



# AYSO Region 177 – Standard Regional Policies & Protocols

## Addendum B – Additional Regional Policies & Guidelines

### Section 11 | Area E

This document supplements the AYSO Standard Regional Policies & Protocols and outlines Region 177's additional regional policies, procedures, and administrative guidelines. All sections shall be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the Regional Board and approved by the Area Director, Section Director, and the AYSO National Office.

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## 2. Registration, Fees & Refunds

### Registration Fee Structure and Approval Process

Each participating player shall pay a registration fee in such amounts and at such times as shall be determined by the Region. These fees shall be sufficient to enable the Region to meet its financial obligations, including its financial and other commitments to the Organization. Registration fees will be determined by the board, and approved by the Regional Commissioner.

### Fall Refund Policy

- Blue Sombrero/Sports Connect service fee and national fee are non-refundable.
- Full refund until July 1st (except non-refundable items, e.g., Blue Sombrero service fee and national fee).
- \$50 refund until July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- No refunds after July 15th since teams have already been formed.
- Exceptions can be made with the approval of the Regional Commissioner, but will only occur under special circumstances.

### Buddy Requests

- 1 friend request (only players for U5 (Schoolyard) and U6, this is not a guarantee):
- Practices are at the sole discretion of the coach and are determined before the coach receives their team.
- We cannot take requests for practice days or times.
- We cannot take buddy requests except for U5 and U6 divisions.

### Scholarship or Financial Assistance Guidelines

AYSO Region 177 (Belmont Shore / Long Beach) is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to play soccer. Our scholarship fund supports families for whom the full registration fee is a hardship. While funds are limited, we aim to help as many as possible with fairness and transparency.

1. Submit a separate application for each child.
2. Information is confidential and used only for review.
3. Volunteering is encouraged but not required.
4. Scholarships cover registration only. The National Membership Fee must be paid by the applicant.
5. Applications must be submitted by June 30 of the seasonal year.
6. Please fill out this Google form: [AYSO 177 Scholarship Application](#)
7. The board will approve a set number of scholarships for the season.
8. Individual applications will be approved by the Regional Commissioner.

## 3. Team Formation & Player Placement

Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play. This provides a stronger learning experience for teams as the players compete against teams of similar ability. It also allows for each player to experience playing with a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels. Each division may be formed differently, as priorities may change depending on the age.

### Schoolyard (U5) and U6:

Team formation is made while considering that these players are likely new to the game. The primary focus is to create a fun, inclusive, and balanced introduction to soccer where players feel safe, supported, and eager to participate. Teams in the Schoolyard (U5) division are coed and formed with particular attention to gender balance. Efforts are made to ensure each team has a similar number of boys and girls. Other considerations for these divisions are:

- Volunteer availability: Players will be assigned based on the placement of their parent or guardian volunteers who serve as coaches or team assistants.
- Friend requests: Reasonable efforts are made to honor mutual friend requests submitted during registration, provided that team sizes and gender balance remain equitable.
- School and neighborhood proximity: Players are often grouped by listed school or nearby zip code to help parents with transportation and to increase familiarity among players.

### U8 and U10 Divisions:

Teams are formed based on the following criteria and priorities:

- Volunteer Placement: Children of head coaches, assistant coaches, or team referees are placed with their parent's assigned team. Every effort is made to ensure volunteer placement does not create an imbalance in team strength.

- Skill Balance: Each player's rating and background are reviewed to distribute skill levels evenly across all teams. Factors considered include:
  - Player ratings from prior seasons or evaluations
  - Age within division (younger vs. older birth year)
  - Playing experience, such as prior participation in Core, EXTRA, or Club programs
  - Player position or preference, ensuring that each team has at least one player with an interest or experience in goalkeeping

### U12 and Upper Divisions:

Teams in the U12 and older divisions are formed through a formal player draft to ensure fair and balanced competition across all teams within each division. Team formation follows these priorities and procedures:

- Volunteer Placement: Children of head coaches and assistant coaches are automatically assigned to their parent's team prior to the start of the draft. Every effort is made to ensure that these automatic selections do not create an imbalance among teams.
- Draft Format: Teams are selected through a blind-draw snake draft, conducted under the supervision of the Regional Coach Administrator and division coordinators.
  - The draft order is established by random draw.
  - Coaches alternate selections each round in a forward–reverse order ("snake" pattern).
  - Player selection proceeds through rounds organized by player ratings.
- Player Evaluation and Rounds: Players are grouped into rounds based on their player rating, age, and experience. Ratings reflect prior season assessments, coach feedback, and experience level (Core, EXTRA, or Club). This structure ensures that each team receives a comparable mix of skills and experience.
- Goalkeeper Distribution: When forming teams, efforts are made to ensure each roster includes at least one player with prior goalkeeping experience or expresses interest in the position.
- Confidentiality and Oversight: Player ratings and draft sheets are confidential and remain in the custody of the Region. Coaches may reference them only during the draft process. Draft results and rosters are finalized by the Regional Coach Administrator and Registrar.
- Reference: All draft procedures are conducted in accordance with the *AYSO Region 177 Draft Rules and Procedure for Coaches*, which provide detailed steps, examples, and oversight requirements to maintain fairness and transparency.

### Waitlist Policy

As players drop from teams, those on the waiting list will be assigned based on their player rating. The newly assigned player's rating will be similar to the rating of the one being replaced and assignments to teams will retain the balance. If there is no rating available, the player will be placed on teams on a first-come, first-served basis.

Players on the waitlist are moved from the waitlist and onto a team using the following priority list:

- Players with siblings already registered in the region
- Volunteer Placement
  - Players are associated with a Head Coach. Assistant Coaches will not be considered grounds for priority from the waitlist.
  - Registered referee with a confirmed history of games covered. Center Referees will be given priority.
- Balance and need
  - Activation will consider roster size, coach availability, and team balance.
- First Come First Serve by registration time stamp.

### Transfer of Players

Once teams are formed and distributed, players will not be transferred without the approval of the Registrar and the Regional Commissioner. This transfer will only be granted:

- if a player's safety is considered at risk.
- to correct an administrative error such as overlooking a sibling pairing.
- to rebalance teams due to over- or under-rostered squads (e.g., 12 on one, 8 on another).
- to ensure a gender balance in coed divisions (such as U6 or Schoolyard).

- if there is in-season documented bullying, conflict, or behavioral concerns that cannot be reasonably resolved within the current team.
- if required due to players dropping mid-season or joining after initial formation, to maintain balanced rosters.

It should be noted that transfers will NOT be granted:

- due to a player's scheduling conflict.
- transportation issues.
- friend placement (see Buddy Policy).
- to request a different coach.

#### **4. Participation, Playing Time & Attendance**

Every player shall be entitled to play at least half of every game. If it is mathematically possible, each player shall play a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the game.

- No player is to play the entire game if another player will not play at least 75% of the game.
- If the team cannot play  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a game consistently, the player who sits out 50% of the time shall rotate each week.
- If a team can play a player 100% of the game consistently, that player shall rotate. The same player should not play 100% of the game each week, while others do not get to play the entire game.
- U6 and U8 do not play with goalkeepers.
- U10 and U12 goalkeepers must not play more than 50% of the game in goal and must play at least one quarter of the game in the field.
- U14 goalkeepers may play the entire game in goal.

Per Area guidelines: If an injured player is substituted, that player must sit out the entire period until the next quarter, half, or overtime. The injured player receives credit for playing the entire quarter, regardless of the time during the period they became injured and left the field.

Practice attendance is not a requirement for game playtime. AYSO is meant to be an all-inclusive organization. This includes players with home situations that do not allow for consistent practice attendance. Practice attendance shall not negatively impact a player's gametime. The above playing time requirements still apply.

#### **Playing Up and Down**

Requests to have a player "play up" into an older division will be granted only if it is approved by the Regional Coach Administrator, the Registrar, and the Regional Commissioner. Such a request must also be approved by the Area Director. Such requests are rarely granted. If consideration of any request for a player to play up has the potential for any registered player in that division to be placed on a wait list, the request will not be considered.

Players requesting to play down will not be considered, unless the player's size, strength, or other physical limitation might endanger the player's safety playing in his/her own division. If developmental issues make it inadvisable to play in division, parents should consider the EPIC program.

Any player playing 'up' may only be considered for All-Stars in the same division in which the player played during the Fall season. Any player playing up or down may not be eligible for postseason play (Area/Sectional playoffs, all-stars). It is the responsibility of the player's guardian to verify this.

#### **5. Conduct, Discipline & Protests**

Any policies or procedures outlined in the AYSO Area 11-E Guidelines or the AYSO Reference Book shall take precedence over the following Region 177 guidelines if a conflict exists. Region 177 adheres to all applicable Area and National standards regarding conduct, discipline, and protest procedures. Full Area 11-E Guidelines can be found at <https://www.area11e.com/>.

## Code of Conduct

AYSO Region 177 expects all players, coaches, referees, and spectators to uphold AYSO's six philosophies, particularly Good Sportsmanship, Positive Coaching, and Player Development.

- Conduct shall always reflect respect for the game, its officials, opponents, and teammates.
- All participants must maintain respectful behavior toward referees, coaches, players, and spectators.
- Dissent, abusive language, intimidation, or negative communication toward officials or others is prohibited.
- Alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and controlled substances are not permitted at any AYSO field, practice, or event.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators and must fully support the authority of the referees.

## Disciplinary Action Process

Referees may issue cautions (yellow cards) or send-offs (red cards) to players, substitutes, or coaches for misconduct in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Either card must be entered into Matchtrak (or any referee reporting system being used) along with an incident report within 48 hours of issuance in order to validate any red card. This ensures the red card is entered in a timely manner, allowing the recipient adequate time for appeal or protest. Region 177 will use the [US Soccer "Referee Abuse Prevention Penalty Summary"](#) as a guideline for disciplinary consequences.

- Serious misconduct, violent behavior, or repeated offenses may result in extended suspensions or removal from participation.
- All referee misconduct reports are reviewed by the Regional Commissioner and Regional Referee Administrator.
- If further action is warranted, a Disciplinary Review Panel with a minimum of three board members will be formed. The panel will be convened to gather information, interview parties, and recommend sanctions.
- Any red-carded player, coach, or spectator will serve a minimum one-game suspension, effective immediately at the next scheduled match.
  - The Regional Commissioner will form a Disciplinary Review Panel. The panel will discuss the events and make a recommendation to the Regional Commissioner, but the Regional Commissioner will have the final say as to the disciplinary action to be taken.
  - The Disciplinary Review Panel shall make all efforts to complete the review within 6 days of the alleged infraction.
- The Regional Commissioner may impose an interim suspension if conduct poses an immediate safety or reputational risk.
- Possible outcomes include a verbal or written warning, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program. All proceedings will follow the due-process standards established in the AYSO Reference Book, Section 9 – Dispute Resolution, and the Area 11-E Guidelines, Article IV – Misconduct & Discipline.
- All carded coaches may have their team removed from consideration for postseason playoffs or tournaments at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner.

## Protests and Complaints

Protests regarding referee judgment calls will not be accepted.

- A protest may only be filed for an alleged misapplication of the Laws of the Game or violation of AYSO competition rules.
- Protests must be submitted in writing within forty-eight (48) hours to the Regional Referee Administrator, with a copy to the Regional Commissioner.
- Misconduct, sportsmanship issues, or safety concerns involving coaches, players, or spectators should be reported through the Division Coordinator or Coach Administrator for review.
- If a matter cannot be resolved at the regional level, it may be referred to Area 11-E for review under its established procedures, consistent with the AYSO Reference Book Section 9.03 – Protests and Appeals, and the Area 11-E Guidelines Article V – Protest Procedure.



## **6. Competition Structure (Core Season)**

### **U8 and Younger Divisions**

Scores and standings are recorded in U8 to help the board improve Balanced Teams in future years, but are not published for the U8 division and below. This approach supports AYSO's Core Philosophies of Everyone Plays®, Player Development, and Good Sportsmanship. The focus at these ages is on learning the game, developing fundamental skills, and fostering a love for soccer without the pressure of results or standings.

### **U10 and U12 Divisions**

Regular season play for the U10 and U12 divisions follows a standard table format, where teams earn points throughout the season to determine standings and potential playoff eligibility.

#### **Point System**

Win = 6 points

Tie = 3 points

Loss = 0 points

#### **Bonus Points**

+1 point per goal (maximum of 3 per game)

+1 point for a shutout (opponent scores 0)

#### **Circuit Standings and Sorting**

Standings are calculated based on average points per game (Avg Points/g), followed by Goals Against (GA) and Goal Differential (GD) as tiebreakers.

Tournaments and playoffs may use their own tie-breaking procedures after points are applied.

Head-to-head results and send-offs will not be factored until all matches have been completed. Standings may be adjusted at the conclusion of the season if necessary to ensure fairness and compliance with regional or Area policies.

### **U14 and Older Divisions**

Divisions U14 and above follow the official AYSO Area 11-E and Section 11 game formats and point systems as published at <https://www.area11e.com/>.

#### **Referee Point System and Playoff Eligibility**

Region 177 implements a Referee Point System to encourage team participation in officiating and support the regional referee program. Under this system, teams earn points when their affiliated referees complete assigned matches during the season. Teams must meet the minimum referee point requirement to be eligible for post-season play or Area Playoffs. Referee participation and point tracking will be administered by the Regional Referee Administrator in coordination with the Division Coordinators and Coach Administrator.

## **7. Postseason Playoffs**

Teams representing Region 177 in the AYSO Area 11-E Playoffs and beyond are selected based on their performance, conduct, and eligibility during the Fall Core season. The purpose of Area Playoffs is to provide an opportunity for top regional teams to compete in post-season play while demonstrating AYSO's philosophies of Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship, and Player Development.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

The Area Playoff Tournament is an invitational tournament. The Regional Commissioner will submit the appropriate number of teams to the Area Director, based on the criteria below. Ultimately, it is the Regional Commissioner's decision which teams represent the region at Area Playoffs.

- The first place and second place team in each division (as determined by the region's standings system) will represent Region 177 in the Area 11-E Playoffs. There may be additional "wildcard" spots offered by the Area Director.

- If any of these teams decline or are ineligible, the next highest-ranked eligible team will be invited to participate.
- To be eligible, teams must:
  - Maintain a record of positive sideline conduct and good sportsmanship.
  - Have no outstanding disciplinary actions against the coach, assistant coach, or team.
  - Meet any Referee Point or Volunteer Requirement established by the region or Area.
  - Be comprised only of registered fall core players, no substitutions or additions are permitted.

#### **Coach Requirements**

- The coach and assistant coach must meet all AYSO certification, Safe Haven, and SafeSport requirements for their division.
- The team must be in good administrative standing with completed player forms, volunteer compliance, and all region equipment returned.

#### **Oversight**

- Final playoff qualification and roster approval are made by the Regional Commissioner, in consultation with the Regional Coach Administrator and Division Coordinators.
- All Area Playoff games are governed by the AYSO Area 11-E Playoff Rules, which supersede regional policies where applicable.

### **8. All-Star Program**

Full All-Star program details can be found in the Region document “All Star Guidelines”. The All-Star program will be a self-sustaining program. It must be self-supporting and not use general Region funds. Some exceptions may be:

- Use of existing permits shared with currently running programs.
- Uniforms or equipment used or leftover by past or current programs.
- Fees and/or costs that remain from other programs that will no longer be used, such as tournament fees, trainer fees, etc that were paid and are non-refundable, but may be transferred or repurposed for another program.

These exceptions will be governed by the Regional Commissioner, who will ensure there is no misappropriation of the original funds. Every attempt shall be made to use the resources for the program intended, before they are repurposed for the All-Star program.

#### **All-Star Coach Requirements:**

1. Coach certification for the division the coach is applying to be All-Star Coach:
  - U10 Requirement: U10 Coach Certification
  - U12 Requirement: U12 Coach Certification
  - U14 Requirement: Intermediate Certification
2. A child playing in the division that is qualified to be an All-Star. This qualification is ultimately decided by the Regional Commissioner with the help of the All-Star Committee.
3. A coach in good standing for the regular fall season of the year applied to be All-Star Coach. (Note: Good standing implies all volunteer forms and Safe Haven certification have been turned into Division Coordinator/CVPA)

#### **All-Star Coach Selection Process:**

1. All-Star Coaching applications are due per the date in the current All Star Guidelines document, typically the second week of October. Applications need to be submitted to the All-Star Coordinator via email. The All-Star Coordinator takes completed applications and verifies the coach’s training levels and certification status.
2. The board meets to discuss and vote on All-Star coaches. These deliberations are confidential and private. These selections are based on the sum of the following criteria:
  - Does the coach meet the minimum criteria as listed above?
  - Who will be the best model of positive coaching and superior sportsmanship?
  - Who is the best coach for our players?



- Who has the most successful experience implementing PIE?
  - Whose teams have improved consistently throughout the season?
  - Whose child is most likely to be an All-Star?
  - Who has been the most organized and communicated well with their division coordinator?
3. The All-Star Coordinator extends an invitation to the coach via a phone call first. In the event a coach turns down an invitation, the next most qualified is extended an invitation to coach that team. Once the coaches for a given division have accepted the head coaching position, the other candidates are notified that they were not selected.

### All-Star Player Selection:

1. Regular fall coaches must submit a minimum of two players, and up to the Division Coordinator's designated maximum, to help maintain a reasonable player pool size. This list should include the fall head coach's last name, the player's names, jersey numbers, and jersey sizes. These names will be compiled by the All-Star Coordinator and submitted to the All-Star Coaches for that division. Regular season coaches should notify parents that their child's name is being submitted so that parents have an opportunity to decline the opportunity and another child's name can be submitted.
2. Coaches are to observe a minimum of two games. These observations most often take place during the Belmont Cup.
3. No more than 1/3 of the all-star roster may be from any Fall season team. Any requested variations of this must be approved by the All Star Coordinator and the Regional Commissioner.
4. Roster sizes:
  - U10 (7v7) 9 players. The roster must have 9 players.
  - U12 (9v9) 12 players max. 11 players is acceptable.
  - U14 (11v11) 15 players max. 14 players is acceptable.
5. Completed rosters MUST be submitted to the All-Star Coordinator for approval prior to contacting the players.
6. Once the roster has been approved, the All-Star coach should call players selected and extend an invitation to the All-Star Team. The phone call should be followed with an email that outlines the dates, costs, and responsibilities associated with being an All-Star.

## 9. EXTRA Program

All Regional Programs must meet and adhere to the AREA, Section & National EXTRA Guidelines. The EXTRA Team is a Region team, not a Coaches Team. An EXTRA Team will not be fielded with minimally skilled players. In order to field an EXTRA Team, the Region must have the required experience with Coaching certificate & Referee trained levels available to support the team.

### Coach Selection:

The Region will have an application process for already experienced & Coaching level certified coaches to apply. The Regions should NOT share any details about teams, etc. during the Team formation process, except with the selection committee. Prospective Coaches MAY NOT contact any potential players or be an active part of the initial team selection/tryout process. Prospective Coaches may observe the tryouts from a 'viewing' area, away from the active tryouts. Coach selection is not finalized/approved until the RC & the Regions EXTRA Selection Committee meet with the Area Director (AD). Prior Coaching experience, history and compliance with Coach Pledge & P.I.E. will be heavily considered.

### Player Tryout and Selection:

Players must try out for each season (year) of the formation process. Players MUST attend at least one tryout, preferably two. All players are to register and receive a player number at tryouts. Only that number will be used during the tryout process and on evaluation sheets. All division families should receive the tryout notice and it is to be posted on the Region website with contact information at least two weeks prior to the scheduled tryout.

### Team Selection

Each Region should have an EXTRA selection committee, consisting of the Regional Commissioner (RC), Coach Administrator, EXTRA Coordinator, and at least one other board or non-board member. The Region selection

committee and AD will select 2/3 of the team; the approved Coach will select the remainder (after approval of team), to the MAXIMUM player roster size allowed by Section.

Please remember, it's about the KIDS playing soccer, not what a particular Coach may "like". Team Selection will be based on several factors, including:

- Numbers of skilled players available.
- If a potential returning team, success in the prior Fall season.
- Availability of requisite experienced Coach.
- Ability of the requisite experienced (level) Referee(s).
- Availability of Parent Team support.
- Availability of Region HOME Fields.

If a Team loses players during or after the Fall season, only players on the tryout list from the most recent tryouts may be selected as replacements, as long as the placement does not negatively affect the players currently assigned to the team. This will be determined by the RC and AD.

#### **Tryout Process**

Regions may hold individual and/or joint tryouts. Regions MUST use independent experienced Coaching evaluators: From adjacent Region(s), Area, Section, UNITED or an approved paid third-party organization. Please speak with AD prior to engaging any third-party organization. Prospective Coaches within the Region are not eligible to participate in the Regions EXTRA tryout process.

#### **Other**

- Copies of all tryout results will be maintained by the AD.
- Only approved AREA player tryout forms are to be utilized.
- A master tryout spreadsheet is to be created and list ALL players who tried out, regardless of ranking.
- Other player (Coach) evaluations are encouraged to use during player selection meeting.
- The AD will meet with the Region's selection committee to review tryout results & potential Coach applications.
- Teams will be formed & approved at this meeting.
- EXTRA teams may begin practice with the Region, unless otherwise approved by the AD.
- Primarily, the EXTRA program is a Fall program; EXTRA circuit in the Spring is dependent on sufficient teams within a division.
- Teams formed outside of these guidelines will not be approved for play.
- TRAVEL is required to other Sections (1/10/11).

### **10.Spring Academy**

Our Spring Program Goal is Player and Coach Development. Region 177's Spring Academy organizes players in age division/skill level groups. There are no official teams in Spring Academy. This Academy is run by professional trainers to develop our players' skills. There are two clinic sessions per week, and one scrimmage is held on Saturdays.

Region 177 does consider teams requesting to play as "Spring Select" teams or tournament teams to play throughout the spring. The players must be registered in Spring Academy, and be in good standing. Teams must also be officially formed in our registration program, and be approved by our Regional Commissioner. Teams must have an appropriately certified Head Coach, and three registered referees to be considered. Permits and field availability will also play a role in the Regional Commissioner's decision.

#### **Spring Facts**

- Spring Season is Typically March through May
- Orientation date, time, and location will be announced on the website, Facebook, and via email

#### **Spring Refund Policy**

1. Sports Connect and National Fee are non-refundable
2. Full refund until February 1 (EXCEPT non-refundable items i.e. Sports Connect and National fee)

3. \$50 dollar refund until February 28.
4. No refund after March 1.

## **11.EPIC Program**

We are proud to offer a very special program for children and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Our EPIC (Everyone Plays In our Community) program provides a safe, fun environment with trained coaches and volunteers who facilitate an enriching experience for players and their families.

Buddies from our EXTRA program and community volunteers assist during the games. Players learn soccer while meeting new friends, having fun, increasing skills and self-esteem. Players and their families, along with the volunteers, enjoy the complete AYSO experience – team uniforms, making friends, scoring goals, cheering from the sidelines, and more.

## **12.Game Day Operations & Safety**

### **Field setup and takedown responsibilities**

The home team of the first game of the day will be responsible for field setup. This includes:

- repainting lines (if needed)
  - throw away all empty paint cans at the field. Do not bring them back to the storage bin.
  - Folding up the field lining machines and putting them back into their proper location inside the bin.
- setting up corner flags
- setting up goals with 2 sandbags per goal as a counterweight

The home team of the last game of the day will be responsible for field takedown. This includes:

- putting away corner flags
- putting away goals and sandbags inside the storage bin in their proper location
- walking the sidelines and throwing away any trash from your field

Home Teams shall setup on the North or West side of the field, while the visiting team will set up on the south or east side of the field.

### **Weather, air quality, and cancellation procedures**

The safety of the players and the long-term quality of the fields will drive decisions on field closures. Weather related field closures will be determined by the permit issuer, and posted on the region website or on our Instagram page [@ayso\\_region177](#).

### **Makeup Match Policy**

There is no guarantee of a makeup game for any cancelled or postponed match. The Region 177 Board will make every effort to find a suitable time and location to accommodate a makeup game; however, scheduling is dependent on field availability, referee coverage, and overall program logistics. Makeup games may be scheduled on either Saturday or Sunday and will be set at the discretion of the Regional Board or Scheduler.

Coaches are not authorized to cancel or schedule games independently. All cancellations or rescheduling requests must be submitted to the Regional Scheduler and approved by the Regional Commissioner or designee prior to any change. This requirement ensures that all matches are played under AYSO's official schedule and remain covered by AYSO insurance in the event of an injury or incident. Unauthorized games or cancellations will not be recognized by the Region.

### **Valid Reasons for a Game to Be Stopped Mid-Match**

Games may be suspended, cancelled, or terminated before completion when conditions no longer allow for safe or fair play. The decision to stop a match may be made by the referee or a Regional Board Member depending on the circumstances.

1. Unsafe Field or Weather Conditions

Games must be stopped immediately when weather or field conditions create an unsafe environment for players, referees, or spectators. This includes lightning or thunder (requiring a minimum 30-minute delay after the last strike or thunder), heavy rain or flooded fields that prevent safe footing, extreme heat or poor air quality, or poor visibility due to darkness or fog. Referees have the authority to suspend play for safety, and the Region or Field Director may close fields entirely.

#### 2. Player, Coach, or Spectator Misconduct / Safety Concerns

A game may be stopped or cancelled if there is severe misconduct, violent behavior, or unsporting conduct that creates a safety threat or unmanageable environment. This includes a coach or spectator refusing to comply with referee or board instructions, or a physical altercation between players, coaches, or spectators. Referees may terminate a match in these situations for the safety of all participants. The Regional Commissioner or Coach Administrator will review the incident for potential disciplinary action. Following review, each team may forfeit any points earned, or a specific team may be determined to have forfeited the match based on the findings.

#### 3. Insufficient Players or Injury

If a team falls below the minimum number of players required to continue play, the game may be stopped and ruled a forfeit or “no contest” depending on the circumstances. A serious injury requiring extended medical attention or emergency response may also result in suspension or termination of the match. If play cannot safely resume within a reasonable time, the match may be abandoned.

#### 4. Referee or Administrative Decision

A referee may suspend or terminate play due to unsafe equipment, field hazards, or dangerous conditions discovered during the game. The Region, Field Director, or Facility Manager may also stop play due to field permit restrictions, time limits, or facility closures.

#### 5. Force Majeure or Unforeseen Events

Games may be stopped or cancelled due to power outages, facility emergencies, police or emergency activity, natural disasters, or other circumstances beyond the control of the Region or referees that make continuation impossible.

### Match Result Determination

If a game is stopped before the completion of the first half, it will be rescheduled whenever possible. If one half or more of the match has been completed, the game will be considered official and the score at the time of stoppage will stand. If the season schedule does not allow for a reschedule, the game will be recorded as a 0–0 tie. If the stoppage results from misconduct or disciplinary reasons, the Regional Board will determine whether either or both teams forfeit any points earned.

### Uniform and equipment standards (e.g., no jewelry)

Uniforms shall be properly marked with the AYSO Traditional logo.

Athletic footwear (with or without cleats) is permissible in all AYSO competitions subject to the referee’s approval regarding their safety under Law 4.

Team members **MUST** wear shin guards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any practice or match. Though the Laws of the Game impose responsibility for the size and suitability of shin guards upon the players, the referee will remain responsible for determining the safety of each player’s equipment. The lone exception is sanctioned beach futsal soccer tournament play where players may opt out of wearing shin guards.

Team members shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any match with any type of cast or splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area to participate shall disqualify the team member from practice or match participation.

Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to either themselves or other players subject to the referee’s approval under Law 4 of the IFAB Laws of the Game. AYSO, in accordance with permitted modifications for youth games, allows the following:

- Hair Beads and Clips Hair control devices and other adornments, such as beads, worn in the hair must meet the following criteria:

- Be securely fastened to the head.
- Do not present an increased risk to the player, teammates, or opponents.
- Flat clips less than two inches in length may be used to hold the hair in place close to the head so long as their placement on the head does not present an increased risk to the player, teammates or opponents.
- Hair charms are still considered jewelry and are not permitted.
- Medical Devices
  - If the device is needed to restrict mobility, protect an injury or support proper alignment to expedite the healing process of a temporary injury and is hard (cast, splint, etc.) then it is not allowed. If, on the other hand, the protective device is used to provide support, flexibility or enable an otherwise healthy player to function normally such as a knee brace, prosthesis, hearing aid, insulin pump/monitor, etc. then this would be allowed provided the device was sufficiently padded to prevent injury to other players. The Laws of the Game specify that “A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.”

The Referee is the sole judge of whether the individual item in question is permissible to wear in the game.

### **13. Referee, Coach & Team Staff Requirements**

All referees, coaches, and team staff must meet the certification, training, and volunteer eligibility requirements established by AYSO National, Section 11, and Area 11-E. The following summarizes Region 177's expectations for compliance and participation. Complete details and procedures are outlined in the official AYSO National Coaching Program, Safe Haven training modules, the AYSO Reference Book, and the Area 11-E Guidelines available at <https://www.area11e.com/>.

All coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and team managers must be registered and certified volunteers for the current season and must have successfully completed:

- AYSO Safe Haven training
- CDC Concussion Awareness training
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest training
- SafeSport certification (as required by federal law)
- Age-appropriate AYSO Coach or Referee certification for the division in which they serve

### **Required Certifications and Training by Division**

Each coach must hold the appropriate AYSO coaching certification for their team's division, as follows:

- Playground/Schoolyard Activity Leader certification
- 6U – 6U Coach
- 8U – 8U Coach
- 10U – 10U Coach
- 12U – 12U Coach
- 14U – Intermediate Coach (minimum)
- For upper divisions (16U/19U), the Advanced Coach certification is required. Referees must hold certification appropriate to the level of play they officiate, in accordance with the AYSO National Referee Program and Area 11-E referee assignment requirements.

### **Team Staff Composition and Responsibilities**

Each Region 177 team may have one Head Coach, one Assistant Coach, and one Team Manager assigned and listed on the official roster. Additional team helpers, trainers, or parents may not be listed as official staff unless specifically approved by the Regional Commissioner. The Head Coach is responsible for all team activities, including communication with parents, adherence to AYSO policies, supervision of players, and ensuring that each player receives fair playing time. The Assistant Coach supports training and supervision under the Head Coach's direction. The Team Manager assists with administrative duties such as schedules, communication, and snack coordination, but may not perform on-field coaching.

### **Guidelines for Temporary or Substitute Coaches**

If the Head Coach and Assistant Coach are both unavailable for a game, a temporary substitute coach may be assigned for that match. The substitute must be a registered and approved AYSO volunteer who has completed all required Safe Haven, Concussion, and SafeSport trainings. Substitute coaches must be certified for the division requiring a sub, and must be reported in advance to the Division Coordinator or Coach Administrator whenever possible. To ensure the safety of our players, and in accordance with AYSO insurance policies, only authorized volunteers may assume on-field coaching duties; no unregistered parent or spectator may act in this capacity.

All staff are expected to model AYSO's core values, follow the AYSO Code of Conduct, and maintain a positive, safe, and development-focused environment for all players. In cases of conflict between these Region 177 guidelines and higher-level directives, the AYSO National, Section 11, or Area 11-E Guidelines shall take precedence.

## **14. Administrative & Governance Items**

### **Approval and Amendment Procedures**

This Addendum shall be released to the voting members of the Region 177 Board for review and comment for a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior to any vote. Following the comment period, the Regional Commissioner or designee will call for a vote to approve the Addendum or any proposed amendments. Approval shall require a majority vote of the voting members of the Regional Board.

Once approved by the Regional Board, the Addendum shall be forwarded to the Area 11-E Director for review and approval. Upon Area approval, the Addendum becomes effective and supersedes all prior versions. Any future amendments shall follow this same process of board review, vote, and Area approval.

### **Regional Board and Area Approval Workflow**

1. Draft or revision prepared by the Regional Commissioner or designated committee.
2. Circulation to voting board members for review and a 72-hour comment period.
3. Board vote for approval by majority.
4. Submission to Area 11-E Director for final approval.
5. Posting of approved Addendum to the Region 177 website and communication to all board members and volunteers.

### **Schedule A – Current Regional Board Roster**

The current Regional Board roster will be provided to the Area Director before the beginning of each Fall Season and maintained as an official record, Schedule A. The roster will list all current board members, positions, and voting designations. The current board roster shall also be published on the Region 177 website and updated at least once per year.