

Area 11-Q Guidelines

1. General

- 1.1. All Area 11-Q programs shall be conducted in accordance with the current AYSO National Rules and Regulations, AYSO National Policy Statements, the current FIFA Laws of the Game (AYSO Edition), the Section 11 Guidelines and the Area Q Guidelines as contained herein.
- 1.2. The Area 11-Q Guidelines are intended to compliment and/or cover situations not fully addressed by other prevailing rules, regulations or guidelines.
- 1.3. Any situation or subject not covered by the aforementioned rules, regulations or guidelines shall be decided upon by the Area Director.
- 1.4. Authorities and responsibilities of the Area Director as defined in the Area 11-Q Guidelines may be delegated to a third person at his/her discretion.
- 1.5. The Area 11-Q Guidelines apply to all teams participating in the following Area 11-Q programs. (Separate Guidelines for Section or Inter-Area play shall take precedence when published).
 - 1.5.1. *Fall U16*
 - 1.5.2. *Fall U19*
 - 1.5.3. *Fall Area League Playoffs (Regional Recreation Teams)*
 - 1.5.4. *All-stars (Regional Teams)*
 - 1.5.5. *Spring Select U10, 12, 14, 16 and 19*
- 1.6. The published Rules of Play for each specific program shall take precedence over these guidelines. Rules of Play will be published on the Area 11-Q message board (www.ayso11q.org).

2. Jurisdiction

- 2.1. The Area 11-Q Board of Directors shall consist of voting members and staff members.
- 2.2. Executive Members shall include the Area Director and Regional Commissioners (RC). At this writing Area Q has seven (7) regions and therefore the Regional Commissioners will constitute the voting members of the Board. The Area Director shall serve only as a tie breaker.

- 2.3. Area Staff Members include the Assistant Director, the Referee Administrator, the Coaching Administrator, the Treasurer, the Secretary, Program Director and Coordinators, the Scheduler, and any other staff designated by the Area Director.
- 2.4. Area meetings will be held each month, barring any special circumstances. There should be maximum participation in the Area Q monthly meetings either by the Regional Commissioners or a designated region representative.
- 2.5. The majority of the Executive Members or his/her designee shall constitute a quorum; however, every effort will be made to include each Regional Commissioner in voting issues.
 - 2.5.1. *If a region is not represented at the meeting and time is not a factor, an email call for vote will be issued. The Regional Commissioner then has forty-eight hours in which to reply or will lose his/her ability to cast a vote on the particular issue at hand.*
 - 2.5.2. *In emergency situations the Area Director shall email and call each Regional Commissioner or their designated representative to notify them of the issue and that they have twenty-four (24) hours in which to vote. If every effort was made to contact them and their designated representative, and no contact could be made, they lose the ability to vote as long as four votes are established.*
- 2.6. Only one vote per region shall count and a simple majority shall carry any vote by the Area Q Board of Directors, unless noted otherwise.
- 2.7. Regional Commissioners may designate a representative to cast a substitute vote in his/her absence.
- 2.8. The Area Director and Area Staff, with the cooperation of the Regional Commissioners, shall have jurisdiction over all inter-region games played within Area 11-Q.
- 2.9. The Regional Commissioners shall have jurisdiction over all regional games played in his/her region and shall be responsible for the coordination of his/her respective region.
- 2.10. Any information posted to the Area 11-Q website (www.aysol1q.org) will be considered an official communication for Area 11-Q administered programs. It is the responsibility of all AYSO members in Area 11-Q to monitor the website for all applicable information.

3. Participation

3.1. Eligibility

- 3.1.1. Each region shall be responsible for the selection of coaches, balancing teams and for insuring eligibility of its players and coaches.
- 3.1.2. All players must have registered with AYSO as of October 1st of a given year (August 1 – July 31) in order to be eligible to participate in Area leagues or playoffs.
- 3.1.3. Coaches shall be registered as an AYSO volunteer for the current membership year; be Safe Haven Certified and have the age appropriate Coach Certification. Refer to the guidelines of each specific program for additional certification requirements.
- 3.1.4. Each region agrees to host at least one division in the playoffs for each program. The host region will be responsible for the fields, check-in and on-site supervision of the games.

3.2. Rosters for Area Play

- 3.2.1. The Regional Commissioner shall be responsible for the submittal of certified team rosters for each team to the Area Director or designated representative no later than one (1) week prior to play. Rosters shall include the following information:
 - a. *The region, gender and age division identification.*
 - b. *Coach's and Assistant Coach's names, phone numbers and email addresses.*
 - c. *Player information: AYSO ID Number, Name, Telephone number, Birthday, and Age.*
 - d. *Uniform colors and team name (if available).*
 - e. *Signature of the Regional Commissioner or Assistant Regional Commissioner certifying that the players and coaches are eligible and approved to participate in Area play.*
- 3.2.2. No team will be allowed to participate in any Area Q games without a properly completed team roster signed by the Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.
- 3.2.3. Changes to the Team Roster will be permitted in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations and the Program Guidelines.
- 3.2.4. A copy of the revised roster shall be forwarded to the Area Director and Area Program Director forty (48) hours prior to the next scheduled game.

3.3. Identification Cards (ID Cards)

- 3.3.1. ID cards are required for all players and coaches who are involved in inter-region or inter-area play.
- 3.3.2. Player ID cards must include a “current” picture of the player, AYSO ID Number, the player’s name, player birthday, region, season and must be signed by the Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.
- 3.3.3. Coach ID cards must include a “current” picture of the coach, AYSO ID Number, the coach’s full name and signature, region, season and must be signed by the Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.
- 3.3.4. All AYSO ID Cards must be laminated.
- 3.3.5. For the purpose of identifying the Coach and Assistant Coach during the course of a game, each must wear ID cards visibly on their person. ID cards may be clipped on jackets or shirts, or worn on neck lanyards.

3.4. AYSO Registration and Medical Release Forms

- 3.4.1. An AYSO Registration Form must be completed for each player and must bear an original signature.
- 3.4.2. Player Registration Forms must be in possession of the coach or his/her designee at all AYSO sponsored events (games, practices, scrimmages, party, ...).
- 3.4.3. No player may participate in an AYSO sponsored event without a properly completed and signed AYSO Registration Form.

3.5. Finances

- 3.5.1. A budget will be provided and approved by the Area Board prior to each program.
- 3.5.2. Each region agrees to pay AYSO Area 11-Q a fee to cover the area administrative costs, fields, medals, pins and referee coins.

4. Fields

- 4.1. Each region shall provide field allocations for each program. Field allocations shall be based on the number of teams and number of games played per day. A one and a half (1 ½) hour time slot for each U10 – U14 team and a two (2) hour time slot for each U-16 or U-19 team shall be provided for league games. The following shall be included in the field allocations:
 - a. *Field Name including designation (Field 1, A, North, East, ...)*
 - b. *Field Address and map link (if not included on the current Area web site)*

- c. *Available game times (from – till)*
 - d. *Sunday availability*
 - e. *Lighted field availability*
 - f. *Weeknight availability*
 - g. *Block out dates or times*
 - h. *Include any fees that will be passed on to Area Q*
 - i. *Special instructions*
- 4.2. Each Region Commissioner shall be responsible for the playing fields used in their respective region and ensure the utmost player safety.
- 4.3. Each region shall supply the goals, the nets, corner flags and the field markings for their respective field(s).
- 4.4. Field set-up and take-down shall be the responsibility of the hosting Region.
- 4.5. The home and visiting coach are each responsible for cleaning up their general area after each game.
- 4.6. For the safety of our players, we ask that dogs and pets are not present at any inter-region or Area games, except for properly identified service animals.
- 4.7. Field closures will be reported promptly by each region on the Area Q web site's Mudline page. The Area Q web site is the official site for field closures and schedules.

5. Teams

5.1. Teams

- 5.1.1. A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a team; except U10, which shall be five (5) players.
- 5.1.2. If at any time during the game, the number of players on the field drops below the minimum requirement the Referee shall terminate the game. The score will be reported as 1-0 in favor of the team that did not forfeit.
- 5.1.3. U10 League play will be seven-a-side (7v7). Each team should carry a minimum of seven (7) players and a maximum of ten (10) on their roster.
- 5.1.4. U12 and U14 League play will be eleven-a-side (11v11). Each team should carry a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fifteen (15) on their roster.

- 5.1.5. U16 and U19 League play will be eleven-a-side (11v11). Each team should carry a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of twenty-two (22) on their roster. Regional Commissioner and Area Director approval is required for teams with more than eighteen (18) players.
- 5.1.6. The maximum number of players may be increased, but no more than would allow each team member to play at least half of each game at the request of the Regional Commissioner and the written approval of the Area Director.
- 5.1.7. Guest Players and Outside Players are not permitted to participate in any Area matches, unless noted otherwise herein.
 - 5.1.7.1. GUEST PLAYER: A registered AYSO regular season player from a different AYSO team or region who participated in the current or just-concluded primary/regular (Fall) AYSO season.
 - 5.1.7.2. OUTSIDE PLAYER: Any player not currently registered in AYSO or not participating in the current or just-concluded primary/regular (Fall) AYSO season.

5.2. Uniforms

- 5.2.1. All uniforms shall be in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations.
- 5.2.2. Players must wear the uniform jersey number shown on the team's official roster and/or game card. Players may not exchange jerseys.
- 5.2.3. SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY. Socks must cover shin guards.
- 5.2.4. Goalkeepers may wear long pants; long sleeve shirt; elbow and knee pads; and a soft brim cap as approved by the Referee. No other player shall wear knee or elbow pads.
- 5.2.5. Sliding pants may be worn provided they meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game (they may not extend below the knee and must be of the same color as the dominating color of the team uniform shorts).
- 5.2.6. When the colors of two teams are similar as judged by the referee, the home team shall change jerseys or wear bibs.
- 5.2.7. No jewelry of any kind may be worn except medical bracelets, which shall be tapped down.

5.2.8. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs, provided that the knee brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee so as to eliminate the possibility of its use causing injury to other players on the field of play.

5.2.9. The AYSO National Rules and Regulations paragraph VI.H. states: "Players shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any game with any type of cast or splint."

6. Check-In

6.1. Coaches shall be prepared to present their team to the game official a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes prior to their scheduled game time.

6.1.1. Players must be in full uniform with shin guards and ready for play.

6.2. The coach shall be prepared to present the following to the field official:

a. An official signed roster

b. A completed game (line-up) card including the name of each player on the team roster. It is helpful if the players are listed by uniform number in numerical order.

c. Laminated Player I.D. cards

d. Laminated ID cards are to be worn by the Coach and Assistant Coach

6.3. Player and Coach ID cards shall be returned to the coaches immediately after check-in.

6.4. The Referee will conduct a Pre-game Inspection prior to the start of each game.

6.5. Refer to the program guidelines and message board for specific check-in procedures.

7. Game Officials: Referees and Assistants

7.1. Regional Referee Administrator(s) (RRA) shall work closely with and under the direction and guidance of the Area Referee Administrator.

7.2. Regional Referee Administrators shall determine the level at which each referee may officiate Inter-Regional and Inter-Area games assigned to his/her region.

7.3. It is the responsibility of the Regional Referee Administrator to ensure that qualified referees are provided for all games.

- 7.4. Referees shall be at least two years older than the players in the respective game.
- 7.5. Game Officials shall at all times uphold the Laws of the Game; the AYSO National, Section 11, Area Q and program guidelines.
- 7.6. All referees shall be registered as an AYSO volunteer for the current membership year; be Safe Haven Certified and Basic Referee Certified or above.
- 7.7. All games shall be officiated using the Diagonal System of Control, i.e. one Referee and two Assistant Referees.
- 7.8. Referees may elect to use “Club Linesmen” when an insufficient number of Certified Assistant Referees are available. “Club Linesmen” are not AYSO Certified Referees and their responsibilities may be limited by the Referee.
- 7.9. The Referee must inform the Assistant Referees and/or “Club Linesmen” which duties they are to assume in the current match, such as determining the direction of a throw-in, a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in; offside infractions and goals; fouls, or misconduct not seen by the referee; and instructions with regard to calls within the penalty area.
- 7.10. Whether using certified Assistant Referees or “Club Linesmen,” the Referee is the final decision-maker.
- 7.11. Discipline shall be up to the referee at each game. The referee shall have the power and authority to caution and send off players and warn and expel coaches (as well as spectators, in the case of outside interference) from the playing area, or terminate the match if necessary, if their conduct violates the Laws of the Game, these guidelines or otherwise interferes with the course of play. No appeal of disciplinary action taken by a referee will be allowed.
- 7.12. Referees shall not retain any Player ID Cards from players or coaches who have been sent-off.
- 7.13. In the event that a Certified Referee is not present at a game, an AYSO Certified Referee in uniform may be appointed by mutual agreement of both teams, providing said referee meets all other requirements. The game must be ended no later than the next scheduled game time.

8. Positive Coaching

- 8.1. Coaches are expected to be positive and set the best possible example for the participants.
- 8.2. Coaches' language and attitude shall be Positive, Instructional and Encouraging (PIE) consistent with the prevailing AYSO philosophy of Positive Coaching.

8.2.1. *Coaching shall be of a technical or tactical nature consistent with the game of soccer (giving directions to one's team on points of strategy and position, etc.)*

8.2.2. *In accordance with AYSO National Guidelines, excessive coaching from the sidelines shall not be permitted.*

8.3. A maximum of two coaches shall be allowed to instruct the team during the game. Coaches are restricted to an area of ten yards on either side of the Center Line and shall stand back at least one yard from the Touchline.

8.4. Coaches are responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their players and spectators. Only positive, instructional and encouraging coaching is permitted. Negative comments towards their own players, opposing players or the referees will not be tolerated.

8.5. Coaches are required to prevent and discourage unruly behavior, threats, and/or assault of any kind toward players or officials, before, during and after the conclusion of any game.

8.6. The coach may enter the field of play only with the consent of the referee.

9. Game Conduct

9.1. The highest standards of conduct and good sportsmanship must be maintained at all times by players, coaches, referees, spectators and all other participants. Offensive, insulting or abusive language is forbidden.

9.2. The use of alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games is strictly forbidden.

9.3. Home teams and visiting teams shall remain on separate sides of the field of play. The home team selects the side of the field that they will occupy.

9.4. Spectators at games must remain behind the spectator control line (three yards from the sideline) and between the penalty areas.

9.5. Spectators are expected at all times to act positively around players and to demonstrate respect for opponents, officials, and all other volunteers. Under no circumstances should they attempt to coach or address remarks derogatory to players, coaches or the referees.

9.6. Noise-making devices, including but not limited to air horns, cow bells, drums, megaphones, etc. shall not be allowed.

9.7. At the end of the game, the players on each team shall line up and shake hands with the players of the opposing team and thank the referee and assistant referees.

10. Game Schedules

- 10.1. Each team participating in Area play agrees to appear for all their scheduled games. All games shall be played at the time and field as scheduled.
- 10.2. Only games that have been approved and sanctioned by Area Q will be counted in the league standings and playoffs.
- 10.3. Only the Referee in charge of the game, the hosting Regional Commissioner, the Area Director, Area Referee Administrator or Area Program Director shall have the authority to cancel a scheduled game.
- 10.4. In the event a game is postponed due to a field closure the Area Scheduler shall make every effort to post the rescheduled game date, time and location within three (3) days.
 - 10.4.1. *Every effort will be made to reschedule the game within eight (8) days of the scheduled game whenever possible.*
 - 10.4.2. *If the game cannot be rescheduled in a timely manner the game will be reported as "not played."*
- 10.5. Should a team not be able to attend a scheduled game it is the responsibility of that team's Regional Commissioner or his/her designee to notify the Area Director and Program Coordinator along with the Regional Commissioner of the other team in writing no less than forty-eight (48) prior to the scheduled game time.
 - 10.5.1. *The game will be recorded as a 0-1 loss to the team that was not able to attend the scheduled game, subject to review by the Area Director.*

11. Games

- 11.1. The Referee may allow a grace period of no more than five (5) minutes from the scheduled game time before signaling the termination of any game.
- 11.2. When games previously in progress are running later than five (5) minutes from the scheduled game time, no grace period shall be allowed.
- 11.3. The Home Team shall supply three game balls to the satisfaction of the Referee. Acceptance of a game ball shall be at the discretion of the Referee.
- 11.4. Area league games shall be of two equal halves as follows:
 - a. *U10 - two twenty-five minute halves*
 - b. *U12 - two thirty minute halves*

- c. U14 - two thirty-five minute halves*
 - d. U16 - two forty minute halves*
 - e. U19 - two forty-five minute halves*
- 11.5. The duration of Area Q Playoff games will be published within the program guidelines and/or the scheduling message board.
- 11.6. During play, only players are allowed on the field, except as allowed by the Referee.
- 11.7. Substitution of players in all U10 - U14 games shall be in accordance with the AYSO National Rules and Regulations.
- 11.8. If a game is not completed through the regulation game time due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the final resolution of that game shall be as follows:
 - 11.8.1. If less than one-half of the designated game time had been played at the time of game suspension, the game may be continued at a later rescheduled date and time. If the game is not rescheduled for any reason, the game shall stand as a NOT PLAYED game, irrespective of the score at the time of game suspension.*
 - 11.8.2. If one-half or more of the designated game time had been played at the time of the game suspension, the score will stand as recorded by the Referee in charge of the game.*
- 11.9. A tie is an acceptable result for all league games and playoff pool games, unless otherwise noted.

12. Scoring and Reporting of Games

- 12.1. The winning coach is responsible for reporting the game score within forty-eight (48) hours of the match. The home team is responsible to report any ties. Either coach may report the final score.
- 12.2. Failure to report the score within forty-eight (48) hours of the match may result in the game being recorded as “not played.”
- 12.3. Standings shall be based on the following scoring system:
 - a. A maximum of ten (10) points is possible in any one game*
 - b. Six (6) points for each win*
 - c. Three (3) points for each tie*

- d. *Zero (0) points for each loss*
- e. *One (1) point for each goal scored up to a maximum of three (3) per game*
- f. *One (1) point for each shutout*
- g. *A 0-0 tie will be scored as 4 points for each team (3 for tie, 1 for shutout)*
- h. *A one (1) point deduction for each red card (send-off) received by a player or spectator (before, during, or after the match).*
- i. *A three (3) point deduction for each red card (send-off) received by a player for Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play (before, during, or after the match).*
- j. *A three (3) point deduction for each Coach Misconduct or send-off (before, during, or after the match).*
- k. *A forfeit shall be scored as 1-0 (8 points) in favor of the team that did not forfeit.*
- l. *A three (3) point deduction may be assessed to any team that does not show up to a scheduled game, as determined by the Area Director.*
- m. *Forfeits and red cards shall affect the standings according to the rules prescribed by the Area Director for each specific program.*

12.4. The final standings will be determined based upon average points per game (total team points divided by total number of games played) to account for any inequities in the number of games played.

12.5. Tie breakers for final league standings shall be as follows:

- a. *Head to Head competition*
- b. *Highest Goal differential (maximum of +/- 3 goals per game)*
- c. *Least goals scored against (maximum of 3 goals per game)*
- d. *Coin toss (random selection) as determined by the Area Director*
- e. *The Area Director has the authority to make the final decision with regard to tie breakers.*

12.6. Teams deemed by majority vote of the Area Executive board to have gained an advantage in the standings due to a forfeit by that team, shall be excluded from receiving medals or advancing in the playoffs.

13. Playoff Games

- 13.1. U10 playoff games shall be played in two 25 minute halves unless noted otherwise in the playoff rules.
- 13.2. U12 through U19 playoff games shall be played in two 30 minute halves unless noted otherwise in the playoff rules.
- 13.3. Half time break should be limited to no more than five (5) minutes.
- 13.4. Pool play games should end five (5) minutes before the start of the next scheduled game.
- 13.5. The Referee is responsible for starting and ending the game on time.
- 13.6. Playoff pool games may end in a tie, unless noted otherwise.
- 13.7. Tie breakers for Playoff Pool Play shall be as follows:
 - a. *Head to Head competition*
 - b. *Highest Goal differential (maximum of +/- 3 goals per game)*
 - c. *Least goals scored against (maximum of 3 goals per game)*
 - d. *Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark if both teams are present (refer to the program guidelines or message board).*
 - e. *Final League Standings - Average points per game (All programs except Area League Playoffs. Refer to the program guidelines and message board).*
 - f. *Coin toss (random selection) as determined by the Area Director*
 - g. *The Area Director has the authority to make the final decision with regard to tie breakers.*
- 13.8. If a tie exists at the end of a semi-final or final game two five (5) minute overtime periods shall be played to determine a winner. Sudden victory or “golden goal” will not be played.
- 13.9. Teams playing short in regulation time as a result of a send-off(s) shall continue to do so in overtime.
- 13.10. The teams shall change ends of the field after the completion of the first overtime period. Play in the second overtime period must begin immediately.

- 13.11. Should a tie remain after the completion of overtime play, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
 - 13.11.1. The home team captain will call the toss of the coin by the referee. The winning team of the coin toss has the choice of first or second kick.
- 13.12. As deemed by the Referee, Area Director or Area Program Director, if there is not sufficient time for the overtime periods (due to darkness or delaying the start of the next game) the game will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.
- 13.13. In case of field closures an alternate schedule will be provided. If the medal games cannot be completed the final area standings will be determined by the final league standings.

14. Misconduct: Sendoffs and Cautions

- 14.1. To assure a proper administration of the disciplinary rules, it is the responsibility of the game official to make a preliminary verbal report by phone of all send-offs (red cards) to their Regional Referee Administrator immediately following the game in which the send-off(s) took place. In turn, the Regional Referee Administrator or his/her designee shall immediately report by phone the send-offs to the Area Referee Administrator.
- 14.2. It is the responsibility of the official in charge of the game to file a written Misconduct Report on all cautions and send-offs to their Regional Referee Administrator within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the game in which the offense(s) occurred. The Regional Referee Administrator shall forward each such report to the Area Referee Administrator as soon as possible.
- 14.3. The penalty for a player, coach or spectator sent-off (player red card) from the field shall be a one-game suspension for the next official game to be played, whether or not officially notified of such suspension.
- 14.4. The penalty for a player, coach or spectator sent-off (player red card) for Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play from the field shall be a minimum two-game suspension for the next two consecutive official games to be played, whether or not officially notified of such suspension.
- 14.5. A player serving a one-game suspension may attend the team's next scheduled game as a spectator as long as they are not in uniform.
- 14.6. Any coach and/or spectator sent-off from the field must immediately leave the area so as not to be within sight or sound of the field as deemed by the Referee. In the event an individual refuses to leave the field the Referee shall suspend the game.

- 14.7. Suspensions will be reported to the RC and RRA of the region hosting the game where the suspension is to be served. The RRA is to inform the referee of the suspension. Prior to the game, the referee is to confirm the suspension with the coach and confirm whether the suspended coach, spectator or player is in attendance. The referee is to note this in their game report. At the end of the game the referee is to ask the coach if the suspended coach, spectator or player was in attendance during the game and note this on their game card.
 - 14.7.1. Should a suspended player participate in a game that game shall be recorded as a forfeit and a 3-point deduction will be assessed to that team. The player shall also be suspended for an additional game.
 - 14.7.2. Should a suspended coach or spectator attend a game that game shall be recorded as a forfeit and a 3-point deduction will be assessed to that team. The coach or spectator shall also be suspended for an additional game.
- 14.8. Suspensions and sanctions shall carry over to the next Area or Section game or season.
- 14.9. Depending on the circumstances surrounding a particular incident, stronger penalties may be imposed as deemed appropriate by the Area Director or Disciplinary Action Review Board.
- 14.10. The Disciplinary Action Review Board will be selected by the Area Director, comprised of three members from Area Q Regional Commissioners and/or Area Staff who were not directly involved with the alleged incident. The Area Referee Administrator shall be the responsible Area Q official to preside over such meeting(s).

15. Forfeits

- 15.1. Forfeit - a match result in which one team is penalized because they did not show up for a scheduled game or is in violation of an administrative rule.
- 15.2. A team shall be in forfeit of a game if found in violation of any of the following:
 - 15.2.1. Failure to show up for a scheduled game, referred to as a “no-show.”
 - 15.2.2. Failure to provide official Player ID cards (all programs except the Fall Area League Playoffs).
 - 15.2.3. Failure to provide an official Coach ID card (all programs except the Fall Area League Playoffs).
 - 15.2.4. Inability to field the minimum number of players before or during a game.

- 15.2.5. Failure to be on the field of play and ready to play at game time (or following a five (5) minute grace period).
- 15.2.6. Failure or refusal to continue the game.
- 15.2.7. Misconduct that causes the termination of the game.
- 15.2.8. Use of an ineligible or suspended player.
- 15.2.9. A coach or spectator attends a game in which they have received a suspension.
- 15.3. Forfeiture on the part of a team will result in a score of 1-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.
 - 15.3.1. In the case of a game that has been started, the score will be reported with zero (0) goals for the forfeiting team and the number of goals the non-forfeiting team has scored if greater than one (1) goal.
- 15.4. Failure to show up to a scheduled game (no-show) will result in a forfeit and a three (3) point deduction may be assessed as determined by the Area Director.
- 15.5. Failure to show up to a scheduled Area or Section Playoff game (no-show) will result in the coach of the team being suspended from any further Area or Section programs or games. The Area Director will review the matter and decide on any penalties and sanctions.
- 15.6. Failure to prove the eligibility of one or more players on a team will result in the expulsion of said player(s), a forfeiture of all games previously played and the coach shall be suspended for a minimum of two-games.
- 15.7. Falsification of a player on a team will result in the expulsion of said player, a forfeiture of all games previously played and the coach shall be suspended for the balance of the season and playoffs.
- 15.8. Depending on the circumstances surrounding a particular incident the Area Director has the right to impose additional penalties or sanctions as well as reduce those stated as deemed appropriate.

16. Protests

- 16.1. Referee decisions during a match are final and not subject to protest.
- 16.2. If a Coach has any questions or comments with regard to an officials handling of the game, Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines or Policies they are to contact their Division Coordinator, Coach Administration or Regional Commissioner who will decide if follow up with the Area Staff is required.

17. Injuries

- 17.1. If a coach is summoned by the referee to attend to an injured player that player must leave the field. The player may be substituted with a replacement player at that time or if the injured player is not substituted, he/she may re-enter the field with the permission of the referee. Goal keepers may be treated on the field of play.
- 17.2. Any injury to a participant in Area play resulting in a claim must be reported to the Area Director.

18. Area Programs

- 18.1. In order for a region to be eligible for post-season playoff competition, the region must be in compliance with current AYSO requirements. This shall include player fee payment, player registrations entered in eAYSO or sent to the National Support and Training Center (NSTC).
- 18.2. Regional Commissioners are to submit signed rosters, confirming that each player is eligible, for each participating team one (1) week prior to the start of the season.
- 18.3. All players must be registered with AYSO before commencing practice and/or play.
- 18.4. Medals will be given in each division based on the results of the Area Playoffs or Final League standings if a playoff is not scheduled.
- 18.5. PRIMARY PROGRAMS: A fall regular season program which include the fall league and Plus programs.
- 18.6. SECONDARY PROGRAMS: Any program other than the primary program and any associated playoffs. This includes All-stars, Area League Playoffs, Section Playoffs and Spring Select.
- 18.7. In order to be eligible to participate in a Secondary Program (All-stars, Area League Playoffs and Section Playoffs) each player must have been registered in AYSO and participated as players in a minimum of one half of their scheduled games for which they were eligible during the primary season, absent special circumstances as defined in AYSO National Policy Statement 2.2.

19. Fall U16 & U19 Program

- 19.1. The U16 & U19 programs are experimental programs with the purpose of providing these players with the opportunity to continue playing AYSO soccer.
- 19.2. The Regional Commissioner must declare how many U16 & U19 teams will participate in Area play in each division no later than August 1.

- 19.3. Regional Commissioners are to submit their final list of teams, including coach contact information and field allocations by the posted date, typically the first week of August.
- 19.4. A mandatory meeting will be held prior to the first game. The coach or a designated representative from each team shall be in attendance.
- 19.5. As a minimum each coach must be Safe Haven Certified, have an Advanced Coach Certification and Basic Referee Certification to be eligible to participate in the U16 and U19 programs.
- 19.6. League starts the 1st Saturday following Labor Day.
- 19.7. League play will be based on the number of participating teams in each division. Where possible teams will be scheduled to play each other in a round-robin format.
- 19.8. The playoffs for each division will be held following the last week of league play. Each team will play a minimum of two (2) games. Flights will be determined based on participation and the final league standings.
- 19.9. The Area Champions for each division may be eligible to participate in the Section 11 League Playoffs. Additional teams may be invited based on the Section 11 allocations.
- 19.10. Free substitution is part of the experimental program and shall be allowed for all U16 & U19 games. In keeping with the AYSO philosophy of "Everyone Plays" coaches are responsible for insuring that each player on their team roster plays a minimum of one-half of every game he/she is present for.
 - 19.10.1. Failure to adhere to and comply with this requirement will result in the coach receiving a one-game suspension.
 - 19.10.2. Additional violations will result in additional sanctions.
- 19.11. Substitutions may be made by either team whenever the ball is not in play (i.e. before any restart) with the permission of the Referee.
- 19.12. A substitute may not enter the field until (a) permission to enter has been given by the Referee, and (b) the player he/she is replacing has left the field.
- 19.13. Players may leave from any point on the field with the Referee's permission; substitutes may enter only at the half line.

20. Fall Area League Playoffs for U10, U12, and U14

- 20.1. Each region is invited to send two (2) regular season teams from each division to the Area Q League Play-offs

- 20.2. Regional Commissioners must declare the number of teams in each division that will be participating no later than November 1st.
- 20.3. Regional Commissioners are to submit their final team listings, including coach contact information and field allocations no later than November 15th.
- 20.4. A mandatory meeting will be held prior to the first game. The coach or a designated representative from each team shall be in attendance.
- 20.5. All coaches shall be Safe Haven Certified and have the age appropriate Coach Certification.
- 20.6. In order to be eligible to participate in the Area League Playoffs each player must have played in at least half of the total number of league games played by his/her primary season team to which he/she was assigned during the regular fall season, except due to illness or injury. Only those players on the team as of October 1st are eligible to participate on that team.
- 20.7. Should a division have an odd number of teams a blind draw shall be conducted amongst participating regions to allow an extra team. No region shall be permitted to participate in a second draw until all the other regions wishing to add a team have been afforded the option to do so.
- 20.8. The first round of playoffs will be pool play. Each team will be scheduled to play three (3) games. The playoffs will typically begin the second week of December.
- 20.9. The top four (4) teams from the 1st round will play in the semi-final and Medal rounds.
- 20.10. The Area Q League Champions for each division may be eligible to participate in the Section 11 League Playoffs, typically held on the second weekend of February in the following calendar year. Additional teams may be invited based on the Section 11 allocations.

21. All-Star Program - U10, U12, and U14

- 21.1. Regional Commissioners must declare the number of teams in each division that will be participating no later than December 1st.
- 21.2. Regional Commissioners are to submit their final team listings, including coach contact information and field allocations no later than December 15th.
- 21.3. A mandatory meeting will be held prior to the first game. The coach or a designated representative from each team shall be in attendance.
- 21.4. All coaches shall be Safe Haven Certified and have a Basic Referee Certification to be eligible to participate.

- 21.5. U10 coaches shall have as a minimum a U12 Coach Certification; U12 and U14 coaches an Intermediate Coach Certification.
- 21.6. To be eligible for All-Star competition a player must have played in at least half of the total number of fall league games played by the team to which he/she was assigned during the regular primary season, except in the situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness, injury, or a change in residence which causes a change of region. Change of residence eligibility requires written approval by the previous Regional Commissioner.
- 21.7. All-Star Players must compete in the age division in which they participated during the regular primary fall season. No exceptions.
- 21.8. AYSO Plus, guest and/or outside players are NOT eligible to participate in the All-Star program.
- 21.9. A Gold division will be provided for each Age/Gender.
- 21.10. A Silver division will be created based on team participation. Silver teams from the same region shall be balanced. If there are not enough teams for a division, we will look to form a division with our neighboring areas.
- 21.11. All-star league play begins the 1st or 2nd Saturday of January.
- 21.12. Gold and Silver League play will be based on the number of participating teams in each division, followed by the playoffs. Teams will be scheduled to play each team in their flight in a round-robin format.
- 21.13. The playoffs for the Gold divisions will be held following the last week of league play. Teams will be assigned based on the final league standings.
- 21.13.1. The Area 11-Q Gold All-Star Champions for each division may be eligible to participate in the Section 11 All-Star League Playoffs, typically held on the third weekend of February. Additional teams may be invited based on the Section 11 allocations.
- 21.14. The playoffs for the Silver division will be held following the last week of league play. Each team will play a minimum of two (2) games. Flights will be determined based on the final league standings, participation and field allocations.

22. Spring Select Program - U10, U12, U14, U16 & U19

- 22.1. The Area Q Spring Select Program is a competitive program with many of the players from Plus and All-star teams. Regions are expected to field teams that will be competitive.

- 22.2. Regional Commissioners must declare the number of teams in each division that will be participating no later than February 1st.
- 22.3. Regional Commissioners are to submit their final team listings, including coach contact information and field allocations no later than February 15th.
- 22.4. A mandatory meeting will be held prior to the first game. The coach or a designated representative from each team shall be in attendance.
- 22.5. All coaches shall be Safe Haven Certified and have a Basic Referee Certification to be eligible to participate.
- 22.6. As a minimum each U10 coach must have a U12 Coach Certification, each U12 and U14 coach must have an Intermediate Coach Certification and each U16 and U19 coach must have an Advanced Coach Certification.
- 22.7. Player Eligibility: To be eligible for Spring Selection competition each player must have played in at least half of the total number of fall league games played by the team to which he/she was assigned during the regular season, except in the situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness or injury.
- 22.8. GUEST PLAYER: A registered AYSO regular season player from a different AYSO team or region who participated in the current or just-concluded primary/regular (Fall) AYSO season.
- 22.8.1. The number of Guest Players on a Spring Select roster from a different team within the **same region** shall be decided by each Regional Commissioner.
- 22.8.2. A maximum of two (2) Guest Players from a different region are permitted on a U10 Spring Select roster.
- 22.8.3. A maximum of three (3) Guest Players from a different region are permitted on a U12 & U14 Spring Select roster.
- 22.8.4. There is no limit to the number of Guest Players permitted on a U16 or U19 Spring Select roster.
- 22.8.5. A signed letter of approval to participate from the player's Regional Commissioner (home region) must accompany the team roster.
- 22.9. OUTSIDE PLAYER: Any player not currently registered in AYSO or not participating in the current or just-concluded primary/regular (Fall) AYSO season.
- 22.9.1. A maximum of two (2) Outside Players are permitted on a U10 Spring Select roster.

22.9.2. A maximum of three (3) Outside Players are permitted on a U12 & U14 Spring Select roster.

22.9.3. There is no limit to the number of Outside Players permitted on a U16 or U19 Spring Select roster

22.10. Prior to any participation in AYSO activities, outside players must have the approval of the Regional Commissioner or Assistant Regional Commissioner and must be registered with the AYSO National Support & Training Center.

22.11. Spring league play begins the 1st Saturday of March.

22.12. Final team rosters are due on or before March 15th. Only those players that are registered and included on the team roster as of March 15th are eligible to participate on that team.

22.13. One (1) point will be deducted from the winning team for each game in which the final score goal differential exceeds five (5) goals, subject to review by the Area Director.

22.14. League play will be based on the number of participating teams in each division.

22.15. A playoff or an elective tournament may be held following the last week of league play. Tournament participation will require a separate fee. Flights will be determined based on participation and the final league standings.

23. Section 11 Playoffs

23.1. The number of teams in each division that are eligible for Section 11 Playoffs will be sent to the Regional Commissioners and Division Coordinators once known.

23.2. In the event an invited team does not elect to participate in the Section 11 Playoffs, the option to participate shall be offered to the next team based on the final Area Q Playoffs or League standings should there be no playoffs.

23.3. It is understood that a participation fee as defined by Section 11 will apply and that the fee will be paid by the stated deadline by each participating region.

24. Dispute Resolution and Due Process

24.1. Dispute resolution, discipline hearing procedures and due process shall abide by AYSO Policy Statement; ARTICLE SEVEN - Dispute Resolution and those recommended in Article 9 of the AYSO Standard Regional Guidelines.

- 24.2. It is the policy of the area to resolve all disputes involving persons involved in the area in an amicable way, if possible. Compromise should be emphasized whenever possible, and personality conflicts should be avoided. If disciplinary action is found to be necessary, it is the area's policy to take only the minimum action necessary. All means available should be taken to avoid legal action.
- 24.3. Disputes involving region activities should first be addressed and resolved by the Regional Commissioner and Regional Staff, whenever possible.
- 24.4. Disputes involving area activities should first be addressed and resolved by the appropriate Area Board Member in charge of the activity whenever possible.
- 24.5. Unresolved disputes involving region or area activities should be addressed and resolved by the Area Director. The Area Director may elect to present the dispute to a Disciplinary Hearing Committee or Area Board for resolution, if necessary.

25. Changes to the Guidelines

- 25.1. Approval of Guidelines: These guidelines shall become effective after being approved by the Area Director and the existing Executive Members of the Area Board, and the Section Director, and then submitted to the National Support & Training Center.
- 25.2. Change in Guidelines: Once adopted, these Guidelines may only be amended by the Executive Members of the Area Board with a 2/3 vote, with the approval of the Area Director and the Section Director, and then submitted to the National Support & Training Center.

26. References

AYSO Rules & Regulations

http://www.ayso.org/resources/governing_documents/rules_regulations.aspx

AYSO Policies

http://www.ayso.org/resources/governing_documents/policies.aspx

AYSO Bylaws and Guidelines

http://www.ayso.org/resources/governing_documents/bylaws_guidelines.aspx

2009/2010 Laws of the Game - AYSO Edition

http://www.aysohelp.org/referee/Manuals/AYSO_Manuals/FIFA_Laws_AYSO_2009-10.pdf

Soccer Governing Rules

http://www.ayso.org/resources/referee_res/soccer_governing_rules.aspx

AYSO Guidance for Referees and Coaches

http://www.aysohelp.org/referee/Manuals/AYSO_Manuals/2009/Guidance_2009.pdf

Section 11 Guidelines

<http://aysoseccioneleven.org/PageCustom.aspx?id=11>

Guidelines approved on 31 Aug 2009