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## **When do they practice and when do they play their games?**

Practices are arranged with your child's coach. Since the volunteer coach will be devoting a significant amount of time to the program, the players and their parents need to work around their coach's availability. Practices are generally held 2 times a week. Games are generally played on Saturdays.

## **When does the season start and when does it end?**

The season is divided into two sessions - FALL and SPRING. For the FALL session, games/practices are in August through October. For the SPRING session, games/practices are in March through May. A minimum of seven (7) games are scheduled for each session.

## **What Division does my child belong to?**

The assignment of your child to a Division depends on their birth year.

## **What are Region, Area, and Section, and which of these do I belong to?**

Region, Area, and Section refer to the organizational structure of AYSO. A Region belongs to an Area and an Area belongs to a Section. We are in Region 1603. In turn, Region 1603 belongs to Area H, and Area H belongs to Section 5.

## **What is this PIE I hear about and what does it mean?**

PIE stands for Positive, Instructional, and Encouraging. It is a philosophy that we want all to abide by when dealing with players. This means no negative comments towards a player when they make a mistake or fail to perform to your standards. Referees do have the authority to eject parents, coaches, or spectators who verbally abuse a player. So please keep all comments PIE.

## **What is my child's team assignment?**

Before players can be assigned to Core teams, the Region 1603 board recruits and trains parent volunteers to be coaches, team parents, and referees. The division administrators then assign players to teams and email the rosters to team members. Recruiting and training enough volunteers to lead all the Core teams takes time. To help us get teams assigned quickly, please sign up to volunteer. You do not need to have previous coaching experience, and you do not need to have been an elite soccer player to be a great coach or referee. AYSO has developed special training to help volunteers who may have little or no soccer experience quickly gain the age-appropriate knowledge and skills they need to become outstanding coaches and refs. If you cannot volunteer as a coach, there are a lot of other positions that need to be filled each season, from team parents to board members. Don't sit back and wait for someone else to make next season happen, step up and make it happen by signing up as a volunteer!

## **My child is on a wait list, when will I know if he/she is placed on a team?**

We believe that the best way to learn soccer is to play soccer. That is why we have limits on roster sizes in our programs - so that every child gets equal playing time. We are an all-volunteer run organization and the number of players we can place on teams each season depends on the number of volunteer coaches we have available to lead those teams. Division Administrators work tirelessly each season to recruit volunteer coaches and help them complete coach training, so that we can place as many players from the wait list as possible. We are an all-volunteer run organization, and are always looking for more coaches. You can better your child's chance of being placed on a team sooner, by volunteering to coach. When we can place your child on a team, you will receive an email notification with instructions to log into your account and pay the registration fee to confirm their spot. We are usually able to place most, if not all wait-listed players. In the unusual event that we are not able to place your child on a team for the fall season, they will receive a team assignment in March or April, as spots usually open up for the spring season.

## **My child is a very good player, can he play in the next higher division?**

A player can play "up" one division with the approval of the Regional Commissioner, this practice is however strongly discouraged and children develop better with other children their own age.

### **My child is very, very small. Can he/she play on a team with younger players?**

No. A player can never "play-down" into a younger age group. Most players in this situation do quite well. Soccer is one game in which size is generally not a hindrance.

### **My child is not a strong player, can he/she play in the next lower division?**

No. Players are not allowed to play "down." Again, players develop better with children of their own age.

### **My child's coach has never coached a team. Can we ask for a new coach?**

AYSO coaches are parents and members of our community who enjoy working with kids. If you have knowledge of the game or coaching techniques, this is a great time to offer your help, or better yet, call the Coach Coordinator before the season starts and take a team yourself.

### **My child doesn't get along with her coach. Can she change teams?**

Discuss the problem with your child and the coach and try to resolve the problem between yourselves. It is impossible to move teams around after they're assembled.

### **My child was on a losing team last year. How can I get him on a better team?**

Before you seek out a better team, reflect on who places more importance on winning and losing. Is it you, your child, or the coach? In general, the player will mirror their views on winning and losing based on the role models around them, namely, their parents and coaches. A good coach will place the need to win a game far below the need to develop the players and letting them have fun. So instead of trying to put your child on a better team, make sure the coach is working toward developing the players and not just searching for the right formula for a winning season. At the end of the season, ignore the win/lost records and do a selfish analysis and ask yourself, "Did the coach help my child to be a better player?" The answer to this question is the true determination of whether your child won or lost this season.

### **Can my child be placed on the same team as his/her friends?**

One of AYSO's six core philosophies is Balanced Teams. In order to maintain balanced teams across each Core division, we build new teams each year in the Core program, with players assigned to teams at random. This keeps our Core league play fair and fun for everyone. A popular option is for the parents of two players in the same age division to elect to co-coach a team together, thereby ensuring that their children will be assigned to the same team for that year. We are also happy to allow new Core players to buddy-up with a friend, either another new player or a returning player in the same age division, so that they have a friend on their team for their first year in the program. All other returning Core players will be assigned at random to new teams each year, so that we can maintain team balance.

### **What if my child can't make it to practice?**

If the problem is transportation, just speak to the coach or team parents. There is always someone who will be available and willing to give your child a ride. If there are other activities (such as lessons of some kind), maybe it would be possible to adjust the schedule. Please try to make it to practice. Your child is involved in a team sport. The team cannot learn to work together if there are players who consistently miss practices. Let the coach know if your child will miss a practice or game.

### **What else does my child need?**

Registration fees include: complete uniform - jersey, shorts, socks; and supplemental accident insurance. In addition, you need to obtain shoes, shin guards, a soccer ball for practice (see table for size), and a water bottle. Players are required to wear shin guards at all practices and games. Soccer cleats are highly recommended for proper footing on grass fields.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Ball Size</b>
U6, U8	3
U10, U12	4
U16, U18	5

### **Can I put my child's name on his uniform?**

NO. AYSO national guidelines do not allow names, patches, or any other markings on the uniform unless authorized by the Region.

### **My child has baseball shoes, can they be used for soccer?**

Baseball shoes are usually considered dangerous and are not allowed in a soccer game. Any shoe with a toe cleat or stud also is not allowed.

### **Does my child have to wear shin guards at practices?**

All players must wear shin guards during practices and games. The shin guards must be completely covered by their socks. Wearing the shin guards over the socks and then folding the socks down on top of the shin guards is not acceptable.

### **Is it true that my child will not be allowed to practice or play with any jewelry on? What about casts or splints?**

That is correct. Regardless of what you see in the MLS, all jewelry must be removed prior to practices and games. Medical and ID bracelets that cannot be removed must be taped down. If your child intends to get their ears pierced, plan ahead and have it done early so that the earrings can be removed for practices and games. Also, watches, rings, and metal hair clips should be removed before practices and games. As for casts and splints, they are not allowed at practices or games. The doctor prescribed them for a reason and that reason is not so that they can continue to play a contact sport. After the cast or splint has been removed, your coach will require a release from the doctor authorizing your child's return to normal activities.

### **How do I volunteer?**

There are many volunteer roles that need to be filled each year. It takes the work of many to make each soccer season happen. We are always looking for more help, especially coaches and referees. No prior experience is necessary for any volunteer role, we provide all the training you will need. To sign up to volunteer, log into your account and add the volunteer role of your choice by searching for "Find Volunteer Roles" in the Volunteer tab in your account. Volunteers must sign up every year for their preferred role. A level II background check is run as part of the volunteer registration for every AYSO volunteer, every year.

### **How much do the Board Members, Coaches, and Referees get paid?**

Board members receive the lowest pay, \$0. Coaches and referees are more important so they get paid double, \$00. We are an all volunteer organization. We do not receive any monetary incentives for being a board member, a coach, or a referee. Working with children and seeing them develop is our reward.

### **I see some real bad referees out there. What can we do?**

Contact the Regional Referee Administrator and find out when the next referee class is. Then, come to class and become a certified referee. We need people that know the game and can make the calls as they see them. What you cannot do is harass the referee no matter how poorly you think he is performing. His poor performance may be the result of the lack of understanding of the laws on your part. Volunteers willing to referee games are difficult to come by.

### **I have never played soccer and I don't know anything about soccer. Can I still become a coach or a referee?**

You sure can. AYSO will provide you with all the training for free. The only thing we ask for are your time and commitment. Contact the Regional Coach Administrator or the Regional Referee Administrator to learn more. If coaching or refereeing is not for you, there are others way you can help. Talk to the Commissioner or a board member and ask how you can take part in bringing this quality soccer program to our community. You'll be glad you did.

## **I don't know anything about the volunteer who will be coaching my child. How do I know my child will be safe?**

That question should be on every parent's mind. AYSO has instituted a program requiring all volunteers to submit a volunteer application form, which authorizes AYSO to conduct a background check. It is important that all parents be attentive to their child's safety. Help your coach by making sure another adult is present at all practices and team functions.

## **I can't log in, or I am logged in but I don't see my participant's information.**

If you have forgotten your username or password, request to reset your password or retrieve your account username at the login page. DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT. If you create a second account, it will not be linked to your child's registration, and you will not be able to view your team page or your child's registration information. Email [ayso1603@gmail.com](mailto:ayso1603@gmail.com) to have multiple accounts merged, or if issues persist.

## **My spouse registered my child, how do I log into their account?**

The Primary Account User can invite you to be an Additional Account User. From the Primary Account User's My Account screen, click on the gear icon in the upper right, to "Edit Account Info". Scroll to bottom of Primary Parent/Guardian Info page and click on "Add Additional Account Holder". An invitation will be sent to the Additional Account User with a link to create their own login for the shared account.

## **My child is playing in Fall, do I need to re-register for Spring?**

Yes. We have separate registrations for each season. The AYSO Membership fee will only be charged once per membership year.

## **I need to cancel my child's registration. Can I get a refund?**

Email your request to withdraw to the Registrar at [ayso1603@gmail.com](mailto:ayso1603@gmail.com).

- ★ If the player withdrawal is requested before uniforms are purchased, the regional Core program fee will be refunded in full.
- ★ If the player withdrawal is requested after uniforms are purchased, \$25 will be deducted from the refund.
- ★ After the first game of the season has taken place, no refunds will be made.
- ★ If the player withdrawal is requested after the conclusion of the season, no refund is made.

If eligible to receive a refund, the refund will be processed and refunded back to your credit card or a check will be mailed to you within 4-6 weeks. *The AYSO Membership Fee is non-refundable.* Children may not participate in AYSO programs once they have been withdrawn and removed from the team roster. To request player reinstatement, the parent must contact the Registrar. We do not guarantee team placement - if you ask for reinstatement, your child may be re-assigned to another team. Coaches are not authorized to allow a withdrawn player to rejoin their teams.