



Laguna Niguel Handbook

Laguna Niguel - Region 41
www.ayso41.org

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AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION MISSION STATEMENT

Key Objectives

PURPOSE: To operate soccer programs where young people can learn to develop a positive self-image, self-confidence, and other positive character traits through their interest and participation in soccer based on our philosophy of:

Everyone Plays - Our goal is for kids to play soccer - so we mandate that every player on every team play at least one-half of every game.

Balanced Teams - We require every Region at the start of each season to set up teams as evenly balanced as possible - because it is more fun where teams of equal ability play.

Positive Coaching - What makes winning kids is being built up, not down!

We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism. Winning Kids, not winning games!

Open Registration - Our programs are open to all children between 5 and 18 years who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only requirements for playing.

Good Sportsmanship - We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win at all costs attitude. All our programs must be designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

To have the capacity to develop, provide and administer quality youth soccer programs throughout the United States, offering a fun, fair, positive and safe environment.

History of AYSO

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) was established in the Los Angeles area in 1964 with nine teams. It was the dream of a group of devoted soccer enthusiasts who started the organization in a garage. Today, AYSO has more than 50,000 teams and more than 650,000 players. It also employs 50 people at its National Support and Training Center in Hawthorne, California.

Over the years, AYSO has created many valuable programs and concepts. Most notably, AYSO revolutionized youth sports with its “Everyone Plays” and “Balanced Teams” philosophies. In AYSO, each child who registers is guaranteed to play at least half of every game. To help create evenly matched games, all AYSO players are placed on new or “balanced” teams each year. These decisions are made based on each player’s skill level and the overall ability of the team. Since its establishment, AYSO has continued to grow and offer its membership relevant programs.

- In 1971, two San Fernando Valley residents developed AYSO’s first girls program. Today, a corporate sponsor has joined with AYSO as the organization’s first official sponsor of its national girl’s initiative. Currently, 40 percent of AYSO’s players are girls.
- In the mid 70s, an AYSO coach chartered new territory as he welcomed the organization’s first player with Down Syndrome. As a result of this landmark union, soccer was introduced into the Special Olympics. Today, AYSO offers its membership the Very Important Player (VIP) Program for kids with special needs. VIP boasts 75 programs and 1,500 players.
- In 1995, two AYSO parents established the first AYSO program in Moscow.

Today, the Moscow program has almost 500 registered players. In addition, an AYSO program was started in Puerto Rico in the Spring of 1998 and another in American Samoa in 1999.

AYSO is supported by more than 250,000 volunteers. Parents donate their time as coaches, referees, team parents, administrators or sponsors. In 1998, AYSO unveiled its new Coach Certification and Safe Haven Programs. Each was designed to strengthen the organization's role in child protection. Although AYSO is primarily a youth sports organization, it realizes the importance of providing a safe and healthy atmosphere for children. AYSO is continually working to improve the education of its volunteers in the fields of child development, human behavior, and sports psychology. A strong emphasis is placed on ethics and sportsmanship and the development of the whole child.

AYSO is a National Association of the United States Soccer Federation. Through the years, the organization has also maintained relations with organizations such as the National Council of Youth Sports, Girls Scouts USA, the National Association for Sports and Physical Education, People to People, Optimists International, Police Athletic Leagues, the National Alliance for Youth Sports, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, YMCA, the United States Soccer Federation, and the Character Counts Program. In addition, AYSO works closely with 20 corporations that are part of the organization's National Team of Sponsors.

AYSO has been the leader in establishing groundbreaking youth soccer programs in the United States. The organization is proud to have paved the road for youth soccer and looks forward to meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

Registration Dates

Early Registration	Regular Registration	Late Registration
March – 8:30AM – 4:00PM	April – Noon to 4:00PM	May - 6:30PM – 9:00PM
(Check web site for actual date, time and location)		
Sea Country Community Ctr., 24602 Aliso Creek Rd.	Crown Valley Community Ctr., 29751 Crown Valley Pkwy.	Sea Country Community Ctr. 24602 Aliso Creek Rd.

Player Fees:		
\$115/player-max \$285/family	\$125/player-max \$295/family	135/player-max \$305/family

(Check web site for actual fees)

Annual Player Fee Distributions:

Player Uniforms	42%
Field Use and Maintenance Fees	19%
AYSO National Fees	13%
Player Awards	7%
Soccer Equipment	7%
Newsletter/Photos	7%
Coaching/Referee Clinics	2%
Regional Business Expenses	3%

The Regional Financial Statement is available to all volunteers/parents if requested. Please contact the Regional Commissioner.

A registration fee and registration form will be required for each player. If a player wishes to drop from the program, refunds are available by written request to the Treasurer. (See Refund Policy.)

All players must be registered with the Region prior to participation in any practice or game and they must be approved by the Team Balance Coordinator or Regional Commissioner prior to placement on teams — no exceptions.

Please keep us updated if your address and phone number change. Please email all changes to: Records/Team Balance Coordinator — www.AYSO41.org.

All coach and referee volunteers will be requested to fill out a volunteer application form in order to be included in our database and covered under the Accident Reimbursement Plan by AYSO.

Refund Policy

Refunds will be issued for players who have not participated in any games or practices, have returned the full uniform (in like-new condition) to the team coach, and submitted a written request including the child's name and date of birth as well as a copy of the front and back of the cancelled check to the address below.

A.Y.S.O. Region 41
PMB 268
P.O. Box 30012
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0012
949-363-8305

Who May Play in Region 41 AYSO Soccer

AYSO Region 41 encompasses the City of Laguna Niguel and portions of Laguna Niguel and Dana Point and Aliso Viejo. AYSO recommends that players register with the Region in which they reside, although it is not mandatory. The VIP Program of Region 41 is open to all eligible children without regard to where you live.

All players who are signed up on the announced day of open registration are guaranteed to play on Laguna Niguel, Region 41 teams if coaches and fields are available. Players who sign up after that will be placed on teams only if space is available.

Visit Our Website at: **www.AYSO41.ORG**

AYSO Division Assignments

Any requests to play a child up a division must be made in writing at the time of player registration. Under NO circumstances will a child be allowed to play down a division.

Division..... Birth Dates

U6	8/1/00-7/31/01
U8 Lower.....	8/1/99-7/31/00
U8 Upper	8/1/98-7/31/99
U9	8/1/97-7/31/98
U10	8/1/96-7/31/97
U12	8/1/94-7/31/96
U14	8/1/92-7/31/94
U16	8/1/90-7/31/92
U19	8/1/87-7/31/90

Girls Divisions U16 - U19 programs are combined. No VIP players in Division U6. Players are divided into different playing divisions based upon their birthdates. Players of all ages will play with/against only players of the same sex (Exception: VIP Program). The VIP Program is split into three levels: Upper, Tweener and Lower.

Equipment and Uniforms

Each player is responsible for providing athletic footwear, shin guards **(required and must be completely covered by socks)**, and a correct size ball as follows:

Divisions U19, U16, 14	Size 5
Divisions U12 – U9	Size 4
Divisions U8 - U6	Size 3

Uniforms shall be provided by AYSO Region 41, consisting of a jersey, shorts, and socks. Such uniforms shall be properly marked in accordance with AYSO guidelines. **No uniform may bear the name of any registered player or of a sponsor.** Any problems with uniform sizing should be handled through your coach.

Regulation soccer shoes, gym shoes, or sneakers (with or without rubber cleats) are permissible in AYSO competition. Soccer shoes with removable cleats will be allowed, only if the cleat is screwed into the sole of the shoe. No metal cleats or toe cleats are allowed. **Shin guards are required in all AYSO competition and practices at all levels. Referees are authorized to prohibit a player without proper equipment from playing in an AYSO game.**

Fall Team Formation

AYSO Division U19 – U9 teams are formed based upon team balance, i.e., players of different skill levels and experience are divided among teams in an attempt to ensure that all teams have equal chances to win.

In order to maintain team balance, we are unable to accommodate requests for placement on teams or placement with friends or coaches in these divisions.

New players to the Region may be asked to attend a skills evaluation session to assist in team balancing.

Division U-19 - U6 team requests for players with friends cannot be accommodated in any division. **“NO EXCEPTIONS”**

- Team names shall bear no resemblance to any religion or nationality.
- Teams shall participate only in games approved by the Regional Commissioner and Board of Directors.
- Each Division U19 - U16 team shall have a maximum of 18 registered players. Each Division U14 - U12 team shall have a maximum of 15 registered players. Divisions U9 and U10 teams shall have a maximum of 12 registered players. VIP Upper Division shall have a maximum of twelve (12) registered players and VIP Low Division shall have a maximum of twelve (12) registered players. Divisions U8 & U6 and VIP Lower Division will play small sided games.
- Every effort will be made to balance team strengths within any one age division with the exception of Divisions U8 & U6 as noted in Special Rules.
- Retention of Division U19 – U9 players on the same team from one Fall Season to the next is prohibited.
- Once Division U19 – U9 teams have been formed, players will NOT be transferred from one team to another. Changes will only be accommodated due to exceptional circumstances, and then only with the permission of the Regional Commissioner.
- Coaches can only drop players from teams if after the second week of the season the player cannot be reached. Attempts must be made to call all phone numbers listed on the registration form. The coach must notify his/her Division Director of the drop. A refund will be issued to the player only if a written request is made by the parents to the Treasurer. (See Refund Policy)
- Players injured during the season MUST notify the Safety Director. A refund cannot be issued for injured players.

Fall Season

Practices may NOT begin until designated by the regional commissioner; however, coaches may hold their team meeting prior to that date.

Division U14-U6: Will have games every Saturday until the weekend of November 18. Divisions U14-U9 will have playoffs the weekend of December 2. Upper Divisions: Games will be held every Saturday through the end of October. Playoffs will then begin, with final rounds being held approximately the first week of November. There is a possibility that some games may need to be held on Sundays.

AYSO PLUS Program

The AYSO Plus (AYSO+/APP) Program is a select pilot program formed for a competitive experience for AYSO players whose skills qualify them to participate. As in every other AYSO program, the National Rules and Regulations will be enforced, and the AYSO philosophies are upheld in this program.

In order to participate, all participants must be registered in Region 41 for the regular Fall season. The AYSO+ Program will run during the Fall season, with a post-season tournament. Games will be played between Areas L (Saddleback Valley), Q (Irvine/Newport/ Tustin), and K (Huntington Beach). The AYSO+ Program will follow the Rules and Regulations as provided under the AYSO+ Program. A copy of these Rules and Regulations will be distributed to the AYSO+ coaches.

The AYSO+ Program will be restricted to Division U14, U13, U12 & U11 boys and girls. Open tryouts will be held for all those who have registered for the Fall season. The tryout date will be advertised on website in advance of the tryouts. Tryouts will include assessments of individual skills and performance in game-like situations as specified by the National Coaching Commission. All players will be informed in writing within three (3) days of the conclusion of tryouts as to whether or not they were selected. Interested coaches must be AYSO advance certified and will be chosen by the Regional AYSO+ Committee, headed by the Regional Commissioner, the AYSO+ Coordinator, and the Regional Coaching Administrator.

Coaching

Player participation has increased dramatically in our youth programs. Along with this explosion in soccer participation has come the need to develop more and better prepared coaches. Our program reflects the most recent approaches to teaching soccer techniques and tactics and the critical AYSO coaching philosophy. It draws from a diverse group of contributors; coaches of club teams, high school teams, and coaches who have played and coached on national and international levels. You are not just a soccer coach; you are an AYSO soccer coach!

Our program is tailored specifically to provide a solid foundation for the novice to advanced coach, offering the best planning resources for organizing worthwhile practice sessions for a successful and fun season. No experience is necessary!

Our Coaching Program is completely dependent upon volunteers. Training programs are conducted throughout the year by our Regional Coaching Staff and include the following: (See Regional Website or Calendar for Dates of All Clinics.)

Youth Under 6, 8, 9, and 10 Clinic: This clinic is geared to the younger division, first time coach who has no prior experience coaching youth soccer. This clinic is conducted in a single day in a informal classroom and field environment. The course content is based upon the AYSO Youth Under 6, 8, 9and 10 Manual. (3 hours)

Youth Coaching Clinic: This clinic is geared to the U12 Division, first time coach who has no prior experience coaching in the U12 program. This clinic is conducted in a single day in a informal classroom and field environment. The course content is based upon the AYSO Youth Course Manual. (3 hours classroom, 5 hours field.)

Intermediate Coach Certification: This clinic provides a solid foundation for coaching young players and is highly recommended for all team and assistant coaches. Coaches who are interested in coaching All Star or a Spring Team must be at least an intermediate certified coach. Preference will be shown to coaches who have the Advanced Coach Certification. (4.5 hours classroom, 10.5 hours field.)

Advanced Coach Certification: This program focuses on a variety of complex drills and tactics through a series of demonstrations and soccer theories contributed by successful coaches. Instruction is provided by the AYSO National Coaching Staff and is required to become a Regional Instructor. (Three full days of instruction.)

Goalkeeper Clinic: This clinic offers a tactical approach to Goaltending with hands-on instruction on the principles of Goalkeeping-Defending, dealing with shots-on-goal, principles of the buildup of play including tactical aspects of Goalkeeping, the technical principles of Goalkeeping, and keeper warm-up and advanced drills to be used in practice and game situations.

Divisions U19 through U9 players and coaches are encouraged to attend.

Have fun, Get involved!

Referees, an Essential Part of Soccer

The AYSO program is completely dependent upon volunteers, including both coaches and referees. Trained, certified referees are required under AYSO policy to ensure games are fair and are played under safe conditions. Over the past several years, unfortunately, too few people have volunteered to serve as referees.

As a result of this, as well as the continuing growth in the number of players and teams, the AYSO program in Region 41 has a serious shortage of qualified referees. Consequently, we encourage anyone interested in contributing to the success of the AYSO program in Laguna Niguel to volunteer time as a referee. Training clinics are conducted frequently and no prior experience is necessary. See the Regional Calendar for times. We will provide a uniform and provide mentors to work with you at the field to ensure your development and enjoyment. Your help is critical at this time!

In past years, Region 41 has trained some volunteers as linespersons and others as Regional Referees. The value of fully trained referees has become clear, even when those individuals are working as assistant referees (previously called linesmen). Consequently, we only conduct training for Regional Referees. New referees determine their specific game assignments as center or assistant referees with their schedulers.

Region 41 has also developed an excellent Youth Referee Program for girls and boys ages 12 and up. The Youth Referees are trained and work as referees or assistant referees.

NEW - MANDATORY REFEREES Divisions U9, U10, U12 and U14

The number of teams in the region has increased far in excess of the growth of volunteer referees. Therefore, teams in the U9, U10, U12 and U14 divisions will be required to have at least two parents trained and active as referees. Training classes will be held throughout the season, after players' teams are organized and before the start of regular season play. After teams in these divisions are formed, coaches are responsible for checking that the team has an adequate number of referee volunteers. Additional volunteers may be trained at scheduled referee training clinics (See Regional Website or Area website (AYSO11L.ORG) for convenient times and dates outside of Laguna Niguel. Teams without two referee volunteers at that time will not receive uniforms and will not be able to play games.

NEW REFEREES PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS SERVICE POINT PROGRAM

Divisions U9, U-10, U12 and U-14

Service Point Program

Each team will be responsible for providing 10-12 service points per team (to be determined at the outset of the season, based upon total team enrollment.) Each team must have volunteer parents who referee. Only the teams who have completed their assigned service points and are properly documented on the website shall be allowed to enter the division championships. This is not meant to be punitive towards the players, it is to ensure that each team provides its necessary assistance so that we may have referees at all games and the fields are properly set-up for safe play. More definitive information is posted on the Website.

Please sign-up for training at the referee area.

See Regional Website (AYSO41.ORG) or Area Website (AYSO11L.ORG) for dates of clinics.

Zero Tolerance

Many of us forget the real reasons for being out on the field: encouraging and supporting our children, promoting fair play and good sportsmanship, teaching the kids how to have fun while competing and learning that there is more to winning and losing than just the final score.

Our referees, adult and youth, are unpaid volunteers who are doing their best to ensure our children's safety while upholding the spirit of the laws of the game. The referees cannot and will not tolerate any abusive behavior towards any referee, player or coach. In addition to setting a poor example for the children, derogatory comments or complaining about the referee's calls jeopardizes our ability to attract and retain volunteers without whom we cannot play. In instances when parents or coaches cannot control their comments or behavior, they will be ejected from the game area, and in extreme situations, may not be allowed to watch further games.

This policy is especially true with respect to our youth referees. Youth referees are trained identically to adult referees, and due to their playing experience are frequently among the most knowledgeable referees on the fields. While we do ask our youth referees to make the same officiating decisions as adult referees, it is not reasonable to, and we do not, expect youth referees to confront or argue with adults. Youth referees are instructed, in the event of dissent from the sidelines, to suspend the game until the coaches have removed any offending individuals that impede the safe or fair conduct of the game. If any youth referees are abused in any way, verbal or otherwise, by a parent or a coach, that person will be suspended for the balance of the season and their ability to participate in AYSO in Laguna Niguel in the future will be determined at a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.

Misconduct will be handled by FIFA Laws and Region 41 Exceptions to Laws. Please help us ensure all our games are positive experiences for our children and for all our hard working volunteers.

Players' Code

- Play for the “fun of it”, not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with or complain about the referee’s calls or decisions.
- Control your temper, and most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether it is your team’s or your opponents. Thank the referees.
- Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and feel good. Don’t be a show-off or a “ball hog”.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents, and the referees — there cannot be any soccer games without them.

Parents' Code

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game.
Your child will then be a winner even in defeat.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Set a good example. Children learn best by example.
- Applaud good play by your team and by members of opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the referee's judgment and never their honesty.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches, referees, and officials and give them their due respect. Without them there would be no AYSO soccer. Let the coach do the coaching!
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
- Alcohol is not permitted at any city park or school facility.

Be A Volunteer

AYSO works because our volunteers' work! Our program is run entirely by volunteers. Parents, when you sign up your child, ask us how you can help. There are many opportunities where our AYSO volunteers can make a difference! Don't let a canceled check be your memory. Follow through with your job when volunteering.

Safety

Prevention: All safety precautions should be taken both during games and all practices. No watches, jewelry, earrings or hard hair combs may be worn during practices or games. Shin guards must be worn at all times and must be completely covered by socks. **Medical Release Forms must be carried by the coaches at all games and practices.** Coaches should ensure that all players are properly warmed up. **No climbing on goals or nets.**

Hard casts or Splints: Players shall not be permitted to participate in any AYSO games or practices with any type of hard cast or splint. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events.

provided that the brace is adequately covered and padded so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to other players on the field. In addition, the brace must be medically required, as evidenced by a doctor's note. "Soft" knee pads fabricated from a non-rigid material may not be worn without a doctor's note. Exception: Goalkeepers may wear knee pads. The final decision will be that of the referee.

Blood: While the risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to nonexistent, there is a remote risk that other blood-borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. Professional and college athletic associations have adopted guidelines and rules for when there is a bleeding player on the field. AYSO, too, has adopted procedures to minimize the risk of infection:

- Any player or official who is bleeding must leave the field immediately to receive medical treatment, and may not return until the situation is corrected (the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered).
- If there is blood on the uniform, the individual may not return until that portion of the uniform is replaced or the blood has been neutralized with a disinfectant solution.
- If there is blood on the body, the individual may not return until all blood has been removed from skin surfaces and the contaminated skin has been disinfected. Persons rendering aid must wear protective latex gloves.

Accident Reimbursement Plan

All families will receive a copy of the "Accident Reimbursement Plan" at time of player registration. Your completed registration form will ensure your coverage under this program. Please refer to your copy of the ARP brochure for information on this reimbursement plan or call the Safety Director. All volunteer coaches and referees/lines persons must also complete an AYSO Volunteer Registration Form in order to ensure their coverage under this program.

It is the responsibility of the parent to report all injuries during practices or games to the Safety Director within 24 hours of the occurrence of the injury.

Practice Field Policy

At all times we expect coaches to use their best judgment to ensure safety. We will not tolerate any on-field confrontations between coaches at any time. Should any questions or disputes arise, the coach(es) relate the issue to the appropriate Division Director. **All coaches will ensure that we provide positive role models to players and spectators.**

- Divisions U19 – U9 will be scheduled for two 1-hour practices per week, Monday - Friday. Lighted fields will be scheduled for practice time slots. A schedule will be distributed through the Division Directors for the appropriate fields. No team may practice more than 2 times per week.
- Practice fields will be shared between teams. If two teams are present, each will have 1/2 of the field. Scrimmages do not take precedence over regular practices.
- Division U8 Upper teams may practice no more than one time per week. It will be at the determination of the Regional Scheduler if there will be assigned practice fields for this division. If no field has been assigned, a Division U8 Upper teams may use a regular playing field if no upper division team is present. Should an upper division team arrive, the Division U8 team will vacate that field.
- Divisions U6 and U8 Lower teams will only practice 30 minutes before each Saturday game. **No practice may be held during the week for Division U6 or Division U8 Lower teams.**

Reminder: Shin guards are to worn at all practices and must be completely covered by socks. Coaches must have possession of their player's medical release forms at all practices.

AYSO REGION 41 FALL SEASON Exceptions to FIFA Laws

All AYSO games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game with the exceptions as follows: (See Special Rules for Divisions U8 and U6. Divisions U19 and U16 will follow all Area L Rules and Regulations.)

Competition

- In Divisions U19 through U9, coaches and other officials shall not enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee. Coaches are to remain in the coaching boxes. Spectators are to remain in the spectator area.
- In Divisions U19 through U9, a minimum number of seven (7) players shall constitute a team; a scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field seven (7) eligible players.
- A game shall not commence until all Player Registration/Medical Release Forms have been presented to the referees, and he/she has checked to see that all players have the proper equipment.
- A game shall not commence until a properly completed game card is presented to the referee.
- Only the referee in charge can cancel or suspend a game.
- **No protests of games will be allowed.**

Duration of Games

Divisions U6 and U8	See Special Rules
Divisions U9 and U.....	Two 25 minute halves
Division U12	Two 30 minute halves
Division U14	Two 35 minute halves
Division U16	Two 40 minute halves
Division U19	Two 45 minute halves
VIP-Upper	Two 20 minute periods
VIP-Tweener	Four 8 minute periods
VIP-Lower	Four 5 minute periods

A break is called at approximately midway through each half so that substitutions may be made in compliance with Region 41's policy **that Division U6 - U14 players must play at least three-quarters (3/4) of the game. Division U16 -U19 players will play two quarters of the game.** There is no overtime during seasonal play, ties will stand.

Field of Play

Dimensions of the field of play, marking of goal and penalty areas, corner areas, and goals will be at the discretion of the Region, except during post-season playoff games, wherein the field must conform to all FIFA Laws of the Game requirements.

Substitutions

All players in Region 41 (Divisions U14, U12, U10, U9, U8 and U6) must participate and play at least three-quarters (3/4) of every game, excluding overtime periods, if any. **Division U16-U19 players must participate in at least two quarters.** Players must be recognized by the referee prior to entry onto the field and all substituted players must remain on the touchline at the halfway point until they are recognized by the referee. Players may not exit the field unless they were substituted. Divisions U19 and U16 will employ free substitution.

If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until at least the beginning of the next quarter. Only the injured player is credited with a quarter played regardless of the actual time played. The coach retains the option to play shorthanded, thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter which he/she was injured. The player must first be recognized by the referee in order to legally return to the game.

Disciplinary Policy

Guidance to Coaches/Parents/Spectators: The referee's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the players. The authority of the referees to administer Region 41 Disciplinary Policy begins when the referee enters the grounds where the game will be played. The opinion of the referee on points of judgment, as well as points of fact, concerning the Laws of Soccer before, during, and after games shall be final. The referee is authorized, as the official AYSO representative at the field, to enforce the policy set forth herein. The judgment of the referee concerning the need to apply disciplinary measures shall be final. In those instances where the referee has caused a disciplinary matter to be brought before an AYSO Region 41 Disciplinary Board, the decision of that Disciplinary Board is final.

Spectators are required to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to a youth activity and consistent with the philosophy of AYSO. The referee has the duty and authority to carry out disciplinary policy so as to ensure safety, fairness and enjoyment of both players and non-players alike. Spectators will remain within a "Spectator Area" along the sidelines and on the same side of the field as the team of their players. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their "team's spectators." If a disciplinary problem is caused by a team spectator, the referee should tactfully discuss the nature of the problem with the appropriate coach and require the coach to obtain compliance from the offending individual.

Persistent disciplinary problems will be addressed by a Disciplinary Board comprised of the Regional Commissioner or Assistant Regional Commissioner, the Referee Administrator, the Coach Administrator, and the appropriate Division Director (or designated representatives thereof).

Any player, coach, assistant coach, parent, or spectator who is alleged to have committed any type of assault or battery on another coach, referee, or player shall immediately be suspended from participation in all AYSO games and/or practices, and such suspension shall remain in effect until a disciplinary hearing has been completed. An assault or battery may result in a lifetime ban from AYSO activity. In addition to the sanctions deemed appropriate by a Disciplinary Board, AYSO Region 41 will vigorously support prosecution of any and all individuals who have committed an assault or battery on an AYSO volunteer or player.

Rain Policy

Field Condition Information - Call: 362-4351, ext. 3

Due to stipulations of Region 41's contract for field use with the City of Laguna Niguel and the Capistrano Unified School District, AYSO may not conduct games or practices for a period of 24 hours after rain because of damage such activity causes to the turf. Current field conditions are posted on the Field Condition Information Line.

Coaches should ensure that all team members are notified of canceled games/practices. There are no make-up of rained-out games.

Please do not abuse our playing field. Follow these guidelines in order that we may continue use of city and school district fields.

Player Ratings

Player Rating Forms are filled out by the coaches for Divisions U19 - U8 at the end of the season. Play Ratings are confidential and are used solely to balance teams for the following season. In the event that a player is not rated by his/her previous season coach or is new to Region 41, such a player will be required to attend a ratings day where his/her soccer skills will be evaluated by a rating committee for purposes of balancing teams for the upcoming season.

VIP Program

The VIP Division of Region 41 provides children with physical and mental disabilities the opportunity to play soccer at their own level. The VIP Program embraces the "Everyone Plays" philosophy of AYSO in both widening the number of children participating in soccer and guaranteeing each child will play at least three-quarters (3/4) of each game.

The VIP Program is split into three levels: Upper, Tweener and Lower Divisions. The different divisions are all co-ed teams segregated by a child's mobility, agility, ability to follow directions with limited or no assistance, size (height and weight) and lastly, by age. The teams from Laguna Niguel VIP will also play games against other VIP teams from surrounding AYSO regions. The Upper VIP will follow the normal laws of the game, with flexibility in application. The Tweener and Lower VIP will follow the Special Rules for Divisions U8 and U6, short-sided games.

The VIP Program objectives are:

- To teach the fundamentals of the game;
- Encourage teamwork through shared effort toward a common goal;
- Impart a sense of fair play;
- Increase self esteem;
- Provide an opportunity to make new friends;
- Increase community involvement;
- Promote fitness and provide recreation.

Exceptions to Rules and Regulations:

- No scores or season standings are kept.
- Coaches are allowed on the field at all times.
- At least one parent or guardian MUST be present at all practices and games.
- Buddy system may allow volunteers on the field.

Division U8 and U6 Special Rules

The following are exceptions to the Region 41 Guidelines and FIFA Laws of the Game. These are specific to Divisions U8, U6, Tweener and VIP-Lower Division play (except where further modified for VIP Divisions only). Coaches will be provided with any updates to these rules prior to the start of the Fall Season.

- Teams will be formed based on geographic proximity and school affiliation. The player's age will also be a factor. There are no co-ed teams in Divisions U8 and U6. The teams will have a maximum of 12 players per team. (VIP Lower and Tweener Divisions are based on co-ed teams. The number of players per team will be in direct proportion to the number of registered players.)
- No scores or season standings will be kept. These will be noncompetitive leagues and for instructional purposes. All players will receive participation trophies at the end of the season.
- Each team will be responsible for providing a referee per game in Divisions U6, U8 and VIP Lower. VIP Upper and Tweener Divisions will have referees for each home game as provided by the AYSO Jr. Referee Program .
- Game play will be as follows:

Division	# Fields	Max. Players	Duration	Goalkeeper	Ref
VIP Upper	U10	12	2/20-min. periods	Yes	Yes
VIP Tweener	U8	12	4/8-min. periods	Yes	Yes
VIP Lower	U6	12	4/5-min. periods	No	No

- Goals cannot be scored by a goal kick, throw-in, or free kick. All free kicks shall be indirect and all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick. No penalty kicks will be taken for the VIP Lower Divisions.
- AYSO Region 41 does not provide certified referees for Divisions U8, U6 and VIP Lower games. These games are officiated by parent volunteers and/or coaches from each team. These volunteers are not certified AYSO referees, nonetheless, they are authorized as referees for purposes of ensuring player safety and enforcement of discipline policies. VIP Upper and Tweener Divisions will have referees for each home game as provided by the AYSO Jr. Referee Program.
- Disciplinary/behavioral problems are to be managed through talking, whistling of fouls, and verbal warnings. In extreme cases where a player persists in engaging in improper behavior, the coach will intervene to permit the game to continue without further disruption.

Photo Day

Photo day is for all boys and girls. Each player will receive a team and individual photos which will be distributed near the end of the season. Please refer to the web site for this year's Photo Day date, location and time. Make-up day for those unable to make the original date and time will also be on the web site. This is for individual photos only.

Sponsors

Team Sponsors	\$250
College Scholarship Sponsor	\$125
Field/Equipment Sponsors	\$100

Sponsorships of \$250 or more will receive a picture plaque of the sponsored team.

All Star Program (Division U14 - U9)

The intent of the All Star program is to extend the AYSO season for those players whose **soccer ability and attitude are well above average**, while creating teams which will represent Region 41 in any Area and/or Section tournaments which might be held after the regular AYSO season.

Each regular Fall season team must be represented by at least one (1) player and no more than four (4) players from any one team.

All Star games are played on Saturdays and Sundays in January. The All Star teams will play other teams within AYSO Area L. The Area All Star champion may play in March for Sectional and Tri-Sectional championships.

Spring Select Volunteer Program

The number of players chosen in each division will depend on the amount of certified coaches willing to coach in the spring and field availability. **Children of AYSO volunteers (most committed) will be given priority when forming teams. Spring play will begin in March and continues until early June.**

There are two (2) types of Spring teams formed: recreational, and tournament. Tournament teams will consist of more competitive players on their rosters. Spring team players are selected by the Spring coaches. A separate registration fee will be paid by each player participating in the Spring Program.

A PLAYER PLAYING ON SPRING TEAM MUST HAVE PLAYED IN THE REGULAR FALL SEASON AND PLAYED AT LEAST HALF OF THE REGULAR SEASON GAMES.

Coaches must have coached during regular fall season. (Coaches must not commit to any player prior to a selection process.)

Coaches for spring must be selected by the Region 41 Coaches Committee and in turn players must sign-up and be selected by the approved coaches.

If you are not contacted by February 1, then you may assume there were not enough volunteers/coaches or fields to facilitate all the sign-ups, **we apologize in advance.**

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**AYSO
REGION 41
WEB SITE**

www.ayso41.org

All the latest information about the region and any question you might have.

- REGIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- AYSO REGION 41 CALENDAR
- Registration Information
- Late Registration Information
- Coaches Meeting
- Coaches Training Information
- Referee Information
- Referee Training Information
- Practices begin for fall season
- Regular Season Begins
- Photo Day
- Photo Day Make-ups
- All-Star Season
- Spring Season Begins

** Refer to page 3 of this handbook for addresses, times and fees