

San Mateo AYSO Regional Handbook 2017

San Mateo Region 36

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Welcome to the 2017 Season

Welcome to the 2017 San Mateo AYSO soccer season. Our program is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 18 years. By registering in our league, you have joined the largest youth sports organization in the City of San Mateo and one of the largest soccer organizations on the peninsula. Last year over 2,000 kids played on over 160 teams every Saturday on fields located throughout San Mateo. This year we expect about the same number of players!

AYSO is an organization that is run solely by volunteers. There are no paid positions in our AYSO organization; all of the volunteers give their time for free. We need coaches, assistant coaches, referees, administrators, picture day helpers, registration helpers and field liners just to mention a few jobs. We thank all our volunteers for their efforts no matter how big or small they think their job is. Every job is important and any time that you can give to the league as a volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

AYSO is a program developed and designed for kids of all abilities. AYSO is one of the only youth sports organizations that have a culture and a set of philosophies. The six philosophies **Player Development, Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship** are the foundation tenets of the organization. These philosophies provide the basis for all kids to learn to play soccer in a safe, fun and fair environment. In San Mateo, we try to extend that safe, fun and fair environment to all our participants including parents and spectators. Everyone is part of the team.

We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, to maximize their enjoyment of the game. Over the past several seasons, we have aligned our region with the National AYSO guidelines in that the programs we offer our youngest participants are simplified, short-sided games for our lower divisions. These programs are designed to introduce the game of soccer to our youngest participants in a very fun and active manner. In San Mateo, all players who arrive to games on time are guaranteed to play, either 1/2 or 3/4 of the game depending on the age division.

We would ask all of you to remember that all our fields are “Kids Zones”, a safe place for all our kids to enjoy the sport of soccer and that all of you respect the places that the kids play and to do your part in keeping our “Kids Zones” safe.

San Mateo AYSO Regional Board

AYSO Region 36 Mission Statement

To improve the quality of the soccer program being provided to children residing in the Region 36 area developing in them an appreciation and love for the sport of soccer, and instilling in them an understanding and respect for teamwork, good sportsmanship and fair play.

This will be achieved through:

- Enhanced and expanded Coach training
- Expanded Referee training and recruitment
- Controlling program size
- Actively recruiting volunteers
- Balanced teams
- Recreational play in the lower divisions
- Competitive play in the upper divisions

Recognizing and rewarding teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play.

The 2017 Objectives:

Our region's goals this year are:

1. To continue the on-going education of all our coaching and to promote a "positive coaching environment".
2. To turn all our playing fields, both practice and game, into "Kids Zones". A place that is reserved for participants who want a safe and positive environment for the kids. Anyone who chooses to not participate in this program will be asked to leave the "Kids Zone".
3. To continue to recruit new volunteers to help bring in new energy and new ideas into our organization.
4. For Lower Divisions (6U, 8U, 10U and 12U), focus on simplified rules and short-sided play to improve the teaching of basic skills and to introduce the basic rules of soccer to new players.
5. Lastly to maintain all the positive aspects of our program which are already in place.

Honoring the Game (ROOTT)

- Rules:** Follow the Letter and Spirit for how the game should be played
- Opponents:** Remember a worthy opponent brings out the best in our team
- Officials:** Respect them even when you disagree
- Teammates:** Remember your commitment on and off the field
- Tradition:** Remember it's a privilege to participate

What you can do! (A bit of advice)

Before the game:

- Tell your child that you are proud of him/her regardless of how well they play
- Honor the game no matter what others may do

During the Game:

- Cheer good plays by both teams
- Mention good calls by the officials to others
- Encourage others to honor the game
- Remember to have fun! Enjoy the day

After the Game:

- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job
- Thank the coaches for their effort
- Ask your child open-ended questions:
 - "What was the most enjoyable part of the game for you?" "The least enjoyable?"
 - "Do you feel that you gave your best effort?"
 - "How did you learn from any mistakes that you might have made?"
 - "What did you learn from the game?"
- Tell your child that you are proud of him/her!

What if:

- You think the officials made a "bad" call against your team? (HONOR THE GAME - BE SILENT)
- Another spectator on your team begins to berate an official? (Remind them that they are in a Kids Zone and they need to act appropriately and honor the game)
- You observed behavior you consider to be extremely poor sportsmanship, dishonoring the AYSO philosophy, and or a threat to anyone's safety: File a Kids Zone Feedback report through the San Mateo AYSO website (www.aysosm.org) within 24 hours of the occurrence.

Registration

Early Volunteer registration begins in March. This registration is for Coaches, Referees, Field Liners and Board Members who have committed to attend training sessions and fulfilling their volunteer duties. All early registered volunteers who complete their required training can register their children through an early registration process.

Using Blue Sombrero, players can submit their application and pay fees online with a credit card.

Note: Walk-in registration days are held in April each year for those who need help with Blue Sombrero.

If you need financial assistance or must pay by check or cash, you will need to come in-person at the walk-in registration.

Registration after the last walk-in registration date will be charged a higher fee and will only be accepted if there is space available in the division.

Information on how to register is on our website (www.aysosm.org).

Any checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds (NSF) will automatically incur a \$30 NSF fee.

Refund Policy

Please give special consideration to your child's potential school workload and other extra-curricular activities before signing them up to play AYSO soccer.

Refunds are available if a player has not practiced with the team and the uniform (if issued) has been returned to the coach. Please email us as soon as possible as refund amounts are based on the email date of the player withdraw request. Please visit our website for detailed information (www.aysosm.org) under the Registration tab for complete instructions and to print a Player Withdrawal & Request for Refund form.

Potential Activity Conflicts

With approximately 2000 children playing soccer on over 160 teams, it is impossible to rearrange teams or practice and game schedules because of non-AYSO activities. Most games are played on Saturdays, although some games may be played on other days of the week, as needed. Practices can be any day of the week but are typically Monday through Friday, and are at the convenience of the coach.

Players are excused for any conflicts if they notify their coach prior to their game or practice.

The AYSO Team

Each team has a **coach**, **assistant coach**, and **team parent** who are responsible for their team. The assistant coach assists the coach at practices and fills-in when the coach is unable to make games or practices. The team parent assists the coach by distributing information on snack schedules, photo times, banners, end-of-year party, and any other duty not specifically coach-related. **Divisions 6U and 8U are required to have two trained team referees per team. Divisions 10U and 12U are required to have two trained referees (Assistant Referee, Regional Referee, or higher badge level) per team.**

All teams are encouraged to have a sponsor. Donations from our sponsors support our financial assistance programs and help keep the cost of the program down. Sponsorship levels of \$250, \$350, \$500 or \$1000 per team have been established and we encourage multiple sponsors for each team. Sponsors are recognized on the team banner, in regional publications, and on our website. Sponsorship information is available from your coach or from the web at www.aysosm.org; [About US section](#). If a team cannot find a sponsor, then the sponsorship fee should be spread across the parents.

Volunteering

AYSO is a volunteer-run organization which depends on volunteers and support from the community. There are always positions that need to be filled. Please volunteer, we need your help!

A good place to start is to visit the region's website at www.aysosm.org. In it you will find information on volunteer opportunities, and instructions on applying as a volunteer with AYSO. All volunteers must be registered with AYSO prior to each season. All volunteers are subject to a criminal background check.

The City of San Mateo and AYSO requires that any volunteer who works with or supervises children receive Child Protection Training. All volunteers must complete and pass the AYSO Safe Haven Certification modules every 2 years, before they will be issued a team or scheduled to referee a game. **There are NO EXCEPTIONS since this is required by The City of San Mateo.** Safe Haven certification can only be taken online from the National AYSO website at www.aysou.org.

Concussions

AYSO rules prohibit heading the ball in divisions 12U and below in both practices and games. Players in 14U may practice heading limited to 30 minutes and no more than 15-20 headers per day.

All parents and players are provided the AYSO/CDC Concussion Information Sheet which provides information about the signs and symptoms of concussion and the associated risks. Find the Information Sheet at: www.ayso.org/resources/safety.aspx.

All coaches, referees and Region Board Members are required to take the CDC's free online Concussion Awareness Training at aysou.org.

With regards to players and concussions:

- Any player who, in the opinion of the referee, coach, or parent, shows any symptom of a concussion must be removed from play, **and**
- Parents are urged to seek medical care from a health care professional experienced in evaluating concussions, **and**
- In all cases the parent must sign a new Participation Release Form which includes a concussion waiver confirming that the player has been given the appropriate clearance before the player is permitted to return to practice or play.

Team Assignments

The Division Coordinator determines team assignments. Assignments are primarily based upon age, skill level and experience, maintaining the **Balanced Teams** philosophy of AYSO. The coach is entitled to keep his or her child on his or her team. Additionally, requests for brothers or sisters within the same division to play on the same team will be honored. It is intended through the team balancing to give each team an equal opportunity to compete and be successful within the divisional play.

Division placement based on a child's age as of December 31st of the following Membership year.

Age	Division
3 and 4 years old	5U/Schoolyard Jamboree
Under 6 years	6U
Under 8 years	8U
Under 10 years	10U
Under 12 years	12U
Under 14 years	14U
Under 16 years	16U
Under 19 years	19U

Players are not allowed to play up or down without the Regional Commissioner's approval.

This region supports a 19U division verses 18U which includes 17U, 18U, and 19U and thus, includes players who reach nineteen years of age by December of the end of the Membership Year. For the MY2017 Membership Year only (August 1st, 2017-July 31st, 2018) we will extend the 19U Division to include Players Born from 8/1/1998 to 12/31/2001 to include those players who would have otherwise been prematurely excluded from the program due to the switch to Birth Year registration.

A Word for Parents

It cannot be overemphasized that the AYSO program is for the players. The emphasis is placed on the organization's objectives and on good sportsmanship by exhibiting the qualities of fairness and self-control, and by having a good time. Parents and officials are role models for children; thus, overzealous behavior is totally inappropriate.

While participation in a competitive situation is an important aspect of the game, it should not be confused with a "win-at-all-costs" attitude. The soccer promoted by AYSO is a balance of fun, development, and competition.

All of this can and often does set the stage for some spectator situations that are not consistent with what AYSO is trying to do for our boys and girls. We, as parents, spectators, coaches, and referees have a responsibility to keep our all-volunteer soccer program fun for all. Take a few moments to consider the following guidelines:

Parent / Guardian Responsibilities

1. To positively encourage your child and be supportive of his or her best efforts.
2. To assist the volunteers who bring the AYSO program to your child and be supportive of their efforts.
3. To assist your son or daughter in arriving at practices and games on time, and notify the coach or team parent when your child will not be able to attend the practice or game.
4. To arrange for your child's safe journey home after practices and games, and to remember that AYSO is not a baby-sitting service.
5. To be supportive of the AYSO community's fundraising efforts and participate in some measurable way.
6. To assist your child's coach by providing game refreshments when needed, and by participating in any team activities or meetings where parent help is needed.
7. To promote Good Sportsmanship, Fair Play and Fun for all AYSO players and their families through your conduct at practices and games. Support game officials and AYSO volunteers. Demonstrate a positive attitude.

Parent Meetings

After teams are assigned, each coach will hold a parent meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for parents to meet the coach, discuss the practice and game schedules, AYSO philosophies and parent guidelines, and for the coach to answer any questions the parents might have. This meeting is usually where a team parent is selected.

Parent/ Guardian Participation

It is expected that each parent who has a participant in the program shall volunteer his or her services in some way. San Mateo AYSO is a rewarding experience for players and their parents alike. Get involved – we need your help – and you'll be glad you did! For those parents who desire more information on becoming involved, contact any of the board members list in the back of this booklet.

A Word for Players

Player Attendance & Participation

Games in San Mateo AYSO are managed to allow every player the opportunity to play soccer. Every player is assured of consistent playing

time, with their time as a substitute being uniformly distributed among all players. Each player is strongly urged to attend every practice and game.

Players who do not arrive to the game on time or who are not ready to play at the start of the game are not assured maximum playing time.

Standards of Conduct & Discipline

Most children registered to play soccer with AYSO are enthusiastic, motivated and sincerely interested in having a good time. Most of our AYSO families support our program and its volunteers by getting players to practices and games on time and properly equipped. It does occasionally happen that a player experiences difficulty in adjusting to team play or in getting along with teammates, or that a family is not willing to help a player get to practices and/or games. These problems are rare but have a way of upsetting entire teams, even divisions, and must be addressed before the enjoyment of the majority of players and families is jeopardized.

Information for Youngest Players – 5U/Schoolyard Jamboree

5U/Schoolyard Jamboree is an innovative 8-week AYSO Soccer Learning Experience for players who are 3 and 4 years old and their parents.

The purpose of the 5U program is to provide our youngest players and their parents with a “pressure free” introduction to the beautiful and simple game of soccer.

Players are divided into teams for a 60-minute session of skills, drills and fun, taught by a qualified AYSO Master Coach. These sessions will prepare the players for short-sided game (3v3) during the last three sessions. Parents help “referee” the games and provide positive support and encouragement.

Information for Older Players –16U & 19U

Players who are 14 years age or older are assigned to San Mateo's 16U and 19U teams. The 16U and 19U program is organized by AYSO Area 2N (which includes teams in Central and Southern San Mateo County). Additional information on the AYSO Area program may be obtained from your coach or on the web from the Area 2N Website at www.area2n.org.

The Game

Referees scheduled for the game are completely in charge from the moment they enter the field of play.

Most coaches request that players meet at a given time prior to the start of the game so that they can complete the line-up details. Please help your coach by making sure that your players arrive on time.

Practice & Season Play

Team practices are typically held once or twice a week on weekdays or weekends. It is important that players attend practices, as this is where game skills and strategy are taught as well as making friends with their teammates. Coaches must be notified in advance if it is necessary for a player to miss practice or games.

Parents are required to assure that arrangements have been made for players to get home safely after practices and games. This is not the coach's responsibility.

The Games

AYSO San Mateo is committed to giving all players an opportunity to play equally and enjoy soccer.

Games at a glance:

	Field Size	Markings	Play-time	Game Length	Team size
6U	Very small 15'x30'	Simplified markings No goal net	1/2 game minimum No goalkeeper	40 min. Substitutions @ 10 min	4 vs 4 8 players per team
8U	Small 25'x50'	Simplified markings Small size goal net	3/4 game minimum No goalkeeper	40 min. Substitutions @ 10 min	6 vs 6 7 players per team
10U	Medium 40'x65'	Standard Intermediate size goal net	3/4 game minimum	50 min. Substitutions @ 12.5 min.	7 vs 7 9 players per team
12U	Standard 50'x100'	Standard	3/4 game minimum	60 min. Substitutions @ 15 min.	9 vs 9 12 players per team

14U	Standard	Standard	3/4 game minimum	70 min. Substitutions @ 17.5 min 11 vs 11 14 players per team

AYSO games are played in two halves of equal lengths with a half-time break. The game is paused at approximately the middle of each half substitution (each “quarter”). Substitutions are made at the half and at each “quarter”. Since the referee does not “stop the clock” at the quarter substitutions, coaches and players are encouraged to perform the substitutions as efficiently as possible.

Division	6U	8U	10U	12U	14U
Length of Game (minutes)	40	40	50	60	70

The maximum team size is limited to allow the following play time for all players:

- 6U: at least two “quarters” in each game.
- 8U –14U: at least three “quarters” in each game.
- 16U and 19U: Determined by Area 2N.

Team Size

Adult soccer is played with 11 players on the field for each team. AYSO San Mateo plays what is known as short-sided games where the team size is reduced in the younger divisions. Short-sided play allows each player more time to get his or her foot on the ball during the game.

- 6U: Team size up to 8 players per team. Games are played 4 versus 4 players. There are no goalkeepers in 6U. Players are expected to be actively involved in play. If the ball is on the attacking half of the field, the coach should instruct players to move up towards the halfway line and move back if the ball crosses into the team's half of the field.
- 8U: Team size up to 8 players per team. Games are played 6 versus 6 players. There are no goalkeepers in 8U. Players are expected to be actively involved in play. If the ball is on the attacking half of the field, the coach should instruct players to move up towards the halfway line and move back if the ball crosses into the team's half of the field.
- 10U: Team size up to 9 players per team. Games are played 7 versus 7 players (including the goalkeepers). Players are limited to one quarter per game as goalkeeper.

- 12U: Team size up to 12 players per team. Games are played 9 versus 9 players (including the goalkeepers). Players are limited to two quarters per game as goalkeeper.
- 14U: Team size up to 14 players per team. Games are played 11 versus 11 players (including the goalkeepers).

7 players (or 5 players in 10U) per team are required in order to play an official game. No team will play short (fewer than the allotted number of players) if players are available on the sidelines. Sportsmanship points are awarded for all games.

Fields

Field size varies by division. 6U fields use small goals and are approximately 15 x 30 feet. 8U fields use small goal nets, simplified field markings, and are approximately 25 x 50 feet. 10U fields use intermediate sized goals and are approximately 40 x 65 feet with full field markings. 12U and 14U play on standard size fields.

2017 Rule Updates

For 2017, AYSO has adopted new rules in support of US Soccer Federation's Player Development Initiative.

6U and 8U Divisions

A kick-in (rather than a throw-in) will be awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air. Opponents must be 10 feet away from the ball when the ball is kicked in.

For 6U, goal kicks and corner kicks will be taken on the goal line. Opponents must be 10 feet away from the ball.

For 8U, goal kicks will be taken on the goal area line. Corner kicks will be taken at the corner area. Opponents must be 10 feet away from the ball.

10U Division

Build-out line: The 10U field will have line called the "Build-out line" added to the field of play. This line is parallel to the halfway line and goal line and is located equal distant between the halfway line and penalty area line. This out line will be used in the following scenarios:

- When the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball (during play from an opponent) OR if a goal kick is to be taken, the opponents must move behind the build-out line until the ball is

put into play. The referee will instruct the opposing players to move back behind the build-out line.

- Once the ball is put into play, the opponents may cross back over the build-out line. If the goalkeeper decides to put the ball into play before the opponents get behind the build-out line, the opponents may engage the ball.
- Players who are positioned between the halfway line and the build-out line in the attacking half of the field are not deemed to be in offside position. A player may be in offside position between the build-out line and the goal line in the attacking half of the field.

Goalkeeper's Release of the Ball: The goalkeeper who has possession of the ball must pass, throw or roll the ball into play to a teammate standing on the goal-side of the build-out line. The goalkeeper may dribble the ball before passing the ball to a teammate. Punts and drop kicks are not allowed.

If the goalkeeper violates this rule, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team where the goalkeeper released the ball. If the goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball inside the goal area, then opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick on the goal area line closest to where the goalkeeper released the ball.

12U Division

Goalkeeper's Release of the Ball: The goalkeeper who has possession of the ball must pass, throw or roll the ball into play to a teammate. Punts and drop kicks are not allowed.

If the goalkeeper violates this rule, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the violation. If the goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball inside the goal area, then opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick on the goal area line closest to where the goalkeeper released the ball.

Standings

Divisions 6U are non-competitive and instructional in format. Games are played without standings.

Divisions 8U are non-competitive and instructional in format. Games are played without standings. The sportsmanship program, with points from all games, is introduced in this division.

Division 10U is largely a non-competitive division. The outcome (win/tie/loss/goals) of the last 5 regularly scheduled games are considered in establishing tournament qualification and placement. The

sportsmanship program is completely separate from division standings, and the sportsmanship points from all games are used in establishing eligibility for post-season tournament play.

Divisions 12U and 14U are competitive divisions. Points from all scheduled games are used in developing league standings and tournament qualification.

In Divisions 10U, 12U, and 14U points are awarded for regular season play as follows:

- Win: 3 points
- Tie: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points

For Divisions 10U and 12U, bonus points (up to 3 points) are awarded to a team for Team Referee service, as described in the Team Referee Program section.

Tournament Qualification

Post season tournament in the 10U to 14U Divisions are played as weather and field conditions permit. The top teams in regular season standings will be invited to participate in the Division tournament.

In the event a tie occurs in the cumulative standings points used for tournament qualification, the following tiebreaker criteria are applied (in rank order):

- Sportsmanship Points.
- Winner of a head-to-head game.
- Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) up to a maximum of 3 per game.
- Fewest goals allowed.
- Most goals scored up to a maximum of 3 per game.
- A coin toss.

Tournament rules are published and distributed to coaches of qualifying teams prior to the tournament. The regional board may need to alter the number of participating teams or the format of the tournament based on the number of qualifying teams or other factors.

If the San Mateo Regional tournament cannot be played in entirety, the top ranked team based on regular season play is selected to participate in the Area tournament. Tournament game day decisions regarding playability of fields due to weather or other circumstances are final and not subject to dispute. Final decisions are made by the Regional

Commissioner, Regional Coach Administrator, or Regional Referee Administrator (RRA). Decisions made by Division Coordinators or game referees will be confirmed by one of the three volunteers listed above.

Game Protests

1. Game protests are **DISCOURAGED** and **WILL NOT RECEIVE ENTHUSIASTIC CONSIDERATION**.
2. Referee judgment calls are **final** and are not grounds for protest.
3. Protests must be submitted electronically as a Kids Zone Feedback report through the San Mateo AYSO website (www.aysosm.org), under the Coach tab within 24 hours of the occurrence.
4. Referees are required to file a written report of any abusive language used by coaches, players, or spectators, or for conduct, which interfered with the game.

Awards

It is hoped that the rewards of fair play, good competition and positive volunteer-player interaction will be the primary reward. Special recognition is given to the 1st and 2nd Place teams from the regular season in Divisions 12U and 14U. Awards will be presented to the 1st and 2nd Place tournament winners in Divisions 10U, 12U, and 14U.

Participation trophies will be presented to all players in Divisions 6U, 8U, and 10U.

Game Cancellations

While soccer worldwide is generally played rain or shine, AYSO in San Mateo had made certain commitments to the various institutions that provide our playing fields. Coaches should check our website (www.aysosm.org) for field status reports. It is the responsibility of the coach to contact his or her team when a field rainout occurs.

Because of the many considerations involved, we ask that players plan to be at scheduled games unless notified by their coaches or team parents that they have been canceled. We realize that this is inconvenient, but conditions change from week to week, and are different from field to field. Contact your coach for the current week's situation.

On the field, the only persons authorized to cancel a game are the referees scheduled for that game or a Regional Board Member.

Uniforms and Equipment

Proper dress for scheduled games

1. Each player must be dressed in:
 - Issued jersey tucked into shorts.
 - Issued shorts.
 - Issued socks pulled up.
 - Shin guards, worn under the socks.
 - Soccer shoes with plastic or molded rubber cleats are recommended. Screw-in cleats, if used, must be in good condition.
2. Only Region 36 approved emblems, patches, or awards may be added or attached to the uniforms.
3. No clothing, such as shirts and pants, may be worn over the uniform while a player is participating in a game. Players may not wear hats, caps, bandannas, hooded sweatshirts, or any other head covering.
4. Compression pants may be worn under the issued shorts if they don't extend beyond the hemline of the shorts and are similar in color. Compression shirts are allowed. **Players will NOT be allowed to play unless properly dressed.**
5. Goalkeepers may wear gloves and soft knee or elbow pads. They may also wear warm-up pants when the weather is cold or when the goal area is not covered in grass and soft hats or caps when facing the sun.
6. Players may wear prescription glasses, hearing aids, Med-Alert bracelets and necklaces. See note below.
7. No bracelets (metal or plastic), wristwatches, barrettes, earrings or any other such object, including casts or splints, which could possibly cause injury to him/her or another player may be worn. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
8. Long hair may be tied back (a soft headband is allowed).
9. Coaches will have some practice balls and game balls. It is recommended that each player have his or her own ball.
 - 6U - 8U Size 3 ball.
 - 10U - 12U Size 4 ball.
 - 14U - 19U Size 5 ball.
10. Players are not allowed to chew gum or eat while participating in games or practices.
11. Coaches must have player medical release forms and a First Aid Kit with them at all games and practices.

Glasses, Hearing Aids, and Med-Alerts

Players who use prescription glasses, hearing aids, insulin pumps, etc., are allowed to wear them during a match. Retaining straps for glasses are allowed.

Med-Alerts (bracelets, jewelry, or necklaces with emergency medical information) should not be removed as they contain important medical information about the player. Med-Alert bracelets must be completely covered with a soft cloth band or tape for the safety of your child and all the other players.

Sportsmanship Program

The purpose of the Sportsmanship program is to build character through soccer. The principles of safety, fair play, and enjoyment are the key points of the program. The key idea is RESPECT - respect for the participants, officials, coaches, spectators and for the game.

The San Mateo AYSO Sportsmanship Program is designed to promote positive sportsmanship in the 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U Divisions through the consistent, objective awarding of sportsmanship points by referees during regular season and tournament play.

Program Objectives

The Sportsmanship Program uses a points rating system to reward and reinforce positive behavior during games. Points are awarded by game officials, Division Coordinators, and/or League Commissioners.

Awards are given to teams in the 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions that accumulate a perfect sportsmanship point score.

The Sportsmanship Program point system is a three-point scale (0-2) in which both positive and negative sportsmanship by players, coaches and spectators is recognized through the addition or subtraction of sportsmanship points. Sportsmanship points are awarded as follows:

- Exceptional/Expected = 2
- Below average = 1
- Unacceptable = 0

Two scores are assessed: one for players, and one for adults. For a typical game, a team will earn 4 points (2 points each for players and for adults). The “adult” category includes the coach and spectators.

- For players, any incidences of sportsmanship-oriented cautions (i.e. would warrant a Yellow Card regardless of age) that are recorded as “Unsporting Behavior”, “Persistent Infringement”, or “Dissent” will result in a point deduction. Any sending-off offenses will result in potentially additional point deductions.
- For adults, any incidences that could be classified as “Unsporting Behavior”, “Persistent Infringement”, or “Dissent” will result in a point deduction. If an adult is dismissed from the field, a two-point deduction is warranted.
- For coaches, in addition to the above, any incidences that fail to respect the AYSO philosophies (Good Sportsmanship, Everyone Plays, Player Development, and Positive Coaching) will result in a point deduction. Coaches who do not follow the minimum play-time rule receive zero sportsmanship points for the game where the violation occurred.

Whenever a team is assessed point deductions by the match official, the back of the scorecard must be completed and a Kids Zone Feedback report will be filed by the referee. The appropriate Division Coordinator initiates an investigation for every game where a below average (1) or unacceptable (0) sportsmanship is identified. Following the investigation, the Division Coordinator has the latitude to adjust Sportsmanship Points.

All awards of “0” points are reviewed by the responsible referee, Division Coordinator, and the Regional Referee Administrator. Sportsmanship points are reported weekly as part of the team standings.

Application of Points

Sportsmanship points are used as qualification criteria for post-season tournament play:

- A team must earn a minimum of 32 points during the 10 regular-season games to be eligible for post-season tournament play.
- During the regular season, the award of two or more “0” sportsmanship points in either category (players or adults) disqualifies a team from post-season tournament play.
- During the San Mateo Regional tournaments, the award of a single “0” sportsmanship points in either category (players or adults) disqualifies a team from Area/Section tournament participation.
- Any disqualified team has the right to appeal to the Sportsmanship Committee. This appeal must be received as a Kids Zone Feedback report by the Monday before tournament commences.

Kid Zone Feedback

The Kid Zone Feedback (www.aysosm.org): under the Coach tab, allows parents, spectators and referees to provide feedback to the San Mateo region describing any game problems or incidents of misconduct. This report is automatically sent to the Regional Commissioner.

Players, Parents and Spectators are encouraged to use Kids Zone Feedback to:

1. Make any comment (positive or negative) about their AYSO soccer experience, or
2. Report any inappropriate behavior at practice or at the game.

Referees are required to use Kids Zone Feedback to report:

1. Any sportsmanship point deductions for the game.
2. Where a Player's sportsmanship conduct fails to meet the AYSO goals and objectives.
3. Where a player has been Sent-off (red card infractions of the laws of the game).
4. Any inappropriate behavior during (or before or after) the game
5. If a game is suspended for any reason.
6. For any field problem (field conditions, sprinklers, goal net, etc.).
7. Or for any other reason, that in the opinion of the referee, may warrant reporting.

Referees must file a report within 24 hours of the game.

Upon review of a Kid Zone Feedback Report the Regional Commissioner may proceed with one of the three hearing processes:

Level 1 Verbal Counseling:

Division coordinator will contact the head coach and discuss the incident in person or by phone.

Level 2 Formal Warning:

All division coordinators for age bracket meet with Head Coach and Assistant Coach for additional fact finding. Written recap with any recommendations from Division Coordinator to coaches involved will follow no later than one day prior to next game.

Level 3 Regional Hearing:

Parties will meet with the Sportsmanship Committee for questions and answers. The Sportsmanship Committee will make a recommendation and forward it to the Regional Commissioner. The recommendation can

range from verbal counseling to termination. The Regional Commissioner will either approve or modify the recommendation.

Play-time Rules

AYSO San Mateo is committed to giving all players an opportunity to play and enjoy soccer.

For players arriving before the start of the game:

- Players in 5U are in the 5U/Schoolyard Jamboree program.
- For division 6U: All players must play at least two “quarters” of the game. No player may play a full game until all players have played three “quarters”.
- For divisions 8U through 14U: All players must play at least three “quarters” of the game.
- For divisions 16U and 19U: Play time is governed by Area 2N rules.

For players arriving after the start of the game:

- Players arriving during the first “quarter” are entitled to play a minimum of two of the remaining three “quarters”.
- Players arriving during the second or third “quarter” are entitled to play a minimum of one “quarter”.

The goalkeeper is counted as a player.

Coaches who do not implement the play-time rules will receive a “0” in Sportsmanship Points for the game where the violation occurred.

Controlling Point Spread

Excessive game point spreads are strongly discouraged and run against the spirit of the AYSO philosophy. Therefore, a game differential score of more than 5 goals (e.g., 7-1) is reviewed by the division coordinator who may, after investigation, deduct Sportsmanship Points (or in the lower divisions talk to the coach).

The regional boards reserves the right change or modify the sportsmanship program.

Game Conduct

By our participation in the AYSO program, we have committed ourselves to its goals and objectives, which include a responsibility to promote Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play. Therefore, players whose conduct is not consistent with the ideals of Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play may either be cautioned (yellow card) or ejected (red card) at the discretion of the referee. If a spectator makes derogatory remarks to any player, coach, or referee, or uses foul or abusive language, the referee may suspend the game until that spectator leaves the field. If an unruly player, coach, or spectator refuses to leave the field when asked, then the referee may terminate the game.

Soccer Conduct

1. Have fun! Cheer positively for the things you like and encourage your team.
2. Never put down the other team or one of your child's teammates.
3. Leave the coaching to the coach.
4. Coaching is limited to 10 yards from the centerline. (This includes spectators)
5. All Coaches are required to stand at least one yard from the touchline and spectators three yards. Coaches and referees are asked to enforce this simple rule.
6. Spectators, coaches, and players are not allowed behind the goal line.
7. Every year we have a lot of new referees and coaches. Each is volunteering his or her time to do a difficult job and mistakes will occur. Harassing referees or coaches is unwarranted and will not be tolerated.
8. The referees, like all AYSO officials, are volunteers. While their decisions may not always be agreeable to all, their decisions are final. No useful purpose is served by shouting derogatory remarks. Such action could be cause for termination of the game. The referee can caution players (displaying a yellow card), eject players (displaying a red card), caution the coach (verbal warnings), or ask him or her to leave the field.
9. Entry to the field of play is by permission of the referee only.
10. Sliced oranges – the traditional half-time refreshment – come with peels. Other treats may come in paper wrappers or containers. Please help keep the fields neat and clean by disposing of the peels and all other trash properly. The City and Schools provide use of the fields at a very reasonable cost. Let's support them also by cleaning up after ourselves.

11. Everyone is asked to park properly. Improperly parked cars can cost us field use privileges.
12. Bicycles may not be parked within 10 yards of a playing field.
13. Baseball dugouts, backstops and infields are not to be damaged. Kicking soccer balls, climbing, and bike-riding in these areas is prohibited.
14. Climbing on soccer goals and nets is dangerous and is prohibited.
15. Referees may not coach while acting as a referee. Referees must cover their referee uniform when they are coaching.
16. **AYSO, City, and School policies prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages while on the playing fields.**
17. AYSO prohibits the use of tobacco products, smoking (including e-cigarettes and vape products) whenever children are present.
18. Any player bleeding, or with blood on their uniform must leave the field until bleeding has been stopped and cleaned up.

Player Suspension / Expulsion

If a player is ejected from the game (red card), he/she will automatically be suspended from the next game. (This includes post-season and tournament play.) A second ejection (second red card) can result in expulsion for the remainder of the season. Any expulsions will be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Committee. Players are not allowed to attend practices or games during their suspension.

Cautions (yellow card) are cause for the Sportsmanship Committee to consider meeting with the player and parent/guardian to discuss ways of avoiding future cautions. Two yellow cards in any one game constitute a red card and the player will be ejected from the game, will be suspended from the next game and meet with the Sportsmanship Committee. Any player with three cautions given for the season will be suspended for the game following receipt of the third yellow card and will meet with the Sportsmanship Committee. This includes post-season and tournament play.

Once a team receives 4 cards (red or yellow), the head coach will need to come before the Sportsmanship Committee.

STRIKING OR ASSAULTING A REFEREE, ASSISTANT REFEREE, OR OTHER AYSO OFFICIAL WILL RESULT IN A SUSPENSION AND IS A FELONY UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW.

Coaching Program

All coaches must be certified to coach in AYSO. Training programs are offered in San Mateo and in nearby regions that should fit into anyone's busy schedule.

Coach training programs are division specific. Every coach is required to have taken the coaching clinic designed for the age division he/she is currently coaching.

A Goalkeeper Clinic may be available and recommended for all players who want to learn the techniques necessary to help them be a better Goalkeeper.

For more information and clinic dates, please visit www.aysosm.org under the AYSO-U tab.

Referee Program

Being a referee can be rewarding, and is an essential part of the AYSO program. Becoming a Referee is easy to do. Every sanctioned soccer game MUST have a certified referee. Our Referee Program provides training for 6U and 8U Team Referees (Divisions 6U & 8U) and Regional Referees. Referees are encouraged to upgrade to Intermediate, Advanced and National Referees as they gain experience and officiate in higher level divisions.

For more information about volunteering to be a referee, visit our website www.aysosm.org for schedules of upcoming training opportunities.

Team Referee Program

The growing participation of youth in AYSO has alerted us to one important fact: the need for parent involvement. Here is an excellent and rewarding chance for parents or older siblings of Division 6U or 8U players to learn the game and be active with their child or sibling while he/she is playing soccer.

Each 6U and 8U team needs to supply at least 2 team referees. At least one trained team referee from each team must be present for each game. Training is provided.

Regional Referee Program

Games in division 10U and above require three referees for each game; a center referee who works on the field and two assistant referees. These are all volunteer positions. Each 10U and 12U team is required to

provide two referees (assistant or regional referee) to officiate games each Saturday. Training and mentoring will be provided to all new referees.

Tournament qualification and seeding for the 10U and 12U divisions is based on a) the total awarded game points in the season, plus b) bonus points awarded for referee participation. Bonus points are awarded as follows:

- Team referees who work between 10 and 19 games during the regular season: +1 point
- Team referees who work between 20 and 29 games during the regular season: +2 points
- Team referees who work at least 30 games during the regular season: +3 points

For 10U, points for tournament consideration are awarded for the last five games of the season with a maximum of 3 points per game, yielding 15 total points. Bonus points could push the total to 18 points.

For 12U, points for tournament consideration are awarded for the all ten games of the season with a maximum of 3 points per game, yielding 30 total points. Bonus points could push the total to 33 points.

Note 1: Referees who work any match in 10U or 12U can assign their game credit to any 10U or 12U team.

Note 2: For 14U division, referees need to have a Regional Referee certification, at minimum, to serve as assistant referees and Intermediate Referee certification, at a minimum, to serve as the referee or with approval by the 14U Referee Coordinator and RRA. Referees who officiate a 14U match may assign their game credit to any 10U or 12U team.

Note 3: All referees who wish to participate in the Team Referee Program must use the San Mateo AYSO Referee System (referee.aysosm.org) to self-assign themselves to games. Referees who have signed themselves up in the referee system are the assigned referees for a given match. If another referee wishes to referee but did not sign up in time for the match, the assigned referees are not required to relinquish their assignments. When the Division Coordinators enter the match reports, they will input the referee's names and their affiliated team number from the signed game cards.

VIP Program

This program is designed to meet the needs of physically and mentally challenged children. Participants play a regular fall season and register at spring registration. Each child has a buddy that participates weekly with them on the playing field for individualized instruction and encouragement. For more information, contact the VIP League Coordinator by email (thecoyne1@comcast.net).

Pictures

Team and individual pictures will be taken on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at Joinville Park. You will be notified by your team parent, or coach as to the reporting time. The cost of the team picture is included in the registration fee.

Yearbook

The cost of the AYSO Regional 36 Yearbook is included in the registration fees. The yearbook will be distributed by the coach or team parent. Information for yearbook advertisements can be obtained from the team parent or on the web.

A contest is held to select the cover art for the yearbook. Please encourage your players to put their artistic talents to work in creating a design. Handouts of the contest rules have been included in the coach's packet.

Banners and the Banner Contest

Teams are encouraged to design and make their own unique banner.

Banners must not include the player's name near a picture or jersey number such that a child can be identified and called by name.

Home-made banners are automatically entered in the region's Banner Contest. The Banner Contest rules are as follows:

1. The banner appears in the team picture on picture day. This picture is used by the judging panel to select the winner.
2. Banner is of original design and "home-made" – not commercially made.
3. Banner size is between 3' x 6' and 4' x 8', and is less than 7 feet high.

4. The sponsor's name, team name, team number, and "AYSO" appear on banner in letters at least 3" high.
5. The sponsor's donation has been received at the time of judging.

A committee will judge banners. Judges' decisions are final.

Other AYSO Programs

San Mateo may sponsor post-season programs; Winter League, Spring League programs, etc. Only players registered in the regular AYSO Fall program are eligible to participate in the post-season programs. Further requirements may be defined for each program.

Winter and Spring Leagues are an opportunity for player(s) to be invited to participate on a travelling team. Fall Season coaches assign player ratings according to a strict regional guideline, assessing player skills, attitude, and sportsmanship. Players in these leagues will be the best San Mateo has to offer for the 10U through 14U age divisions and will compete with teams from the other Peninsula cities. Playing in Winter and/or Spring Leagues, provides select players and coaches the opportunity to continue to develop their individual skills and understanding of team tactics and strategy while having fun playing soccer at a higher level of competition than the Fall season.

Soccer Camps

San Mateo AYSO has partnered with UK International/AYSO Camps to provide soccer camp options for all children for 2-3 weeks during the summer. Additionally, several excellent private camps are available in the San Mateo area, but they are not endorsed by AYSO.

Soccer Accident Insurance

Soccer has a low injury rate and is generally considered a safe sport. However, participants in any athletic activity may suffer injury. You should be aware of the steps to take if your child sustains an injury.

1. If a player is injured at practice or at a game, notify the coach and the referee (if present) immediately. If it looks as if the injured player should possibly see a doctor, seek medical attention immediately.
2. Following an injury that required medical treatment, or if the player showed any symptom of a concussion, a signed Region 36 Participation Release is required before the child can participate in any practice or game.

3. It is imperative that accidents be reported to our Regional Safety Director immediately as all claims must be submitted to our insurance carrier within 90 days. All coaches and referees are required to report any injury to the Safety Director who will assist the parents/guardians in making the SAI claim. Visit www.aysosm.org/ under the Coach tab for more information.
4. AYSO Incorporated has a Soccer Accident Insurance (SAI) plan that covers each registered player and volunteer for injuries incurred while participating in schedule games and practices. SAI pays only for those eligible expenses not covered by your public, group, or individual insurance and does carry a deductible.
5. In order to make an SAI claim, you must first make a claim for payment to your family's insurance carrier or to your employer's group medical plan or with any school insurance program you are enrolled in.

If you do not have an SAI brochure, please ask your coach to get a copy for you or write: AYSO-SAI, P.O. Box 5316, San Mateo, CA 94402.

2017 Regional Board

AYSO is a non-profit corporation run by an Executive Director and a National Office Staff under the direction of a Board of Directors.

San Mateo Region 36 is administered by a Regional Board appointed by the Regional Commissioner and is responsible for the Region's operation.

Contact information for board members is found on the region's website (www.aysosm.org).

There are always Board positions that need to be filled to help run the league. If you are interested in joining the Regional Board in any capacity listed, please see our website.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER.....We need your help!

Important Dates to Remember

Picture Day

- Sunday, September 10, 2017, at Joinville Park

Regular Season Games

Please note: Schedules may change between publication of the regional guidelines and the start of the season. Contact your coach for your child's team schedule.

Divisions 6 & 8 Under

- Ten games are played on Saturdays starting Sept. 9 and continuing through Nov. 11 unless cancelled due to rain.

Divisions 10 & 12 Under

- Ten games are played on Saturdays starting Sept. 9 and continuing through Nov. 11 unless cancelled due to rain.
- Regional Tournament is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday Nov. 18 and 19. Tournaments will be played on the regular season fields - schedule to be determined. Area Tournament Dec. 2 and 3.

Divisions 14 Under

- Eight or Nine games are played on Saturdays starting Sept. 9 and continuing through Nov. 4 unless canceled due to rain. Your coach will provide your team's calendar at the team meeting.
- One or two additional games may be played on Thursday evenings.
- Regional Tournament is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday Nov. 11 and 12. Tournaments will be played on the regular season fields - schedule to be determined. Area Tournament Dec. 2 and 3.

Area/Section Tournament

San Mateo AYSO Region 36 is a local regional program within AYSO's Section 2, Area N. The Section or the Area schedules tournaments between the regions within our section and area. These games will be played under Area/Section rules. The coaches of qualifying teams will be provided with detailed information prior to the tournament dates. Information will also be available from the website at www.ayso2n.org