven" for experiencing the benefits of sport by taking steps to preserve the culture of AYSO while responding to demands from the legal and legislative communities.

AYSO's policies for creating a safe haven, consistent with and in addition to, U.S. Soccer's Minor Athlete Abuse and Prevention Policy (MAAPP) and the U.S. SafeSport Act are set forth below.

9.1 Administration

The Region is committed to the protection of all its children from abuse and neglect while participating in the program and it promotes the awareness and prevention of child abuse in the community at large.

- A. The Region shall have at least one Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA), who shall be responsible for overseeing the AYSO Safe Haven child and volunteer protection program in accordance with AYSO guidelines. The CVPA shall be a member of the Regional Board and will act as the main resource on child protection issues and shall be the Region's liaison with the AYSO Office.
- B. A volunteer application form must be submitted each year online through AYSO's registration System of Record. The online form can be electronically signed, printed and submitted to the Region for reference checks and confirmation of photo identification. The volunteer application form is extremely important because it authorizes AYSO to perform applicant screening. Volunteers should know that they are subject to background screening. Criminal background checks are performed at the AYSO Office by designated staff.
- C. The Region shall have the right to deny the participation of any individual who refuses to fill out the volunteer application form completely or disagrees with any of the agreements required on the application, who lies or knowingly misrepresents information on the application form, or who violates the principles of these child protection policies. AYSO shall have the right to revoke both the registration and certification of any volunteer who falsifies information, is found guilty of child abuse, neglect, or other crimes.
- D. Any volunteer under criminal investigation for a crime that might be detrimental to AYSO or its members may be suspended until the matter is resolved. The names and identities of the parties involved shall be protected at all times during the proceedings. A suspended volunteer who is subsequently cleared of all charges may apply to the Regional Commissioner (RC) and Board for reinstatement in the Region. However, reinstatement is not a right, and reinstated volunteers are not guaranteed to return to their former positions.
- E. AYSO, its employees and volunteers are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and child sexual abuse under the federally enacted Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Act of 2017. It is AYSO's belief that we are morally obligated to report suspected abuse in addition to any mandated reporting requirements and we require any volunteer or adult to file a good faith report to the Organization and law enforcement or designated child protective services agency required by the state.

9.2 Training and Certification

- A. In AYSO, all board members, referees and coaches are required to be registered in the current AYSO Membership Year, as well as possess the appropriate training and certification.
 - 1. For the protection of players, volunteers and AYSO, all volunteers are required to complete the current version of AYSO's Safe Haven along with the appropriate job training, in order to be trained and certified for the volunteer position(s) held. This includes age-specific coach training for coaches.
 - 2. AYSO board members, coaches and referees are also required to take the federally required SafeSport Training, state required Concussion Awareness and Sudden Cardiac Arrest trainings.
- B. All athletes turning 18 years old (or age of majority) who still meet the threshold for Regular Contact or authority with minors, must complete the SafeSport Core training and must comply with the U.S. Soccer MAAPP, including its abuse prevention policies, absent the Close-In-Age exception, which may apply to the enforcement of abuse prevention policies but not to the Education and Training requirement set forth in this policy and the MAAPP (found in US Soccer Policy 212-3 (5) (A)).

1. Additionally, US Soccer defines the close-in-age exception as less than four years (19-year-old with a 16-year-old). This can be found in the MAAPP policy, Part IV, Close-in-age exception.
 2. It is recommended that all AYSO players reaching 18 years old be required to complete SafeSport Training. Region CVPAs should track the completion of SafeSport and any participation in Region, Area, or Section play shall only be allowed if SafeSport is completed.
- C. AYSO practices and matches are not permitted without an AYSO certified and trained coach.
- D. AYSO scheduled matches are not permitted without a trained and certified AYSO referee, except:
1. In Kickstart Soccer, Schoolyard Soccer and Playground Soccer divisions in which referees/officials are not used;
 2. In 6U divisions in which referees/officials are optional and, if not used, certified and trained AYSO coaches will manage the match; and
 3. During certain events involving non-AYSO teams in which competition rules will apply.
 4. Practice scrimmages do not require a certified and trained AYSO referee.
- E. Only official AYSO materials and courses (or those approved by AYSO) may be used to train and certify volunteers and only official AYSO programs, procedures, and policies will be taught. AYSO certified and registered instructors are required and authorized to lead courses and clinics.
- F. To validate each attendee's training and certification, and to ensure that the Regional, Area or Section board members, volunteers, coaches and referees are registered with AYSO, records of training or certification course attendance will be maintained in AYSOU. Instructors are responsible for updating course assessments and should always keep copies of their rosters.
- G. Volunteers shall be subject to ongoing evaluation, and additional training may be required to maintain good standing within the Region and the Organization.

9.3 Supervision

- A. The Regional Board shall cooperate with the CVPA to ensure the safety of the Region's players.
- B. The Coach Administrator:
1. Along with the CVPA, prior to each season, shall meet with the head coach of each team, either individually or in groups, to review child protection and supervision responsibilities.
 2. Will work with the CVPA to ensure that all coaches are registered and age appropriately trained and certified.
 3. Shall observe and review the performance of coaches to see that it conforms to the standards set by this child and volunteer protection policy.
- B. Once the head coach has assumed charge of the children on their team, they remain responsible until a duly designated adult has taken charge of each child after practice or a match or the child leaves the immediate vicinity of the practice or match as prearranged by the parent/guardian to walk home or to a friend's or relative's house.
- C. No child shall be left unsupervised after a match or practice. Parents/guardians must establish contact with the coach before leaving their child for a practice or a match and when picking their child up. Parents/guardians who are unreasonably late or consistently tardy should be reported to the CVPA for action.

D. The Referee Administrator:

1. Along with the CVPA, prior to each season, shall meet with the referees, either individually or in groups, to review child protection and supervision responsibilities.
2. Will work with the CVPA to ensure that all referees are registered and trained and certified.
3. Shall observe and review the performance of the referees to see that it conforms to the standards set by this child protection policy.

E. The match referee is responsible for providing a “child safe” atmosphere for the match and has both the duty and authority to take any reasonable action to make it so. The referee is to report to the Referee Administrator and CVPA any cases of questionable conduct toward children by any coach, player, parent, sibling, or spectator before, during or after the match.

F. For the protection of both the children and the volunteer, no volunteer should permit themselves to be alone with any child or group of children (except their own).

G. The recommended supervision ratio should be 1:8 or less; that is, one adult for every eight or fewer children and two adults present at all times (one of whom may be the coach and one of whom should be the same gender as the players).

H. Volunteers shall notify the RC (for approval), CVPA, and parents concerning AYSO activities away from the regular practice areas, playing fields, or other designated areas. Such notification should be documented, stating the nature of the activity, the names of the children involved, and the names of the adult supervisors.

1. AYSO Approved Activities include Region published activities such as Opening Day, special events, training sessions, practices and games at AYSO designated locations.
2. All other soccer activities like participation in and travel to a tournament or indoor soccer, require specific approval from the RC, and in some cases, the Area Director or Section Director.
3. Many activities such as team parties or sleep-overs are NOT AYSO sanctioned activities and participation in these activities is left to the sole discretion of each child’s parents.

9.4 Conduct

A. Abusive statements, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping or intimidating acts such as those that deal with race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, age, sex, or sexual orientation are not permitted. Jokes, kidding, displays of objects or pictures which adversely reflect on person’s race, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification are considered harassment and are also prohibited.

B. Sexual harassment, lewd comments and any form of inappropriate physical contact are prohibited. Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unnecessary touching, patting, lugging, pinching, or brushing against a person’s body.
2. Staring, ogling, leering, or whistling at a person.
3. Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature.
4. Sexually explicit statements, sexual flirtations, advances, propositions, subtle pressure for sexual activity, comments, questions, jokes, or anecdotes.
5. Graphic or degrading comments about a person’s clothing, body or sexual activity.

6. Sexually suggestive objects, cartoons, posters, calendars, or pictures.
 7. Suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations.
 8. Harassing use of electronic mail, electronic or instant messaging, or telephone communication systems.
 9. Other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature.
- C. In addition, physical, emotional, sexual, and ethical misconduct and abuses are prohibited, as is neglect or endangerment of a child. AYSO is a mandated reporter of suspected abuse and asks any adult who knows or suspects abuse of a child to inform the Region and law enforcement.
- D. Bullying, hazing, corporal punishment and any act of violence are also prohibited.
- E. Some forms of physical contact are acceptable as long as they are respectful and appropriate and should be:
1. In response to the need of the child, not the need of the adult.
 2. With the child's permission.
 3. Respectful of any hesitation or resistance.
 4. Careful to avoid private parts or "swimsuit areas".
 5. Always in the open, never in private.
 6. Brief, limited in duration.
 7. Age and developmentally appropriate.
- A child's comfort level with physical contact is influenced by factors such as age, developmental stages, social and emotional well-being, life experiences, gender, etc. all of which change over time.
- F. Adults are expected to set appropriate boundaries with minors and maintain adult privacy.
1. Adults must avoid being alone with a child, other than their own, including transporting a child in a car.
 2. When it is necessary to speak privately with a child, select a spot out of earshot, but within sight of others.
 3. Respect the privacy of children and only intervene as necessary for health and safety in the absence of parents.
 4. Hug from the side, over the shoulder. Avoid pats on the rear, chest bumps or "dog pile" celebratory gestures.
- G. Adult contact and conversations with children must always be transparent, within sight of others, developmentally appropriate and based on the need of the child.
- H. Any inappropriate physical contact, time alone with a child, comments, favoritism, excessive gift giving or unapproved activities, must be brought to the attention of the Region and the AYSO Office.

9.5 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

As a member organization of U.S. Soccer, AYSO, its employees and volunteers must comply with U.S. Soccer's Minor Abuse and Prevention Policy and the U.S. SafeSport Act for reporting suspected child abuse to law enforcement as follows:

- A. Under the SafeSport Act, when a mandated reporter becomes aware of "facts that give reason to suspect" a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or neglect,

it must be reported to law enforcement or the authorized child abuse reporting agency. **AYSO also requires that any incident of child abuse involving an AYSO participant be reported to the AYSO Office 1-800-USA-AYSO.**

- B. The SafeSport Act also includes qualified immunity for good faith reports. Mandated Reporters are urged to refrain from judging or evaluating the credibility of any allegations and to leave the investigation to law enforcement.
- C. Failure to promptly report suspected child abuse to law enforcement, often within 24 hours, may constitute a violation of federal law. Failure to promptly report suspected child abuse will be deemed a violation of U.S. Soccer's Minor Abuse and Prevent Policy and AYSO's Safe Haven policies.

9.6 AYSO's Criminal Background Check Policy

Since January 1, 2001, all American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Regions, Areas, and Sections are required to comply with the AYSO policy on criminal background checks. AYSO acts as the criminal background requesting entity unless specific arrangements have been approved in writing by the AYSO National Executive Director.

- A. Any person wishing to volunteer in AYSO must complete an AYSO Volunteer Application Form in AYSO's official member registration system each year, submit an esigned copy to the Region and consent to a criminal background check. The application form includes a Criminal Background Check Release. All requested information must be provided by the applicant, including Social Security number, driver license number (or other government issued photo I.D. if the applicant does not drive) and date of birth. Additional fingerprint-based screening may also be required by law.
- B. Criminal background checks are performed on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The responses on the AYSO Volunteer Application Form must coincide with background check results. Failure to answer honestly may be grounds for disqualification.
- C. Each Region must designate at least one person as the Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) who must act as the liaison between the Region and AYSO for purposes of enacting this policy. Regions may appoint more than one CVPA as needed to expedite the screening process at the Region level.
- D. To ensure compliance with all applicable laws, the designated AYSO staff members at the AYSO Office are the only people authorized to initiate, review or have access to criminal background reports (unless sanctioned in writing by the National Executive Director). In all cases, the results of any criminal background check must be kept strictly confidential. These reports must be kept in a secure location.
- E. The Notice of Duty to Review Criminal Record process is initiated by the AYSO designated staff or provider. When a negative determination is made, a copy of the criminal conviction report must be sent to that volunteer applicant in an envelope marked "Confidential – to be opened by addressee only," along with the Notice of Duty to Review Criminal Record cover letter.
- F. If a conviction is disclosed or discovered, the AYSO designated staff must make a decision on whether or not the applicant may be used based on the following guidelines and partial Table of Convictions and advise the Region of its decision. As used in this policy, the term conviction refers to a conviction entered after a trial, after a guilty plea or after a plea of no contest/nolo contendere.
- G. Any application form that does not contain honest answers or that misrepresents the number, type or gravity of any such conviction(s) will not be approved irrespective of the nature of the offense or the time that has transpired since the conviction.
- H. Any individual on probation or required to complete a court ordered rehabilitation or other such program following a conviction for a crime appearing on the Table of Convictions will not be considered to serve as a volunteer until all terms and conditions established by the court have been satisfied and proof of completion submitted to AYSO.

- I. Any person convicted of a crime against or otherwise involving a minor at any time in the past will not be approved to be a volunteer.
- J. Most felony convictions will result in a negative determination. Evidence of multiple convictions, either felony or misdemeanor, are likely to also result in a negative determination. Where a conviction is remote in time or where the applicant's conduct since the conviction(s) indicates rehabilitation or lack of risk to the membership and the program, some leeway may be provided, but only with the concurrence of the RC and CVPA.
- K. Persons convicted of a crime of violence or other serious crime against a person within the prior 20 years will be disqualified from any volunteer position.
- L. Persons convicted of sex offences will be disqualified from volunteering in AYSO.
- M. Persons convicted of a theft related crime or fraud within the prior 15 years will be disqualified from any position involving the handling of funds, property or personal identification information.
- N. Persons convicted of a serious substance abuse crime within the past 10 years will be disqualified from any coaching position, referee assignment or any position that leads children's activities.
- O. Persons convicted of less serious crimes of violence, substance abuse or one of the listed miscellaneous crimes within the past 5 years will be disqualified from any coaching position or any position that leads children's activities.
- P. In certain limited instances, AYSO will disqualify volunteers who have been arrested for a crime, even if the arrest later results in no charges being filed. While AYSO casts no judgment about any of the allegations and/or accusations in these instances, AYSO's overriding and compelling interest is to provide a safe, fair and fun environment for children.
- Q. DUI: Persons convicted of driving while under the influence or other traffic/conduct related crimes within the preceding 3 years will be disqualified from holding the position of team coach or assistant coach. Persons convicted of driving under the influence within the preceding 3 years may be accepted for other volunteer positions with the understanding that they are prohibited from driving any child or AYSO volunteer other than immediate family members to or from an AYSO activity.
- R. If any discretion is exercised in the application of this policy, it must be exercised in a uniform manner, so that substantially similar convictions and circumstances result in substantially similar treatment of potential volunteers. The CVPA or Regional Commissioner (RC) will be immediately notified when a negative determination is made, or if there are issues related to an application. The specific results leading to a negative determination must remain confidential unless the applicant is willing to reveal the results to the RC or CVPA.
- S. Because of the serious implications to the entire AYSO organization, all Regions, Areas and Sections must comply with the decisions made by the AYSO Office under this policy. Individuals disqualified or restricted by Safe Haven are not entitled to due process at the Region, Area or Section level. Their right of review is conducted in conjunction with their Notice of Duty to Review Criminal Background.

Table of Convictions – Partial List

Violent Crimes & Serious Crimes Against a Person

Aggravated Assault	Cruelty to Animals
Aggravated Battery w/ Firearm	Domestic Battery
Armed Robbery	Extortion
Arson	Hate Crime
Assault	Home Invasion
Attempted Murder	Hit and Run Causing Injury/Death
Battery	Kidnapping
Blackmail	Murder

Possession of Explosives
Preventing a 911 Call
Terrorism
Reckless Homicide
Robbery
Second Degree Murder
Stalking
Solicitation for Murder

Tampering w/ Food or Drugs
Threatening Public Officials
Treason
Unlawful Restraint
Vehicular Car Jacking
Vehicular Endangerment
Violation of Order of Protection

Less Serious Crimes Against a Person

Criminal Threats of Death/Bodily Harm
Disturbing the Peace- fighting
Harassment
Harassment of Jurors or Witnesses
Involuntary Manslaughter

Intimidation
Simple Assault
Restraining Order
Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated

Sex Offenses

Bigamy
Child Pornography
Criminal Sexual Abuse
Criminal Sexual Assault
Criminal Transmission of HIV
Distribution/Sale of Pornography to a Minor
Indecent Exposure
Indecent Solicitation of a Child
Keeping a Place of Prostitution
Lewd and Lascivious Behavior

Obscene Phone Calls
Obscenity
Pandering
Pimping
Prostitution
Public Indecency
Sex with a Minor
Sexual Exploitation of a Child
Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Theft-related Crimes

Bad Checks
Bid Rigging
Bid Rotating & Kickbacks
Bribery
Burglary
Computer Hacking/Trespass
Embezzlement
Fencing of Stolen goods
Forgery
Grand Theft
Identity Theft
Industrial Espionage

Interference with Public Contracts
Looting
Money Laundering
Misuse of Credit Card
Petty Theft
Possession of Burglary Tools
Receiving Stolen Property
Tax Evasion
Theft of Intellectual Property
Ticket Scalping
Welfare Fraud

Fraud

Deceptive Sales
Fraudulent Advertisement
Fraudulent Use of Access Card
Insurance Fraud

Mail and Wire Fraud
Odometer Fraud
Public Aid Fraud
Retail Fraud

Serious Substance Abuse Crimes

Abuse of Prescription Medicines
Criminal Drug Conspiracy
Distribution of Alcohol to Minors
Illegal Transportation of Controlled Substances

Possession of Marijuana, more than one ounce
Possession of Illegal Substances
Sale or Manufacture of Illegal Substances

Miscellaneous Substance Abuse Crimes

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Possession of Marijuana (less than 1 oz.)
Sale of Alcohol to a Minor

Miscellaneous Crimes

Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm
Concealing or Aiding a Fugitive
Criminal Damage to Property
Criminal Trespass
Discrimination in Sale of Real Estate
Environmental Crimes
Gunrunning
Hit and Run with Damage
Identity Switching
Illegal Gambling
Impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer
Unlawful Sale of Firearms

Interference with Judicial Proceeding
Obstructing Justice
Legislative Misconduct
Resisting Arrest
Perjury
Tampering with Public Records
Unlawful Possession of Weapons
Unlawful Use of Body Armor
Unlawful Use, Sale, or Discharge of a Metal Piercing
Bullet
Vandalism

Traffic/Conduct Crimes

Disorderly Conduct
Disturbing the Peace
Driving Under the Influence
Drunk in Public
Driving without a License/Insurance

Operating Under the Influence
Reckless Conduct
Reckless Driving
Repeated Traffic Offenses
Wet and Reckless Driving

9.7 Electronic Communication and Social Media

In keeping with the goal of the Safe Haven program to address the growing need to protect children from abuse, which includes the invasion of privacy rights and/or volunteers from misunderstandings and false accusations, the following recommendations are proposed for electronic communications and the use of social media sites, such as Facebook or Twitter.

- A. Consistent with Safe Haven Child and Volunteer Protection Policies, AYSO asks all adults, regardless of whether they have a current volunteer application form on file, to maintain transparency in their communications with children while protecting children's identity and privacy. It is the responsibility of adults to maintain appropriate boundaries.
- B. All communications regarding AYSO activities and participation in the program must be directed to parents and guardians including voice messages, e-mails and text messages.
 - 1. It is up to a child's parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to forward necessary communications to their children.
 - 2. If, for older players or youth volunteers, parents/guardians allow direct communications with a player or youth volunteers, parents must still be copied on any and all messages.
 - 3. Adults should refrain from private, personal, on-going electronic conversations with children/minors.
- C. All AYSO websites and pages on Social Media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram must be monitored to prevent inappropriate postings, blogs or "tweets" which either divulge the identity of minors or include any disparaging comments or pictures. Neither AYSO websites nor social media sites may be conduits for social bullying, airing grievances, or gateways for predators. All AYSO or social media sites/pages should conform to the rules and regulations for use and safety as outlined by the site owner.
- D. The AYSO Player Registration Form includes a general photo release for non-commercial purposes.
 - 1. Pictures posted on public sites should not "tag" minors or include the names of individual players to avoid identifying children to the wrong individuals.
 - 2. Team rosters with names, numbers and contact information must not be posted on any public website or social media page.
- E. Operation and maintenance of all AYSO websites should conform to AYSO's Privacy Policy for online privacy protection and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA of 2000) which establishes mandated disclosures, parental notifications and options for all online activities when information is requested from children under 13 years of age.
- F. The advantages and convenience of electronic communications and social media pages make them valuable and necessary tools for communicating with AYSO participants. As long as the same Safe Haven guidelines for interactions between adults and children/minors are used in electronic media, the risk of abuse and misunderstandings can be minimized.
- G. Parents play a critical role in keeping children safe online and they must be included in all communications. Encourage parents to help with online safety by providing links to documents such as "A Parents' Guide to Facebook" and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's "How to Protect Kids' Privacy Online."

9.8 Kids Zone

AYSO's Kids Zone program is one of the first programs of its kind to promote good sportsmanship and appropriate sideline behavior – key to promoting a safe, fair, fun, family-friendly environment for experiencing the benefits of playing soccer.

Regions are asked to implement Kids Zone sidelines in order to promote mental and emotional safety for players and families to enjoy AYSO soccer. Players need a safe learning environment in order to learn and enjoy soccer.

Parents and spectators pledge to respect the tenets of Kids Zone. Coaches, referees, parents and players agree to abide by a code of conduct.

AYSO asks that all participants agree to help make every AYSO venue a Kids Zone where spectators agree to respect the following guidelines:

- Kids are #1
- Fun, not winning is everything.
- Fans only cheer, only coaches coach.
- No yelling in anger.
- Respect the volunteer referees.
- No swearing.
- No alcohol, tobacco products, smoking, controlled substances.
- No weapons.
- Leave no trash behind
- Set a proper example of good sportsmanship.

