



## BOARD MEMBER & TEAM INTRODUCTION



AYSO Region 710  
Reno, NV 89506  
North Valleys  
AREA 2E



## AYSO VISION

To provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives

## AYSO MISSION

To develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on our Six Philosophies.

## AYSO KIDS ZONE

In AYSO parents are asked to be cheerleaders and not critics or sideline coaches. Kids Zone is a unique program that includes a parent pledge that moms and dads sign to commit to positive, encouraging behavior when they are watching the match. Help encourage Team Parents/Managers to act as the Kids Zone advocates for their teams.

## 4 KEY “TAKEAWAYS” FROM YOUTH SOCCER

- Development Over Winning
- Quality Training
- Age Appropriate
- Have Fun/Inspire Players



## Who and What is AYSO

The American Youth Soccer Organization is the oldest national youth soccer program in the United States and a nonprofit. Our mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs throughout the country which promote a fun, family environment built on the foundation of our Six Philosophies.

AYSO was established in 1964 out of a garage in Torrance, California. The goal was, and still is, to ensure that kids have the opportunity to be introduced to the beautiful game of soccer. More than 50 years later, AYSO now has thriving programs for kids and adults in nearly 900 communities all over the country as well as internationally in the Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago. With over eight million AYSO alumni, we are a name that's synonymous with excellence and recognized nationwide.

AYSO's Six Philosophies are principles that separate AYSO from other sports organizations. These tenets were created to provide a positive, fair and fun soccer experience for all our players. **It is important that everyone embrace these philosophies when dealing with children.**

1. **Everyone Plays**- Every player on every team must play at least 50 percent of every game
2. **Balance Teams**- Each year teams are form as evenly balanced as possible
3. **Open Registration**- The opportunity for youth and adults to register and play
4. **Positive Coaching**- Encourage player's effort leads to greater enjoyment, improved skills and stronger motivation
5. **Good Sportsmanship**- Sportsmanship, positive environment
6. **Player Development**- Develop soccer skills and knowledge both individually and as members of a team



## AYSO STEWARDS OF THE GAME

Coaches and Referees are asked to work together as **The Stewards of The Game** team in order to make player safety the #1 priority on the field. Everyone is asked to role model the principles of sport, create kids zone sidelines and promote good sportsmanship and player safety. Promote the online stewards of the game course under **Safe Haven** discipline for all coaches, referees, team parents and board members.

- The AYSO National Coaching Program is the only Soccer Coach Education Program in the U.S. that is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education, part of the United States Center for Coaching Excellence.
- Treat coaches like they are ambassadors for AYSO and the coaching program (because they are)
- Retaining coaches from year to year is easier when training, continuing education and face-to-face communications are provided so coaches feel supported and appreciated.





## THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) is a volunteer-run organization and without the efforts of thousands of volunteers like you, who donate countless hours to enrich the lives of children, AYSO would not be a world class youth soccer program. Over 100,000 parents, neighbors, and community members contribute their time and talents to AYSO.

AYSO's volunteer structure includes various roles, such as:

**Coaches:** Guiding and training young soccer players.

**Referees:** Ensuring fair play and a safe environment during games.

**Administrators:** Managing regional operations, including registration, field scheduling, and communication.

**Board members:** Overseeing the region's activities and strategic direction.

**Other volunteers:** Assisting with tasks like field painting, equipment management, and more.



## VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Effective August 1, 2016, 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.

As a reminder for everyone's protection, AYSO requires all volunteers to:

- ☐ Sign and submit a volunteer application every year.
- ☐ Consent to background checks.
- ☐ Be authorized to do their job and act within the scope of their job duties as well as AYSO's policies, procedures, and guidelines as defined in their training and the AYSO Reference Book.
- ☐ Complete AYSO's Safe Haven, CDC Concussion Awareness Training and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training, and SafeSport
- ☐ Be properly trained to perform their jobs



## COACHING MANUALS



Recognizing that most of the coaches are moms and dads without a lot of coaching experience or knowledge, AYSO created manuals that are more visually appealing, with graphical images to communicate key concepts.

There are “Keep in Mind” boxes highlighted on each page with key information and important take-a-ways.

Throughout the manuals there are quotes from experts in the field of soccer, external to AYSO, confirming that the way AYSO is developing its programs is the correct way for the development of players.



## MANDATED COACH TRAINING MATRIX

Division	Training	Date Required
Playground/Schoolyard Soccer Program Leader	Playground/Schoolyard Online	June 2018
6U	6U, In-person or Online	August 1, 2010
8U	8U, In-person or Online	August 1, 2011
10U	10U, In-person or Online + Field Session	August 1, 2012
12U	12U, Online pre-course + in person + Field Session	August 1, 2013
14U	Intermediate 14U (including prerequisites)	August 1, 2015
16U & above	Advanced 16U-19U (including prerequisites)	August 1, 2016





## LAWS OF THE GAME-INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD (IFAB)

The IFAB's Laws of the Game are the official set of rules for association football, ensuring fairness, integrity, and respect among all participants. These laws are published annually and serve as a reference for match officials, players, and anyone involved in the game. The Laws are available in multiple languages and can be modified for specific age groups, women footballers, veteran footballers, and players with disabilities **(Outline Summary of Law Changes)**

- ☐ LAW 1 - The Field of Play
- ☐ LAW 2 - The Ball
- ☐ **LAW 3 - The Players**
- ☐ **LAW 4 - The Players Equipment**
- ☐ LAW 5 - The Referee
- ☐ LAW 6 - The Other Match Officials
- ☐ LAW 7- The Duration Of The Match
- ☐ LAW 8 - The Start and Restart of Play
- ☐ LAW 9 - The Ball In and Out Of Play
- ☐ LAW 10 - Determining The Outcome Of a Match
- ☐ LAW 11 - Offside
- ☐ **LAW 12 - Fouls and Misconduct**
- ☐ LAW 13 - Free Kicks
- ☐ LAW 14 - The Penalty Kick
- ☐ LAW 15 - The Throw-In
- ☐ LAW 16 - The Goal Kick
- ☐ LAW 17 – The Corner Kick



**AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) adheres to the FIFA Laws of the Game, but with some modifications and additions specific to its programs. These modifications often focus on player safety, fair play, and ensuring all players get sufficient playing time.**

Key AYSO Rules and Modifications:

**Minimum Playing Time:**

AYSO mandates that all players participate for at least half of every game, with some regions requiring 75% playing time.

**No Goalkeepers in Younger Divisions:**

In 5U, 6U, and 8U divisions, goalkeepers are not typically used, allowing for more player involvement and development across the field.

**Modified Laws for Younger Divisions:**

AYSO often simplifies or modifies certain laws for younger age groups to make them more age-appropriate and easier to understand.

**Emphasis on Sportsmanship:**

AYSO places a strong emphasis on sportsmanship, with rules prohibiting unsportsmanlike conduct, excessive roughness, and abusive language.

**Safety Regulations:**

AYSO has specific rules regarding player equipment, including restrictions on jewelry and casts, prioritizing player safety.

**Referee Authority:**

Referees have the authority to stop games for safety concerns, rule violations, and unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Incident Reporting:**

AYSO requires incident reports for all injuries or property damage, ensuring proper documentation and follow-up.

**Substitution Rules:**

AYSO has specific rules regarding substitutions, often allowing for unlimited substitutions during stoppages of play but also restricting their use for delaying the game.

**Dropped Ball:**

AYSO has eliminated contested dropped balls, with the ball now being dropped to the team that last possessed it.

**Offside:**

AYSO follows the offside law, but it's often explained in simpler terms for younger players



## AYSO LAWS OF THE GAME

### **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.



## AYSO LAWS OF THE GAME CONTINUE

### Severe Weather Thunderstorms and Lightning:

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.

## AYSO BLUE BOOK

- BUILD- OUT LINE (9U & 10U)
- TEAM SIZE
- TRANSFER OF TEAM MEMBERS
- PLAYERS EQUIPMENT
- RESIDUAL BENEFITS- MATCH INFORMATION (6U-12U)
- MATCH CONDUCT (14U-19U)
- SIZE OF BALL
- FIELD OF PLAY
- HEADING THE BALL
- THROW-INS
- GOALKEEPER PUNTS





## NAVIGATING THROUGH AYSOU





## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

[AYSO National Rules & Regulations](#)

[AYSO Reference Book](#)

[AYSOU.org](#)

[AYSO Volunteer Resources](#)

[AYSO Area and Regional Websites](#)

[AYSO National Referee Program](#)

[Laws of The Game 2025/26](#)

[Regional Contacts](#)

[Other Volunteers](#)

<https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>

