



# AYSO Region 44

Sunnyvale, California  
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# INTRODUCTION

Hello Coaches,

More tips and reminders are in the Newsletter this week. Please read, especially the sections focusing on your division.

One serious note I want to emphasize is there is absolutely no reason to yell or disrespect our volunteer officials. This is a recreational league and while we all enjoy winning, there is no call (or lack of a call) that warrant's getting angry with our referee's.

We are the Coaches and our parents will follow our example. Try having a game without a volunteer referee and it's exponentially more difficult - just ask some of our U8 Coaches that have had multiple games without an AYSO trained referee if they prefer games with an AYSO trained referee or games without one.

That said, there are many positive things I saw on my trips around the soccer field. Keep it positive, keep fun and everything else takes care of itself.

Darin Roland  
Sunnyvale AYSO Region 44  
Regional Coach Administrator

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## NEWS

### **Banner Positioning**

Some feedback for your banner parents - the banners should be setup about 6 yards back from the Coaches Area Line. Some of the banners are getting setup too close to the field, forcing the Coach to pace back and forth (no doubt taking notes on positive play rather than screaming instructions form the sideline) and step in front of the banner.

### **Substitution Breaks**

Technically our games are all '2 halves" but we break each half and allow for a few minutes of substitutions. These brief breaks are not a snack break or a strategy session. The referee's do allow for a bit of leeway for the younger divisions (U8 and U10) but U12 and above the substitutions need to happen as quickly as possible. For U12 and up, the clock doesn't stop during this time.

### **Lost (not the TV show) - Addidas MLS ball.**

At the Nimitz field last Saturday, a ball was launched into the houses behind the tubes. The ball wasn't found but if you came across it could you please let me know and I'll put you into contact with the owners. The ball has the last name written on the ball "Little" and looks like this:



### **Overly Loud Parents**

Continue to remind your parents that all manner of cheering and clapping is encouraged (for both teams!) but parents should not be shouting instructions to the players for any of the age divisions - including U6.

## Division Updates

U6:

- Coaches should start planning on moving to the sideline for the next game or two
- Substitutions should be about every minute or two, depending on if you have 4 or 5 players on your side of the field
- Only switch sides after the half if both Coaches think their players are ready
- Remind the parents to “settle down” if they are shouting too many instructions, cheering and clapping are always encouraged

U8:

- Looks like the amount of games without an AYSO Volunteer Referee is decreasing. That said, probably half the games for this division are being played without one. If you do have one - thank that referee. If you don't have one, appreciate how much a referee helps you Coach your team.
- If you don't have a referee, both Coaches should talk a few minutes before the game. The number one issue is Keeper Safety from feedback I've received. Both Coaches should monitor their players - if you see your own player kicking the ball when the other teams Keeper has even a finger on the ball remind your team that once the Keeper has the ball they should back off.

U10 and U12:

- If you already have a lead of a few goals and you get a penalty kick, give a player a chance to score that doesn't have any goals. Giving the penalty kick to a player that is already your #1 scorer isn't helping the rest of your team. This player is already clearly a skilled striker, give someone else the chance.
- All players should be getting time at Goal Keeper. The amount of playing time should be balanced for Keeper play. It's critical for players to get as much time as possible in the field at these ages.

## Coaching Links

I came across some useful links that you might like to check out.

**Parents that don't understand an Offside call but want to complain anyway, try sending them this:**

<http://www.dynamic-thought.com/OffsideClickette.html>

**Some basic information about soccer:**

<http://www.dynamic-thought.com/TheSoccerField.swf>

**Some drills in PDF form from another AYSO site (also has other useful information for Coaches):**

<http://www.5cities-ayso.com/coach/drills.htm>

**More Free Information**

<http://www.footy4kids.co.uk/>

**Ever want to have a PDF of a soccer field diagram?**

See the attached PDF file