

Here is a description from John Ouellette, AYSO National Coach/Technical Director, about the AYSO recommendation of having the U08 Division playing without goalies:

January 6th, 2009

1. Question: Should my Region have goalkeepers for U-8?

- *Answer: I think everyone knows my stand as the National Director of Coaching for AYSO, I prefer no goalkeepers in U-8. But, let me start a little higher than John Ouellette and go right to U.S. Soccer, the governing body of soccer in this country, they also mandate no goalkeepers in U-8. So, if the governing body of soccer and AYSO don't recommend goalkeepers in U-8, maybe it's time for your board and all those involved in youth sports, especially soccer to consider no goalkeepers in U-8.*

*There are several reasons. First of all, in this country, we don't have enough goal scorers, and there are not enough scorers for the game because we don't encourage kids to shoot. We coach and play not to lose. I would love to see no goalkeepers in U-8 and kids just taking a go at it. Kids will shoot at an empty net. When there is a keeper in the net, they are looking for the perfect shot, and we just want them to have a go at it. Along with that, we as adults look at 8-year-olds as soccer players. They are still 8-year-olds. They are not physically mature enough to handle truly tough shots or occasionally they get in front of one or two, but for the most part they aren't physically able to make saves, and psychological they are devastated when the ball goes into the back of the net.*