



AYSO Region 44

Sunnyvale, California
September 14th, 2006



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INTRODUCTION

Hello Coaches,

Seems like we got off to a good start this weekend. I reviewed the game cards and statistics and there were no escalated issues involving Coaches, Referee's or Parents. Outstanding start to the season considering many of our games were played without referee's in the younger divisions.

When there was an issue I did get feedback that Coaches worked it out on Saturday for the game and then provided me with feedback. I'll have several updates that are division specific in the Newsletter, please take the time to read those sections that apply to your divisions.

Thanks for all of your time and effort and see you on the soccer fields.

Darin Roland
Sunnyvale AYSO Region 44
Regional Coach Administrator

NEWS

Referee's Needed

We have a severe shortage of referee volunteers for this season as many of you are aware. A recruitment campaign is being initiated over this weekend to get as many new volunteers stepping forward to help our depleted referee forces. Another ominous statistic is over half of our referee's no longer have children playing in AYSO.

I will be sending out a flyer later today that details the training being offered next week. If you could forward the flyer to your parents or print and handout as a flyer this weekend that will help immensely in getting the message out. The only delay right now is getting a location established.

Picture Day Schedule Released

The schedule has been released and most of you have probably already seen this being sent around by your team parents. If you haven't seen anything or your team parent didn't get an update, the schedule is attached.



aysopho6.xls

U8 and U10 Coaches

I'm including this item here since it's a safety issue for our Goal Keepers. With last minute volunteer referee's it's understandable that there will be missed calls or things happening that someone inexperienced wouldn't know to look for these items. Soccer can be a fast paced game so you might bring the rules document that was sent out previously. For now, read the paragraphs below and if whoever your volunteer is for refereeing a game, you might brief them on this since this is an item most wouldn't know how to handle unless they've been trained.

Goalkeeper Protection: Call an immediate charging foul against anyone running into or dangerously contacting the goal keeper, no matter where the ball is or who has possession. Even if the attacker has contacted the ball first, then collided with the keeper, call that a charging foul. If the ball has gone into the net, the goal is disallowed.

However, if the ball is not in the possession of the keeper, and an attacker kicks the ball which then strikes the keeper, then there is no foul provided the attacker did not contact the keeper. If the keeper is struck with a forcefully kicked ball, the referee may stop play at any time to allow the coach to attend to the player. "At any time" means the referee may stop play immediately if the keeper is injured, or allow play to continue if the keeper is still able to defend the goal. Stopping play in this case is at the sole discretion of the referee.

Goalkeeper Possession of the Ball: When the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball with hands he or she may not be challenged. In U8 and U10 the keeper does not actually have to be touching the ball, but must be "within immediate grasp, and actively trying for the ball." In U8 define "within immediate grasp" to be about a foot, and in U10 to be a little less. Of course, if the keeper is actually touching, and continues to touch, the ball, even with just a finger, then that is possession of the ball. If the ball rebounds from the keeper and is farther than the "within immediate grasp" distance, then it is a free ball.

Make Room for Our Field Stripers

Our strippers are coming out on Thursday and Friday nights to give our fields as much “clarity” for our Saturday games. So if you practice on the marked fields on these nights, please make room for them to paint the field. If you have cones on the stripes, move them in during your practice. We need to accommodate our strippers as much as possible - otherwise that’s us Coaches doing the job on Saturday morning.

The stripes are nice to have for practice but even nicer to have for the games.

Field Permits

This last Sunday a person was hitting some baseballs at Panama field. An AYSO soccer team had a game scheduled at the U8 field that is striped at Panama. When the person did not stop hitting baseballs and was asked to stop since we have permits, the person became belligerent and offensive. If you run into this situation, calmly step away and from a safe distance contact Public Safety (aka - the police).

At Panama last weekend when I played a U10 game, a large group of people were playing volleyball. They initially setup too close to the U10 field but when asked to move they happily agreed and moved to a safe distance as well as a distance far enough away not to be a distraction. So if a group is there and is cooperative, we can share the field - this is up to you the Coaches to determine if it’s safe. In this case, the group was very willing to accommodate and I saw no reason to force the permit issue. Everything went very well and we didn’t notice them once the game started.

Coaching Blowouts - Losing Side

If you find yourself on the losing side of a blowout, relax - it’s not your fault! These things will happen. My U7 season we only won a single game and were blown out quite often. When in a game you realize you are overmatched, try to change the goal of the game to something besides winning.

- Challenge the players to “win” a quarter, basically don’t worry if you are losing 5-0 after the half go into the 2nd half talk to the team about seeing if you can win the half (or quarter)
- Challenge them to just stop the other team from scoring
- Challenge them to get 3 shots on goal (or whatever number makes sense)
- Find something they can work towards and celebrate. My U7 team was getting beat badly and in the “4th quarter” when we got our first goal they celebrated like they’d won the lottery. The goal was to get 5 shots on goal (rather than a goal itself) but when they made one it felt like they’d actually won the game.

Coaching Blowouts - Winning Side

It can also be difficult to manage things properly when you are on the other side of a blowout (although no doubt, given a choice, we’d all take this one). For AYSO, if you find yourself up by 5 goals you are officially in “managing a blow out” territory. You don’t want to disrespect the opponent by “laying down” but you can do things to keep the game a bit closer. Some suggestions:

- Challenge your star players to only use non-dominant foot if they have a strong tendency to only use one foot
- Bring your star players back to defense, ask them to stay behind midfield as much as possible
- For Penalty Kicks, have someone other than the kid that scored 5 goals kicking for your team
- Challenge your players to pass the ball at least once before they can take a shot
- Challenge the team - there must be 4 passes in opposing territory before taking a shot

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
Tuesday, September 19 th	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	TBD	Referee Training for U8/U10 divisions, Part 1
Thursday, September 21 st	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	TBD	Referee Training for U8/U10 divisions, Part 2
Sunday, September 24 th	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Ortega Park	Picture Day
			

Division Updates

All Coaches:

- Thank the referee's for volunteering before and after the game
- Thank the referee's again for volunteering their time
- Bring your game cards for U8 and above

U6:

- No need to switch sides during half-time. This concept is easily introduced when they leave U6 and their shouldn't be any "side" advantage for this age group. If a part of the field develops a large muddy area (happened last year), then you might consider switching sides or "coning" off a new field if it's a safety hazard.
- 5 or 6 games into the season if both coaches feel their players are ready you can switch sides at half-time
- Help your volunteer referee's keep track of time, some of the quarters went on a bit too long. Hard to keep track of with all the "injuries" that occur in a U6 game!

U8:

- I heard from 11 of the teams that provided me with scoring statistics, please send this information in as soon as you can if you haven't done so
- Sounds like all U8 Coaches did a great job handling games with last minute referee volunteers - keep working through situations as best you can and send me any feedback you have. Goal Keeper safety was listed above.
- Max time playing GK is 2 quarters and for U8 it's better to play 4 kids for 1 quarter each. More important for 7 year olds to be running and kicking the ball.
- Players should switch positions each quarter

U10:

- Let your players know that everyone has to play GK and all positions during the season. It doesn't have to be "even" amounts of quarters for all players but they should all be getting in there from time to time even if they don't want to play keeper. Often at this age level you will have only 3-5 kids that "want" to play Keeper but they all still need to play the Keeper during the season.