

AYSO REGION 76 • BEVERLY HILLS

A Handbook for Parents

All divisions • Fall Season

Region 76 is run entirely by volunteers. Nobody is paid — not the coaches, not the board, and unlike most youth sports, not the referees. This handbook covers what we ask of you on the sideline, and the one thing you can do that helps your child's team more than anything else.

Links throughout are clickable. Everything is drawn from ayso76.org — always defer to the website if something changes mid-season.



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01

The Three Rules of the Sideline

Let the players play. Let the coach coach. Let the referee referee. Almost everything else follows from these three.



Let the players play

Soccer is a player's game. Children learn it by trying things, making mistakes, and figuring out what to do next. A player being told what to do from three directions stops reading the game and starts looking at the sideline.



Helpful from the sideline

- Cheering — for good play by either team.
- "Well done!" and applause after a good effort that didn't come off.
- Encouraging a child who has just made a mistake.
- Silence during play. It is genuinely fine, and it lets them hear each other.
- Learning the names of your child's teammates and using them.



Not helpful, however well meant

- "Pass it!" "Shoot!" "Get rid of it!" — instructions that override the decision your child was in the middle of making.
- Shouting your child's name during play. They will look at you instead of the ball.
- Coaching from behind the goal or along the sideline.
- Commentary on another child's performance, in any tone.
- Talking about the score on the way home.

AYSO asks parents to be "cheerleaders, not critics or sideline coaches" — the Kids Zone parent pledge.



Let the coach coach

Your child's coach is a volunteer parent who has completed AYSO certification, a background check, Safe Haven training and CDC concussion training — and who is giving up an evening and a game day every week.



One voice

- A team with one voice plays better than a team with fifteen.
- If the coach says press and the sideline says drop, the child freezes. That hesitation is the cost.
- Trust the substitution pattern. Every player is guaranteed at least three quarters of every regular-season game — the coach is tracking it and the referee is checking it. In the playoffs the minimum drops to half a game.



If you have a concern

- Raise it with the coach privately — never on the sideline and never in front of the children.
- Give it 24 hours after the game. Almost nothing needs saying at the final whistle that won't keep until tomorrow.
- If it isn't resolved, your Division Director is the next step, then the Regional Commissioner.



Things worth saying to a coach

- "Thank you" — surprisingly rare, and it is why they come back next season.
- Advance notice of any absence. Coaches build the quarter plan around who is coming.
- Anything about your child's health, medication, or how they are doing that week.
- "How can I help?" — the answer is usually on page 11.

Let the referee referee

The person officiating your child's game is an unpaid volunteer. Very often they are another parent. Frequently they are a teenager refereeing their first season.

Why this matters more than it seems

- They will miss things. Every referee at every level does, and the view from the sideline is genuinely different from the view on the field.
- A fourteen-year-old being shouted at by an adult often does not come back. That is how a region loses its referees, and it is why games get canceled.
- Your child is watching how you speak to an official. It is one of the clearest lessons they will take from the season.
- Referees are authorized to stop, suspend or terminate a game for outside interference of any kind.

So, in practice

- Never argue a call — not during the game, not at halftime, not afterward in the parking lot.
- Don't appeal for fouls, offside, or throw-ins. It isn't your call to make and it teaches your child to dispute decisions.
- Applaud them at the end. Out loud, where your child can hear it.
- If something genuinely serious happened, it goes to your coach or Division Director afterward — not to the referee.
- And if you find yourself certain you could do better: page 11.



02

Fair Play

AYSO's six philosophies include Good Sportsmanship and Positive Coaching. On game day, those are decided by the adults on the sideline.



What good support looks like



Applaud both teams

A good goal is a good goal. Clapping the other team's play is the single clearest signal you can send your child about what this is for — and it changes the temperature of the whole sideline.



Stay on the spectator side

The team side of the field is for players and coaches. Keep behind the sideline, and never stand behind a goal.



Effort over outcome

Praise the try that didn't come off. Children who are only praised for results learn to avoid anything they might fail at — which is everything worth learning.



The ride home

This is the hardest part of youth sports and the part children remember. No analysis, no notes, no questions about the score. "I loved watching you play" is enough, and it is usually all they want.

What crosses the line

Behavior that is common at a professional match is not appropriate at a children's game.

- Arguing with, abusing, or confronting a referee — before, during or after the game.
- Coaching or refereeing from the sideline.
- Criticising any child, on either team, out loud.
- Comments about a coach's decisions within earshot of players.
- Arguing with parents from the other team.
- Anything that would embarrass your child if a friend's parent repeated it back to them.



Region 76 can act on this

Under the region's disputes and discipline policy, the Regional Commissioner, a Division Director or the Referee Administrator may bar a spectator from attending practices and games, or make attendance conditional. They may act on the report of a referee, assistant referee, board member, coach or other credible witness. Notice is always given to the person concerned.

In practice this is almost never needed. Ninety-nine per cent of Region 76 sidelines are warm, funny and generous places to spend a morning. This page exists so the standard is written down, not because we expect to use it.

Full policy: ayso76.org/disputes-and-discipline



03

Become a Referee

This is the single most useful thing a parent can do in this program — and in the competitive divisions it directly decides whether your child's team reaches the playoffs.



Why your team needs you

A 9U-14U team that does not reach its Volunteer Point total does not enter the Knock-Out Round of the playoffs — no matter how well it played. The place passes to the next team in the pool.

What your team needs

Division	Points
14U	14
12U	12
10U	10
9U	10

Region 76 policy asks every team to provide at least two trained referees. Knock-Out Rounds run the first two weekends of December.

How points are earned

- 2 points for refereeing a game as Center Referee, 1 point as Assistant Referee.
- Refereeing 8U games earns no points — but those games still need covering.
- Only your own team's parents, players, coaches and close relatives can contribute points to it.
- One person can contribute a maximum of 7 points, so a team needs at least two or three referees.
- Teams that qualify may be asked to cover a referee slot in each Knock-Out Round they play.

What this actually costs you

- The referee course — online plus one in-person session — on top of the standard AYSO volunteer safety courses.
- Roughly seven game-day mornings across a season, at your own team's field.
- You are already at the field. Most parents referee the game before or after their child's.
- You do not need to have played soccer. Most Region 76 referees never have.
- You choose your own assignments through the online self-scheduler.

Full program rules: ayso76.org/volunteer-point-program



Claim your points — don't skip this



Refereeing a game does not automatically credit your team. You must allocate your points to your child's team in InLeague, or they do not count toward the playoffs.

Five steps, once a season

- 1 Log in to InLeague at ayso76.net/app
- 2 In the navigation menu, scroll to the "Referee" section
- 3 Click "Allocate Volunteer Points"
- 4 Under "My Credits", look at the "Team Credited" column — "No Team" means the point is not yet allocated
- 5 Pick your child's team from the dropdown. "Saved" appears underneath when it has stored

Step-by-step: ayso76.org/allocate-your-volunteer-points



Worth knowing

- You can only allocate points to a team with a player on the roster who is in your Family Profile.
- "My Credits" lists every point you have earned, with the assignment details.
- The Region may limit how many points a single volunteer, or a single family, can earn for one team.
- Post-Season and EXTRA have separate volunteer requirements — Fall points do not carry across.
- Check your total by November — teams find the gap far too late every season.

If your child may play post-season

Region 76 runs tournament and competitive teams — Post-Season, EXTRA and Alliance — for players roughly 8 to 13 and up. If your child might want that, this page matters to you now, not in December.



It can help your child make the team

- These teams must supply referees at every tournament they attend and at the Sportsmanship Cup, so they need referees among their own families.
- Region 76's rules therefore give priority in selection to players whose parents are volunteer referees able to officiate at those tournaments.
- If your child is being considered for a Post-Season, EXTRA or Alliance team, your certification can be part of what gets them selected.



Whole teams can be blocked

- Every Region 76 team must complete its referee assignments at the Beverly Hills Sportsmanship Cup in December.
- A team that does not complete its assignments, or does not follow the submission process, will not be granted regional approval to take part in post-season tournaments.
- Teams submit at least three referees qualified for their age division, including one Center Referee, by the published December deadline.
- Separately, every parent on a team carries a general volunteer requirement at the Sportsmanship Cup in December.



EXTRA and Alliance families

- Families of EXTRA players carry a volunteer obligation to the program — refereeing Core or EXTRA games is the primary way it is met.
- Teams are also expected to supply referees for home games and tournaments, which is part of what keeps costs down.
- Referee deposits at tournaments are refunded only when the team's referee assignments are completed.

Post-season rules: ayso76.org/guidelines-rules



How to become a referee

Everything is online except a single in-person session.

- 1 Email the Referee Administrator**
referee@ayso76.org — ask for the next clinic dates and say which division your child plays in.
- 2 Register as an AYSO volunteer**
Volunteer application, background check, and the standard online safety courses required of every AYSO volunteer. The referee course is in addition to these.
- 3 Log in to InLeague**
ayso76.net/app → "Users" → "eTrainU" → "Log into AYSOU".
- 4 Enroll in the referee course**
Under "Refereeing", choose Regional Referee — Online + In-Person Companion Course (2 Part Bundle).
- 5 Attend the in-person session**
Sign up under "Training Events" and show up on the day.
- 6 Self-schedule your games**
Certified referees pick their own assignments through the Self-Scheduler in their AYSO account.

Start here: ayso76.org/become-a-referee



"I don't know the rules well enough."

Nor did almost every referee in this region before their first course. You will start on younger divisions with a mentor, and the region publishes a referee cheat sheet, study summaries and the Laws of the Game. Nobody is sent out alone and unprepared.

Youth referees welcome

Older siblings and players from 12U and up can train as youth referees. It counts toward your team, it is genuine responsibility, and it is often the thing a teenager is proudest of all season.

04

Practical Matters

Game day, the things worth knowing, and who to contact.



Your game day



Before you leave the house

- Arrive 30 minutes before kickoff — your coach holds a team meeting before the game.
- Shin guards are required at every game and every practice, worn under the socks. There are no exceptions.
- No jewelry of any kind. Earrings must be removed and cannot be taped over. Medical alert bracelets are the only exception and must be taped down.
- Full water bottle, named. Sunscreen and a hat — several of our fields have very little shade.
- Games are played Saturdays or Sundays depending on your division — check your own schedule, and the Current Field Status banner at the top of ayso76.org, before you set off.
- Tell your coach in advance if your child will miss a game. The playing-time plan depends on it.



Things worth knowing

- Every player plays at least three quarters of every regular-season game. AYSO nationally requires half; Region 76 requires more. The playoffs revert to a half-game minimum.
- No scores or standings are kept at 6U and 8U. Playoffs and standings start at 9U.
- Teams are made up fresh each year and are not carried over from last season.
- At 9U and above, teams are formed by blind draft and friend requests are not considered. At 8U and below they are.
- Every registered player and volunteer is automatically covered by AYSO's Soccer Accident Insurance.
- Picture day details, the regional calendar and field maps are all on ayso76.org.

Who to contact, and every link you need

People

Your child's coach

First stop for anything about your child or the team

Ask at practice

Referee Administrator

Becoming a referee, clinic dates, Volunteer Points

referee@ayso76.org

Division Director

Scheduling, unresolved team concerns

ayso76.org/regional-board-of-directors

Registrar

Registration and roster problems

registrar@ayso76.org

Regional Commissioner

Escalations and anything unresolved

commissioner@ayso76.org

Pages

Become a referee

ayso76.org/become-a-referee

Volunteer Point Program

ayso76.org/volunteer-point-program

Allocate your Volunteer Points

ayso76.org/allocate-your-volunteer-points

InLeague login

ayso76.net/app

Code of Conduct

ayso76.org/code-of-conduct

Disputes and discipline

ayso76.org/disputes-and-discipline

"Everyone Plays" — the 3/4 rule

ayso76.org/everyone-plays-guidelines

Health and safety, insurance, forms

ayso76.org/health-and-safety

Fields, maps, field status, weather

ayso76.org/region-76-fields

Game schedules and standings

ayso76.org/game-schedules

Regional calendar

ayso76.org/regional-calendar

Picture day

ayso76.org/picture-day

Competitive pathways and tryouts

ayso76.org/competitive-programs

Program FAQ

ayso76.org/program-faq



THE REGION 76 SIDELINE, IN SEVEN LINES

What we ask of you

- 1 I will let the players play, and keep my instructions to myself.
- 2 I will let the coach coach, and raise any concern privately, a day later.
- 3 I will let the referee referee, and never argue a call.
- 4 I will applaud good play by both teams.
- 5 I will praise effort ahead of the result.
- 6 I will say "I loved watching you play" on the way home.
- 7 I will train as a referee, or find another way to give my team a game day.**

Thank you. Region 76 exists because of parents who say yes.

