

AYSO 177



Long Beach / Belmont Shore
www.ayso177.org

2005/2006 Rules & Regulations



I. GAME CONDUCT

All AYSO Region 177 (hereafter referred to as R177) games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Board in effect, with the exceptions noted below:

A Competition

1. Home team players, coaches, and spectators shall use the North or West side of the field. Visiting team to use South or East side of the field. No one is allowed behind the goal lines.
2. Coaches or other officials shall not enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee.
3. A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a team; in small sided games a minimum of two-thirds of the number of players on the field shall constitute a team. A scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field the appropriate number of eligible players.
4. Referees and division coordinators will be keeping track of players, coaches & spectators who display the AYSO principles of good sportsmanship for sportsmanship awards.

B. Duration of Games

1. U-5 games shall be two (2) halves not to exceed twenty (20) minutes each.
2. U-6 games shall be two (2) halves not to exceed twenty (20) minutes each.
3. U-8 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes each.
4. U-10 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed twenty-five (25) minutes each.
5. U-12 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes each.
6. U-14 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed thirty-five (35) minutes each.
7. U-16 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed forty (40) minutes each.
8. U-19 games shall be two (2) halves, not to exceed forty-five (45) minutes each.
9. Half-time periods shall be a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) minutes as designated by the referee.
10. All games will end no later than ten (10) minutes before the start of the next game. Shortened games will count as if full time had been played. Referee will make best effort to shorten both halves evenly.

C. Playing Time and Substitution

1) Except as noted in paragraphs C.4., C.5 and C.6, all registered players in attendance at R177 games must participate and play at least three-quarters of the game, excluding overtime. Players must be recognized by the referee prior to entry onto the playing field.

Such participation is controlled as follows:

- a. Approximately midway through the first half, and approximately midway through the second half, the referee halts the game, and notes on the lineup cards those players substituting. Stoppage is made when the ball is out of play, and prior to the appropriate restart (i.e., throw-in, goal-kick, corner-kick, kick-off, free-kick, penalty kick or dropped ball). Additionally, substitutions may be made at half-time and at the start of any overtime periods.
- b. Respective coaches of each team may substitute as many players or none during such interruptions, as long as all players meet the minimum playing requirements.
- c. Players leaving the field and players substituting must report to the referee.



d. Referees will make every attempt to start all games on time. All games will end no later than ten (10) minutes before the start of the next game. If a game is not going to end before the scheduled starting time of the next game on that field, *based upon the ~~the~~ duration set forth in I.B.*, the Referee will make his/her best effort to shorten both halves evenly. Shortened games will count as if full time had been played.

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's play regardless of the actual time played.
- b) The coach may choose to play short thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter in which he was injured.
- c) The player must be recognized by the referee in order to legally return to the game.

3) Signed lineup cards must be completed by the referee and forwarded to the Regional Commissioner or designee.

4) Late arriving players shall be substituted as follows:

- a) If the player arrives during the first or second quarter, the player must play a minimum of two (2) of the remaining three (3) quarters.
- b) If the player arrives during the third quarter, the player must play a minimum of one (1) quarter.

5) U14 Players:

- a) A U14 player should play at three-quarters of the game, with the exceptions noted in 5.b.
- b) The R177 three-quarter rule has been modified in this division to give coaches a tool to address disciplinary issues such as poor attitude or lack of attendance. In such circumstances, coaches may limit playing time to one-half the game.
 - i) All players being disciplined in this manner should be notified of the reason for this disciplinary action.
 - ii) All players disciplined with this action should be highlighted or marked on the game card, in such a way, as to notify the Referee and the Commissioner of these problems.
 - iii) Coaches must notify their Division Coordinator of all circumstances regarding reduced playing time for the reasons above.

6) U16-U19 Players:

- a) All U16 and U19 players must play at least on-half of the game, unless injured.
- b) Free Substitutions are allowed in these divisions. Unless superseded by Area or Section Free Substitution Rules, R177 Free Substitution opportunities are as follows:
 - i) Throw-in.... Prior to throw-in on your possession of the ball. (if substituted, the opposing team may also substitute)
 - ii) Goal –Kick...either team.
 - iii) Kick-off...either team
 - iv) Corner –kick...none.
 - v) Free-kicks (including Penalty Kick)...none.
 - vi) Injury...substitution for injured player only.
 - vii) Referee discretion.



- viii) A cautioned player may be substituted at time of the caution at the coach's request.
No other players may be substituted at that time
- c) The timing of substitutions are at the discretion of the referee

7) Goalkeepers

- a) In the U10, U12 divisions, coaches should make their best effort to limit goalkeeper time to two (2) quarters in goal. In these divisions goalkeepers should play at least one (1) quarter as a field player other than goalkeeper.
- b) In the U14 and above divisions, goalkeepers may remain in goal throughout the game as long as all other players are playing the minimum of one-half of the game.

D. Officiating

- a) Referees shall at all times impose the Rules & Regulations of competition as defined by AYSO and the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b) Referees shall at all times put great emphasis on the welfare of the players and officiate the game in a manner inducing clean competition and good sportsmanship. 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.
- c) The Goalkeeper shall not be harassed or interfered with while attempting to put the ball in play.
- d) The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that games 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 feelings and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators.
- e) Referees decisions regarding game are final. There is no appeal.
- f) Referees and division coordinators will be keeping track of good sports for sportsmanship awards.
- g) Mentor Referees may advise and consult with game officials during the half-time period and after completion of a game.
- h) Mentor Referees will be identified by a shirt or ID badge designating them as such and differentiating them from the game officials.
- i) Mentor Referees do not play a role in officiating an R177 game.

E. Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches and Officials.

It shall be the duty of each coach and official to:

- a) Conduct him/herself in a manner becoming a member of AYSO.
- b) A rectangle defining the coaches' area shall be marked where possible by two lines parallel to the touch-line extending ten (10) yards on either side of the half way line, and by two lines perpendicular to the touch-line. The edge of the coaches area nearer the field of play shall be, where possible, at least one (1) yard from the touchline; the parallel edge shall be no more than three (3) yards from the touchline. The lines parallel to the touchline shall be, where possible, at least (1) yard, preferably (2) yards, and no more than three (3) yards from the touchline.
- b) At all times encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
- c) Train and coach their respective team to the best of their ability.
- d) Uphold the Rules & Regulations of AYSO.



- e) Coaches shall remain within the coaches' area as defined in Section 1.E.2. Negative comments and complaints about refereeing shall not be allowed. Limit their sideline participation during AYSO games to positive instruction and encouragement. Sideline participation shall be limited to two (2) coaches from each team.
- g. Upon team formation, each coach must have in his/her possession a player registration form and medical release form for each player assigned to the team, during team gatherings, practices, scrimmages, and games (regional, inter-regional, area, sectional, national and tournaments).
- h. Present a healthy, athletic environment for players by, in the case of coaches and referees, neither consuming alcoholic beverages nor using tobacco products during practices or games or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.

F. Disciplinary Actions

- a) All formal disciplinary actions taken by the Referee (i.e., Yellow Cards, Red Cards, Verbal Warnings and Dismissals from the Environs of the Field of Play) shall be reported to the Referee Administrator within 24 hours of the actions.
- b) All Game Ejections (Red Card or Dismissal) shall be reported to the Commissioner within eight (8) hours of the actions.
- c) All Red Card and Game-Dismissal Ejections will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension, following the game suspended from.
- d) Any Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play Game Ejection shall result in a minimum of a two (2) game suspension, immediately following the game suspended from.
- e) Any Violent Conduct against a Referee or Assistant Referee shall result in an immediate suspension of the offending parties, pending further investigation by a special committee appointed by the Commissioner. Minimum suspension will be two (2) weeks, with a maximum lifetime suspension from all R177 activities.
- f) Any physical attack on, or threat of bodily harm against a referee is considered Violent Conduct. This includes spitting on the referee.
- g) All referees must file a police report with the local law enforcement authorities promptly, following any Violent Conduct committed against them.
- h) All referees must notify the Referee Administrator within four (4) hours of any Violent Conduct incident, whether it is against a player, coach or referee. The Referee Administrator than will notify the Commissioner and Safety Director, promptly.

G. Size of Ball

- a) U-19, U-16 and U-14 Divisions: must be 26.5 to 28.0 inches in circumference and weigh between 14 and 16 ounces (Size 5).
- b) U-12 and U-10 Divisions: must be 25.0 to 26.5 inches in circumference and weigh between 12 and 14 ounces (Size 4).
- c) U-8, U-6 and U5 Divisions: must be 23.0 to 25.0 inches in circumference and weigh between 10 and 12 ounces (Size 3).

F. Field of Play

- a) For U14 and above divisions, the dimensions of the field of play, markings, goal area, penalty area, corner area, and goals must conform to all FIFA Laws of the Game requirements, including the size being no less than 100 yards in length and 50 yards in



width. Dimensions for U12 and below will be determined by AYSO short-sided field recommendations and field constraints.

- b) On open fields where most youth games are played, the field shall be marked, where possible, with a spectator control line parallel to the touch line (side line) at a distance of at least three (3) yards from the touch line. All coaches, referees, linesmen, and other league officials are asked to ensure that spectators remain behind this line.
- c) With the exception of photographers who have received authorization from the referee, and who must remain quiet and sufficiently back from the goal line, spectators should not be allowed behind the goal line.

H. Small Sided Games

- a) It is strongly recommended that U-5 through U-10 divisions play small-sided games, conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the age appropriate AYSO Coaching Manual.
- b) Small-sided games are permitted for all divisions.

II. TEAMS

- A) Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion or nationality.
- B) Teams shall participate only in games approved by their respective Regional Commissioner and/or AYSO Special Games Committee.
- C) Each U-19 and U-16 team shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) and a minimum of twelve (12) registered players at any one time. Each U-14 through U-8 team shall have a maximum of fifteen (15) and a minimum of twelve (12) registered players at any one time. U-8 teams may optionally play with a maximum of nine (9) players on a side in which case teams shall have a maximum of thirteen (13) and a minimum of ten (10) registered players. All divisions may play optionally with teams of smaller sizes for minisoccer, indoor soccer or small-sided games, subject to rules established by the section.
- D) Every effort will be made to balance team strengths within any one-age division.
- E) Retention of players on any team shall be limited to the head coach's child(ren).

III. REGISTRATION

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

- 1. Under five (5) years of age and not younger than four (4) years of age. U-5 Division
- 2. Under six (6) years of age U-6 Division
- 3. Under eight (8) years of age U-8 Division
- 4. Under ten (10) years of age U-10 Division
- 5. Under twelve (12) years of age U-12 Division
- 6. Under fourteen (14) years of age U-14 Division
- 7. Under sixteen (16) years of age U-16 Division
- 8. Under nineteen (19) years of age U-19 Division

- B) The U-5 division is coed for boys and girls, four (4) to five (5) years old, being introduced to the techniques and skills needed to play soccer. This is not a competitive division!



- C) The effective date of age determination shall be the player's age as of July 31st of the year that the season commences.
- D) Any player must present birth certificate or other legal proof of age to the R177 Commissioner or Area director upon request.
- E) No player may register without the written consent of a parent or guardian, (unless that player is of legal age), and the approval of the R177 Commissioner.
- F) A player becomes an official team member only after payment of the required registration fee and acceptance of registration form by the Regional Commissioner, or the designated representative.
- G) A player may be a member of only one AYSO league-team at any one time.

IV. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

A player may transfer from one team to another within one region or from one region to another, after the following conditions have been met:

- a) Approval of both coaches of the teams involved.
- b) Approval of regional commissioner(s).
- c) Approval of player or parent.

V. DURATION OF SEASON

The official playing season of R177 shall be from August 1st through July 31st of the following year. Practice for U5-U16, may begin as early as August 10, 2004. Practice for U16-U19, may begin August 1, 2004.

VI. PROPER DRESS

- a) R177 provides for players to wear a matching team uniform consisting of jersey, shorts, and socks. Such uniform shall be properly marked with the AYSO logo on the left front of the jersey and otherwise conforms to the markings on the attached drawing.
- b) The AYSO uniform may bear a manufacturer's name and/or trademark provided that the brand name and/or trademark is contained in the same location(s) on uniforms available to the general public.
- c) Upon approval by the R177 Commissioner, the uniform may bear an optional emblem on the sleeve or and/or shorts, It shall be about three (3) inches in diameter (or equivalent diagonal), and shall generally provide for player, regional or sponsor identity, and must meet AYSO National standard.
- d) The AYSO Uniform may not bear the player name or team name by any application of lettering, silk screening, etc.
- e) For clarification of proper application of AYSO and manufacturers' logos refer to the AYSO National Rules & Regulations Section VI. A. and Section "800 — Legal" of the Regional Commissioner Manual.
- f) Regulation soccer shoes, gym shoes, or sneakers (with or without rubber cleats) are permissible in all R177 competitions.



- g) Players shall not be allowed to participate in any game or practice unless they are wearing shin guards.
- h) Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to either themselves or other players.

VII. OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EQUIPMENT

The custodianship and disposition of equipment and supplies purchased by R177 is the responsibility of that region.

VIII. INJURIES

- a) Players shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any game with any type of cast or splint. Any player removing a cast prior to a game, without written approval (to be presented to the referee) by their attending physician shall not be allowed to play and the incident should be reported to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the incident.
- b) No player shall be allowed to practice or to play in a game with an injury that can be aggravated by playing, or which constitutes a danger to others.

Any injury or damage involving an AYSO participant shall be reported to, and by, the regional commissioner in accordance with the directive of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) National Support and Training Center.

IX. DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

- A) Preseason games are identified on schedule. They do not count towards championship
- B) For all Regular Season games the following point system is in effect:
 - (a) 3 points for a win,
 - (b) 1 point for a tie,
 - (c) 0 points for a loss.
- C) Your team may not play all teams. Points will determine Division winner. In the event that not all teams play the same number of games, the highest winning percentage team will be declared as the division winner. The winning percentage will be calculated as the number of won points divided by the potential maximum number of points possible for the team to have won.
- D) Tie breakers:
 - (a) 1st: Head-to-head competition; 2nd: Total goals against (regular season); 3rd: Red cards;
 - 4th: Yellow cards; 5th: Shootout.
- E) Area Playoffs
 - (a) Division champ can advance to Area Playoffs held in December.
 - (b) Regular Season Playoffs have priority over All Stars for players.
 - (c) Region will pay Area tournament entry fee.
 - (d) The coach should discuss the opportunity with the team to ensure support
 - (e) Notice to commit due to board by November 25th, 2004. Otherwise, runner-up team will be asked to participate.



X. BELMONT CUP

- A) To be played end of November or beginning of December. See separate rules.

XI. ALL STARS

- A) Applies to U10 through U14 Divisions.
- B) Coaching applications due to Board by October 1st.
- C) All Star Practices cannot start until November 15th.
- D) Tournament play may conflict with Area division championships. Regular season team has priority for games. **COORDINATE THIS CAREFULLY.**
- E) All Star teams are self-funding. The team pays its own uniform and tournament expenses (R177 will pay the Area K tournament entry fee only.). Costs can run upwards of \$200 per player and requires a significant commitment of time by players AND parents. Participants will be giving up entire weekends, cutting Christmas vacation short, etc. and should carefully consider what's involved before committing to the team.
- F) See separate rules regarding selection of All Star coaches and players.
- G) R177 requires a deposit from each All Star team prior to uniform distribution.

XII. SPRING SELECT

- A) Applies to Divisions U8 through U19.
- B) A Coaching application is due to the Spring Coordinator by January 20th.
- C) Spring season begins in March and continues through May. (Additional tournaments possible.)
- D) Spring is a "coach select" season, meaning the coach selects the players.
- E) There may also be a pick-up league locally if our members provide enough support. (Players come out on Saturday, teams get picked and everyone plays, no official instruction provided.)
- F) R177 Spring programs will be advertised on the region's website.
- G) A deposit from each spring team is required prior to uniform distribution.
- H) Depending upon the League that each spring team participates in, special rules of competition may apply.