

### **League Playoffs**

The League Playoffs program is made up of 10U, 12U, and 14U teams that have been designated as either Region Champion or Runner-Up in each of the Girls and Boys Divisions of their respective Region. Each Region may enter two regular Core Season teams in each of the six divisions. If additional teams are needed to make up a 16-team bracket, then the Area Coordinator may add a third team to play in that bracket from a Region chosen at random. No Region shall get more than one additional team, and teams shall only be added to brackets with less than 16 teams. Area will conduct an Area League Championship Playoff Tournament (the “Playoff Tournament”) after the conclusion of the regular Core Season to determine the Area Champion in each of the six divisions and to determine who shall represent the Area in the Section 1 League Championship Playoff Tournament.

### **Coach Eligibility**

Each Regional Commissioner of any Region participating in an Area program shall be responsible for ensuring that all participating coaches and assistant coaches of all teams from that Region have submitted current volunteer applications to the AYSO National office with an approved Risk Status; have completed Live Scan screening and have AYSO Safe Haven® certification; have completed Concussion Awareness, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and SafeSport Training and have completed the AYSO age-appropriate training for the team level they will coach. Unless the following certification levels can be met, the approval of the Area Director and Area Coordinator is required.

- A) 10 and Under Teams – 10U Coach Certification is required for 10 and Under coaches
- B) 12 and Under Teams – 12U Coach Certification is required for 12 and Under coaches
- C) 14 and Under Teams – Intermediate Coach Certification or higher is required for 14 and Under coaches

### **Player Eligibility**

An “eligible” player, for purposes of these Rules, is any player who meets all of the following requirements:

- 1) is properly registered with AYSO and meets the eligibility requirements given below
- 2) is listed on the most current team roster on file with the Area
- 3) has signed a Player Agreement, if required
- 4) is not currently suspended from playing due to disciplinary action as a result of a sendoff, accumulation of yellow cards or other sanctions imposed by the Area or these Rules

In addition to the foregoing player eligibility requirements, the following additional requirements apply for Playoff Tournaments:



No player will be eligible to play on any League Playoffs team if they were not registered in AYSO and placed on the League Playoffs Team Roster prior to October 31 of the current season year. Furthermore, no player is eligible to play on any League Playoffs team if they did not play at least one-half (1/2) of the total number of league games played by that same team during the regular Core Season, including Regional playoff games. The only exceptions to this rule are situations where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness or injury (as evidenced by actual lineup cards from the Fall Season), or a change of residence which causes a change from one Region to another.

### **Forfeit of Games Played with Ineligible Players**

A team shall forfeit any game in which an ineligible player has participated or attempted to participate, and such team, ineligible player, and/or team coach may be subject to additional sanctions imposed by the Area Director as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

### **Team Rosters**

A Team Roster, in the form of a Sports Connect Team Roster signed by the Regional Commissioner (the "Team Roster"), shall be submitted to the Area Coordinator according to the following schedule for each program. No roster form other than the Blue Sombrero Team Roster shall be acceptable. Teams that have not submitted a roster to the Area Coordinator are not permitted on the field, and scheduled games not played shall result in a forfeit. Team rosters should include: (a) region, program and division designation, (b) team name and uniform colors, (c) coach name, address, phone number(s) and email address, (d) assistant coach name, address, phone number(s) and email address, (e) each player's name, jersey number, AYSO registration number, date of birth, address and phone number, (g) signature of the Regional Commissioner of the Region represented. For any division requiring Team Referees (Section 18(b)(2)), the Region shall submit the name, AYSO ID Number and AYSO Badge level of each team's Team Referees to the Area Referee Administrator no later than the same date as the rosters are due.

### **Roster Due Deadlines and Team Sizes**

A Team Roster shall be submitted for each League Playoffs team by the Regional Coordinator by December 8th, 2025. The number of players on League Playoffs teams shall be set by the regular Core Season policy of the Region submitting to the team.

### **Player Registration Forms**

For each player on their team, coaches must always have in their possession a paper copy of the player registration form with an original parent/legal guardian signature or player's signature if the player is of legal age (e-signature or "wet ink").



### **Home Team/Game Balls/Sides of Field**

The team listed first on the schedule shall be designated the Home Team, regardless of which team, if any, represents the Host Region for that field. The Home Team shall be responsible for supplying two (2) game balls and the Away team shall supply one (1) game ball. Unless otherwise approved by the referee, the **Home Team shall occupy the North or West side** of the field, and the Away Team shall occupy the South or East side of the field. All players, spectators, coaches and others associated with a team must remain on that team's designated side of the field between the penalty areas and at least one meter back from the touch line. On fields with grandstands on one side of the field only, all spectators shall occupy those grandstands. In no event shall any person remain behind the goal line.

### **Field Responsibility**

Both teams shall be responsible for helping set up nets, goals and flags on a field when they have the first game of the day on that field. Both teams shall be responsible for taking down the nets, goals and flags and clean up the field area when they have the last game of the day on that field. Each team is responsible for cleaning up its touchline area after each game. Failure to help with field setup or takedown, or failure to clean up the touchlines and field area, may result in sanctions for the offending team, at the discretion of the Area Director and Area Coordinator.

### **Minimum Number of Players to start or to continue a match**

A scheduled game shall not begin or be continued if one or both teams cannot field the minimum number of eligible players per the following:

10 and Under: 5

12 and Under: 6

14 and Under: 7

### **Ten (10) Minute Grace Period**

The referee shall allow a grace period of 10 minutes after the scheduled game time for players to arrive if and only if a team does not have the minimum number of players. When a team has the minimum number of players the referee should begin the match. If a team is not ready to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled game time, the referee shall not allow the game to begin. A forfeit may be declared and the offending team may be assessed a one (1) point deduction in the standings at the discretion of the Area Director and Area Coordinator.

### **Minimum Playing Time in League Playoffs**

Every player shall play at least three-quarters (3/4) of every game at which he/she is present. In the event that, due to the roster size of the team, it is necessary that a player only plays half of the game, no player will sit out more than one quarter of a game more than once in a season.



## **Goal Keepers**

For Area programs covered by these Rules, Goalkeepers are not limited as to playing time in the goal. Regions may have their own limits, but these are not enforced by Area.

## **Responsibility for Conduct**

Area 1C maintains a Zero Tolerance policy for players, coach and spectators toward the referee volunteers in our programs before, during and after the match. "Zero Tolerance" generally means that any show of disrespect to a referee - including but not limited to shouting disapproval of a referee's decision, continually questioning referee decisions, attempting to influence referee decisions, and/or making derisive comments to the referee - will cause the coach/spectator/player to be disciplined, including being expelled or sent off. Repeated behavior is not a requirement for sanction, and a single incident may be sufficient. Each Regional Commissioner shall be held responsible for the conduct of all coaches of all teams from their Region that participate in Area Programs. The primary responsibility for maintaining discipline and control of the players, coaches and spectators from a team lies with the coach. Players, coaches and spectators shall display positive aspects of good sportsmanship and conduct at all times, in keeping with AYSO philosophies. Coaches will be held accountable for the behavior of the players and spectators from their team. The Area Director shall have the right to remove coaches and assistant coaches of teams for violations of these Rules.

## **Cautions (Yellow Cards, or Official Warnings to Spectators)**

The Area will record and keep records of the number of yellow cards received by each team and each player. If any player accumulates three (3) yellow cards during the Playoff Tournament, then that player will be suspended from playing in the next game, and may be subject to further disciplinary action. Two (2) yellow cards received in the same match (resulting in a Send Off in that match) do not count towards the above accumulation.

## **Player Sendoffs (Red Cards)**

- 1) A player who is sent off (shown the red card) is disqualified from playing in the remainder of the game. Players who have been sent off shall not be required to leave the vicinity of the field of play if there are safety concerns or other considerations, provided that the coach shall ensure that a player who has been sent off does not participate further in the game, by either word or action. This includes handshakes after the game and departing the field. Players who are in any way disruptive in such a case may be subject to additional sanctions.
- 2) A player who is sent off (shown the red card) is ineligible to play in at least the next scheduled game, which may include a game or games in the playoffs.
- 3) A player who is sent off for serious foul play, biting or spitting at someone, violent conduct, or offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions, shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) additional game or two (2) games total). These are in addition to the current match being played.



- 4) A suspended player may not play in and may not be present at the field where they can be seen or heard for any game during that suspension.

#### **Coach Expulsions**

If the authorized head coach or assistant coach, or anyone else acting as an authorized coach is sent off during a game, then the referee shall immediately terminate the game, and the other team shall win by forfeiting with a score of 1-0. Any coach or assistant coach who is sent off is suspended from coaching for at least the next scheduled game and may be subject to additional disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Area Director. A suspended coach may not be present at the field nor coach or communicate with the team by any means for any game during that suspension.