

The Area Coordinator for Under-19 and Under-16 play is:

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AREA 2-A

Serving Northern Santa Clara and Southern San Mateo Counties

2002 Season

I. Player Rosters

1. Each region must submit a team roster for each team to the Area Inter-Region Play Coordinator. The Regional Commissioner shall sign and forward a copy of the official team roster to the Coordinator.

Players are not eligible for inter-region league play until their Regional Commissioner receives and accepts a signed AYSO registration form.

Team rosters are limited to 18 players. Larger rosters must be approved by the Area Director.

NO player is eligible to play in AYSO if they are older than the AYSO National cut-off as of July 31, the AYSO National cut-off date. U19 players must be 18 or under; U16 players 15 or under on that date. No play-down requests are permitted.

2. Each team must have at least one adult (age 21 or over) responsible for the team. Coaches may be less than 21 years old but an adult must also attend official team functions and games. The responsible adult in such cases must be identified on the team roster approved by the Regional Commissioner.
3. As required by Safe Haven, coaches must have a signed AYSO registration form in their possession for every team member at all team practices and games. No exceptions.
AYSO referees may request and examine the forms at any match and may exclude any player(s) from participating in a game if the referee is not satisfied with the players' eligibility.
4. Proposed changes to team rosters will be considered only for replacement of injured players or teams demonstrating an inability to field at least 11 players in games. Changes to rosters may be allowed if formally proposed to and approved after October 12th by the Area Coordinator. No changes to rosters will be allowed after November 1st.
5. Regional Commissioners are responsible to ensure the eligibility of all players from their Region. If a player's eligibility is questioned, the Area Coordinator, or designate, may request written proof of eligibility from the player's Regional Commissioner. Documentation must prove eligibility and registration in the Region. Failure to provide written proof of eligibility will result in the affected player being suspended

from participation in any league activities until verification is presented to the reviewing official(s). The Area Coordinator may make a decision concerning eligibility based on available information in the absence of supporting or contravening information.

6. A player may play for only one AYSO team as required by AYSO National rules and regulations.

II. Free Substitution

1. Free substitution of players will be allowed in the fourth quarter. The intent of free substitution is to provide more playing time to players. The rule is NOT intended to allow manipulation of lineups to favor certain players, which is against the AYSO philosophy.
2. Free substitution will be implemented as follows:
All team players who have satisfied the AYSO's two-quarter play rule during the first three quarters of the match may participate in free substitution during the 4th quarter.
Before the start of play for the fourth quarter, the team coach or team captain is obligated to identify team players who are not eligible for free substitution to the match referee. Any player who has not participated in the minimum two full quarters of play by the end of the third quarter of the game must remain in the game and must not be substituted, except for injury replacement.
Free substitution may be allowed after obtaining permission of the referee during stoppage of play for their own team's throw-in, any goal kick or any kick-off. Players must exit the field at the nearest touch or goal line to minimize time lost to less than 15 seconds. Incoming players must enter from midfield. (Incoming players must wait for the referee to signal their entry onto the field.)
3. Each team is eligible to use free substitution independently of the other team. It is recognized that a larger team will not be able to exercise free substitution as often as a smaller squad in the same game.
4. Players who intend to leave the game early must report this situation to the match referee prior to the start of the game or their first quarter of play. Substitution of players who have not completed their two quarters of play is not allowed. Players who must leave early must either complete the two quarters of play before being substituted or the team must play short. Violation of the two-quarter rule is grounds for forfeiture by the offending team.
5. Free substitution used as a time wasting tactic will not be allowed by the referee and will be penalized appropriately.

III. Officiating

1. The home team's region must provide a sufficient number of referees. The Regional Commissioner or Regional Referee Administrator shall send a list of recommended referees in their Region to the Area Referee Scheduler. The region must provide an

- adequate number of candidates who have sufficient officiating qualities to ensure match control appropriate for the level of play of matches they are assigned.
2. Referees will be scheduled by the Area Referee Scheduler using criteria published in advance. The diagonal system of control (one center referee and two assistant referees) will be used. Preference will be given to referees holding appropriate badge levels.
 3. Referees must be properly attired in official uniform (FIFA), preferably issued by the Region.
 4. The changes in the Laws of Soccer announced by FIFA in 2002 will be implemented, with the exception of the sleeveless jersey rule that has been protested by AYSO and USSF.

IV. Disciplinary Action

1. Teams that use ineligible players will forfeit any game in which such players participate. Both the player(s) and the team coach shall be suspended from any remaining season play or coaching in the Area or Section.
2. Grounds for match forfeiture include:
 - Failure of a team coach to provide an official team roster or player registration forms for review, upon request, by the match referee, for the purpose of verifying player eligibility.
 - Failure to have seven or more team players on the field of play within ten minutes of the official scheduled starting time for a match.
 - Failure to have either an adult coach (over 21 years old) or the responsible team adult, whose name appears on the official team roster, on the field within 10 minutes of the official scheduled starting time of the match. They must be in attendance during the entire game.
 - If no referees arrive to officiate the match, the coaches may decide to play the game with **available** officials as long as those officials are AYSO trained and certified.
3. Grounds for Protests:
 - Ineligible Players: All players taking the field for a match must be listed on the official team roster submitted to the Area Coordinator. Offending teams shall forfeit any game in which ineligible players participate.
 - Playing Time: Eligible players must play no less than two full quarters each game, except for injury or matches they arrive during the second or third quarters, when they are required to play at least one quarter of the match.
4. Coaches violating fairness rules will not be allowed to participate in Area or Section competitions for one year. A letter of reprimand will be sent from the Area Director to the home region of the suspended coach.
5. Protests of games must be made, in writing (with three copies), to the Area Director, delivered within 72 hours of an alleged violation.

A valid protest will be reviewed by the Area Council, which is comprised of the Area Director, Area Inter-Region Play Coordinator, Area Referee Administrator and Area Coach Administrator. Protests will not be reviewed concerning judgment calls by officials.

6. Both coaches shall report the score of the game and any misconduct violations (yellow or red cards) to the Area Coordinator within 48 hours after the match. If the score is not reported within 48 hours, the official score shall be recorded as 0-0.

V. Game Cancellation Policy

1. All games will be played as scheduled. The game site Regional Commissioner or their official designate may cancel if city or regional rules require (usually for rain). Any Regional Commissioner or designate making such a decision must call both coaches, the officiating team, the Area Coordinator, and the Area Referee Scheduler.
2. A game may be called by the match referee if conditions at the game site require. The referee must call the Regional Commissioner to report their action in such cases.
3. Coaches may not cancel games. If a team does not appear for a scheduled game, the match is forfeited to the other team with a score of 2-0. Subsequent failures to appear may result in suspension of the team or coach, at the discretion of the area council of the team. Be considerate of teams traveling from far away. If a coach knows in advance that there will not be enough players for a scheduled game, the coach should call the other team's coach and the referee scheduler.
4. No make-up game dates are available on the schedule. Games not played due to cancellation will not count against the team standings. Games that cannot be played as scheduled due to unforeseen field unavailability may be rescheduled if approved by the Area Coordinator.

VI. Duration of the Match

1. The standard game time for U19 games will be 45-minute halves.
2. The standard game time for U16 games will be 40-minute halves.
3. If a U16 team plays a U19 team, the game time will be 40-minute halves.
4. Games must commence within 15 minutes of officially scheduled start time if another match is scheduled immediately following.
5. A half-time must be taken following the first half of no less than five minutes but not to exceed ten minutes.

VII. Conduct on the Field

Players, coaches and spectators are required to conform to the Laws of Soccer from the time they enter the area of play until they leave, including the period of time the match is in progress. The laws will be enforced by the match referees, whose authority starts from the time they arrive until they leave the area.

Good conduct is expected of players at all times. Coaches are expected to support, model and enforce high standards of behavior for team players, families, and spectators at all times.

A. Players:

1. Misconduct (yellow or red card infractions) must be reported. Coaches should report cards to the Area Coordinator with scores. Referees must report misconduct violations as explained at the U16/U19 referee meeting or by the Referee Scheduler or Area Referee Administrator.
2. Any player who was sent off (red card) for misconduct must be suspended from the game immediately. The team of the offending player must play short for the remainder of the game as outlined in the Laws of the Game. The player must not be substituted, even if the team has fewer than the required seven players. In such case, a forfeit results. In addition, the player is ineligible to play in the next match the team plays following a game where the player was sent off.
3. Any player who is cautioned three times (yellow cards) during the course of the season is ineligible to play in the next team game following the third caution (yellow card) issued (equivalent to one red card).
4. Any player who is sent off twice (red cards) or receives five cautions (yellow cards) in the season is suspended from further Area and Section play until they appear before the AYSO Area Council.
5. The team coach is responsible to ensure ineligible players do not play in games. If a coach allows an ineligible player to play in a match, the coach and player shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and the team will forfeit the match.
6. Excellent sportsmanship is expected of all AYSO coaches and players at all times. A strong team is expected to adjust play to balance the game when a significant advantage is attained. Failure to sustain a sporting attitude, whether winning or losing, will be brought to the attention of the appropriate Regional Commissioner for disciplinary action.

If one team has fewer than 11 players and the other team has 11 or more players, the decision as to whether or not to play with fewer players shall be at the sole discretion of the coach who has more players.

B. Coaches and Spectators:

1. Coaches are expected to behave according to the Laws of the Game and may be penalized for misconduct. They are suspended from games when they are sent off, in addition to suspension from the next team game. Any coach receiving a third caution during a season is suspended from coaching the next team game and they must also appear before the AYSO Area Council. A send off or caution to a coach does not require showing a red or yellow card.
2. Coaches must remain within ten yards of the midfield line during the match play, whether or not a technical area (coaching box) is marked. Players and coaches must remain at least one yard off the field. Spectators must be no closer than three yards of the playing field.

3. Opposing teams are expected to position players, coaches and spectators on opposite sides of the playing field. The home team has preference for side. The home team may select the side they prefer to spectate from in case of a conflict, if they arrive at least 30 minutes before the official starting of the match. This minimizes potential conflict between teams during the match.
4. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators at all times during AYSO functions. This includes litter removal after a match. Remember: coaches, referees, and spectators form a team working for the benefit of the players.
5. Spectators who disrupt games may be asked by the referee to leave the area. Coaches and other spectators are expected to assist the referee in enforcing such a ruling.
6. A match may be terminated by the referee if the behavior of players, coaches or spectators becomes severely disruptive to the game. As with other forms of misconduct, the referee will report the situation to the Area Coordinator for disposition of the game and disciplinary action. Cases of severe or repetitive misconduct by players, coaches or spectators will be referred to the home region for further action.

VIII. Equipment

Field equipment should be in good condition so as to not pose a safety hazard to participants and spectators of the match. Personal equipment must comply with regulations. No equipment is allowed that may pose a hazard to a player.

1. Goals and nets should be in new or nearly new condition. Nets should have no holes in them. Nets must be secured to goal posts to prevent a ball from passing through. Ground stakes must be used to prevent a ball from passing under the net. Goals must be securely anchored. A game will NOT begin if the goals are not securely anchored and immovable.
2. All matches should be played with tournament-grade soccer balls, as selected by the match referee.
3. Field boundaries and markings must be clearly visible and well defined.
4. Corner flags must be in place, clearly visible and not pose a safety hazard.
5. Players are required to wear regulation personal protective equipment and team-issued uniforms, (including shin guards, shoes, shirts, shorts and socks). No other equipment may be worn that may pose either a safety hazard to the player or other players (such as jewelry (see below) or wristbands) or distract players or officials (such as hats and bandanas).

Shin guards are required regulation equipment for all players during all matches and practices. No player will be allowed to participate without required equipment. Shin guards must be worn UNDER the player's socks.

Thermoplastic pants (“bicycle shorts”) may be worn in a game if they match the color of the team uniform shorts, they do not extend to the knee, and they are not padded in any way. Uniform shorts may not extend beyond the top of knee.

Accessories such as jewelry (earrings, necklaces, metal bracelets) are not permitted in any match. Non-metal bracelets completely wrapped in tape may be allowed only with the consent of the match referee. Medic alert bracelets may also be worn, but must be taped. Any item worn by a player considered dangerous in the opinion of the match referee must be removed prior to the start of the match or whenever ordered by the referee or the player may not participate in the match. The match referee has the final authority in such matters.

Medically-approved and adequately-padded knee braces will be allowed.

Hats and head coverings are not allowed. Hair clips and bands must be of soft material to prevent potential injury. Sweatbands may be worn if approved by the match referee before the start of the game. Only prescription glasses are allowed to be worn by players participating on the playing field.

6. The home team is responsible to change to a different colored jersey if the visiting team’s jersey is similar in color to that of the home team.

IX. Standings for Tournament Play:

1. Team standings shall be maintained for each division according to the following point system:
 - a. Two points for a win, one point for a tie. All games count except those clearly identified in the schedule as practice games.
 - b. Who beat whom, in head-to-head competition.
 - c. Goal differential (computed by maximum three goals per game, plus or minus).
 - d. Fewest red cards.
 - e. Coin toss.