



AYSO Region 44

Sunnyvale, California

October 12th, 2006



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INTRODUCTION

Hello Coaches,

Quite a few items to cover this week, the first of which is we are receiving a large number of “Team Kits” from Healthnet who gave a very generous donation to our Region. The Team Kits contain some tee shirts, Coach Bags, whistles and other miscellaneous coaching gear. We don’t have enough for all of the teams so we are going to hand these out based on nominations we hear from parents, referee’s and Coaches. We are looking for nominations for Coaches who best display Positive Coaching or Sportsmanship. Details below.

Also, make a note of the General Membership Meeting (Trophies and Awards). If you are in U12 and U14 Divisions, be sure to read up on the end of season tournaments and all Coaches need to start thinking about those evaluations (you can continue to edit after your initial ratings)!

One correction from last week - Picture Day. Please read that section if you have questions concerning taking a new photo for one of your players.

Darin Roland
Sunnyvale AYSO Region 44
Regional Coach Administrator

NEWS

Positive Coaching Nominations

We are looking for nominations of any Coach you see “honoring the game of soccer”, exhibiting good sportsmanship or practicing positive coaching behavior. If you play against a Coach or just happen to be walking by a soccer field, please take the time to Email a brief description for your nomination to this address:

aysoregion44@aol.com

If you don't know the Coaches name, you can just send the time of the game, what field and the team colors. Sending in nominations for your fellow Coaches will also get your team considered for one of these kits (we have enough for about 25 teams).

For an example, I will be nominating the U6 Coach I played against last week. For one of the games being played, his team was leading about 8-0 (score isn't kept, not really sure what it was - but it was a lot!). He spoke to his team at half-time, quietly pulled his best player aside and explained that he scored so many goals it was time to pass to his teammates. This player - a U6 player no less! - could have scored another 5-8 goals in the 2nd half but instead was often racing for the score only to stop and pass to a teammate. His teammates scored, my players started to score as well (one player that was timid and had yet to come close to scoring for the season had 3 goals in the 2nd half). So even though the final score was lopsided, his sportsmanship and Coaching created opportunities for his less skilled players as well as giving some of my more timid players a chance to shine and for the 2nd half to feel like a close game of soccer.

Some suggestions on what to look for when nominating your Coach:

- If your opponent jumps out to a large lead (4 to 5 goals), are steps taken to minimize the blow-out? For instance, less skilled players taking a penalty shot with a big lead, best players staying back on defense or noticeably passing the ball considerably more?
- Does the Coach (or the parents on his team) cheer for good plays for both teams?
- You never hear the Coach or his parents yelling step by instructions during the game, instead they are cheering or applauding effort and good plays
- There is clearly a missed call or wrong call by the referee but the Coach doesn't yell or criticize our volunteer referee's (bonus points if his team is losing by a few goals)
- Your team is missing 3 players for walk-a-thons and the Coach sends over a player from his team
- The players on the Coaches team do not taunt or tease anyone, they play hard and play fair (part of this is the kids you get but Coaches clearly have an impact here)
- Anything you can think of where you think the Coach is having a positive impact on the players for his team

Regional and Area Tournaments - U12 and U14 Divisions

Please communicate to your parents that the regional tournaments are scheduled for **November 18th**. This is when teams from these divisions will play against each other to determine who goes to the Area tournaments. You'll want to make sure your parents have this marked on their Calendar.

Communicate to your parents that if you win your Regional Tournament then your team can compete in the Area Tournaments scheduled for **December 2nd and 3rd**. I will Email the Coaches in these divisions more detailed information on the tournaments, for now, you want to notify your parents of those dates.

General Membership Meeting (Trophies and Awards)

This is scheduled for November 1st, Wednesday from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Your Evaluations need to be completed by October 31st to be able to pickup the Trophies and Awards for your team. Assistant Coaches should also complete evaluations. When doing the evaluations, only the Division Coordinators will read these. The children will not see them so don't feel like you have to protect your players. This is a key component to balancing teams. Please use the "comments" area to identify difficult to Coach children or anything you need to add that might be useful. You don't need to justify your evaluations here but identifying issues can help Division Coordinators spread cases like these across teams (I think we can all agree we can handle one of those types but get 2 or 3 and it can sure make your job difficult and we'd like to avoid that).

We need at least one Coach from each team to be represented. If neither can't make the meeting, please find a volunteer parent from your team.

Picture Makeup Day

Please refer all rescheduling and Make-up Day requests to Shooting Stars directly at either schedule@shootingstarsphoto.com or (800) 311-7784 ext. 2. They will maintain a Make-up Day request list.

Lost/Founds Items

Book found on Saturday the 7th - "Drawing from Observation" at Nimitz field for a U14G soccer game (Sunnyvale side of the field). Name on the inside is "Linda Starr" but no one is registered with that name in our database.

Lost - Blue binder at Hollenbeck or Santa Rita field. Contains Coaching information from a clinic and belongs to Red Hot Chili Peppers (U12G) Coach.

Just send me an Email if you lost the book or found the binder and I'll put you in touch.

Weather Conditions

Now that we are experiencing a little wet weather from time to time, this is a good time to send out details on field closures. The City of Sunnyvale does have a Turf Hotline:

(408) 730-7585

You can also call the AYSO Hotline:

(408) 749-1950x701

Please call the AYSO hotline (408) 749-1950 x701) on Saturdays when there is rain. Sunnyvale is very protective of its fields and we tend to call off games earlier than you would expect. Once we have made the decision to call off the games, if the weather improves later in the day we will not reverse the decision.

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
November 1st	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Ponderosa School	General Membership (AKA - Trophies and Awards)
November 18th		U12/U14 Fields	Regional Tournaments for U12/U14 Divisions
December 2 nd /3 rd		TBD	Area Tournaments for U12/U14 Divisions
TBD	TBD	Ortega Park	Picture Makeup Day
			

DIVISION UPDATES

All:

- Start thinking about those evaluations. Use the comments field to add anything else you like - you don't need to justify your rankings but you can use to identify the more difficult players to Coach or anything worth mentioning to a Division Coordinator to help balance teams (only DC's review the evaluations - be honest as possible, the evaluations are not seen by the players)
- Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches should complete the evaluations (and at least one from each team needs to complete before the General Membership meeting on November 1st).
- Remember, the home team technically gets to setup on the side of the field they want to. If you are a visitor, you might notify your parents of this. Most of the time, it doesn't matter but if there is a conflict - home team gets to pick.

THE REFEREE FILES

Some comments from our referee's:

- Parents are doing a great job of putting up the nets - ready for the game, securely staked and right on the line.
- The West Valley Walk-A-Thon was this last Saturday, many teams were short players. The Coaches did a nice job of evening out the teams by either playing down a player or lending a player.
- No escalations to the board this weekend with regards to Coaches/Parents behaving inappropriately to our volunteer referee's!