

Area G League & Playoffs

Area G League and Playoffs will be conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, AYSO National and Section One Rules and Regulations with the following clarifications, modifications, and additions. These guidelines have been developed by representatives of all Regions in Area G and Area G staff. All participants must abide by any additional requirements or restrictions adopted by their home Region.

All items pertain to both lower and upper divisions, unless otherwise specified.

I. REGION ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

- a. All Regions in Area G may participate.
- b. Regions must meet the minimum requirement as a Region to participate.
- c. Teams from other Areas will be accepted with majority approval of Area G Regions.
- d. To be eligible for Area playoffs, player must participate in at least 50% of scheduled games for his/her team.
- e. Special circumstances shall be reviewed by Area G Director.

Lower Divisions

- a. No player shall be added to a team after Oct 31.

Upper Divisions

- a. Region teams not participating in Area League play will not be eligible to participate in Area playoffs.
- b. Teams shall be formed no later than **August 5, 2021**.
- c. No player shall be added to a team after Sept 15.
- d. No player shall be added to a team after the 1st league game unless the team drops below 14 players.
- e. Any players added after the 3rd league game must be approved by Area League Coordinator or Area G Director.

II. TEAM FORMATION

Division	Playing Format	Minimum Number of Players	Maximum Roster Size (Max size w/ prior AD approval*)	Minimum Roster Size	Game half not to exceed	Game duration not to exceed

19U	11 v 11	7	18 (22) *	12	40 minutes	90 minutes
16U	11 v 11	7	18 (22) *	12	40 minutes	80 minutes
14U	11 V 11	7	15 (22) *	12	35 minutes	70 minutes
12U	9 V 9	6	12 (18) *	9	30 minutes	60 minutes
10U	7 V 7	5	10 (14) *	7	25 minutes	50 minutes

*Per National Rules & Regulations Article II.D, expanded roster sizes require prior approval of AD.

III. COACHES

- a. Coaches must have taken AYSO Safe Haven, Concussion Awareness and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training available at www.aysou.org, or at the replacement training platform (Etrainu).
- b. A qualified coach must always be present with the team, along with player medical release form for every player.
- c. Coaches shall be responsible for behavior of their spectators and shall promote a positive atmosphere.
- d. To participate in Area G, team coaches (head and assistant) must be registered with AYSO National and certified at the appropriate coach level.

Lower Divisions

- a. Coaches and assistant must be listed on roster prior to week 5.

Upper Divisions

- a. Coaches and assistant must be listed on roster prior to first game.

IV. UNIFORMS

- a. There will be strict observance of the AYSO uniform dress code. All team participants will be uniformed in the same, matching color/style jersey, shorts, and socks without exception.
- b. Shin guards must be worn, completely under the issued uniform sock.
- c. Any tape used must match uniform socks or be used inside the socks.
- d. No jewelry, including ear studs, will be allowed. Emergency bracelet must be taped so wording is visible.
- e. Nothing hard is allowed in the hair (bobby pins, beads, etc)
- f. No player with a cast or splint may participate.
- g. No headgear other than soft sweatbands will be allowed.

- h. If any player is found to be in improper uniform, it must be corrected before the offending player(s) shall be allowed to play. Decisions of the Site Official regarding uniforms are final and may not be appealed. In case of inclement weather, garments may be worn under uniforms provided they are all the same style, length, and color do not constitute a color conflict. Black, gray or white are acceptable. No sweat pants.
- i. In case of conflicting colors, if a team has alternate jerseys, it shall be allowed to change; otherwise, both teams shall wear scrimmage vests provided by the Region, Area or Section hosting the competition.
- j. Long fingernails may be considered a safety hazard requiring cutting or taping.
- k. Players/spectators shall not smoke/vape when wearing AYSO uniform or while in the vicinity of an AYSO function.
- l. It shall be the responsibility of the individual players to abide by the uniform requirements.
- m. Violation should be reported to the Site Official or referee to be noted on the game card.

V. REFEREES AND OFFICIATING

- a. Area Referee Administrator shall insure that an impartial team of at least 2 referees is scheduled for all games during playoffs.
- b. During kicks-from-the-mark (tie-breaker), non-participating players, substitutes and coaches, and all spectators, will not be allowed on the field, or off the field behind the penalty area. They shall not interfere in any way with participating players or referees..

Lower Divisions

- a. A player requiring assistance on the field, except for the goalkeeper, shall leave the field of play. A coach may choose to substitute an injured player until the next substitution period or play short while injury is being assessed. Upon assessment of player and with referee permission, a player may re-enter the field only if the coach played short.

Upper Divisions

- a. A player needing assistance on the field, except for the goalkeeper, shall leave the game for a period of 2 minutes. Team may substitute or play short. Injured player may return to the field of play with referee permission.
- b. Center Referee must have Advanced or National level Referee certification. In the event badge level is unavailable, prior experienced Intermediate may step in with preauthorization from ARA and AD. Assistant Referees must be experienced Intermediate level or above and approved by ARA and AD. No Regional Referee will be allowed to Referee upper division without prior authorization from ARA and AD. In the event a Regional Referee is approved to AR, center Referee must have Advanced or above level certification.

No club lines men are allowed to stand in for any referee. The home team will be required to forfeit the match in the event there are not properly certified referees on the match, however the match can still be played.

VI. MISCONDUCTS & DISCIPLINE

- a. Any participant who is SENT OFF (red card) before, during, or after the game, will be suspended for the minimum of the participant's next scheduled game. Further participation in Area or Section Playoffs will be subject to review by Area officials.
- b. Any participant who is SENT OFF for Violent Conduct shall be ineligible for further participation in, or attendance at, Area and/or Section Playoffs.
- c. Any participant who instigates a physical or verbal confrontation shall be suspended from Area playoffs and will be ineligible for participation in, or attendance at, Section Playoffs.
- d. Any coach or player receiving a third Caution shall have an automatic 1 game suspension and possible appearance before a Review Panel. The Review Panel shall consist of the Assistant Area Director, as Chairperson, and the following representatives: Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator, neutral Regional Commissioner, and a neutral player or parent representative.
- e. Coaches have the responsibility for monitoring the number of cards received by individual players and acting accordingly, even without official notification. If time permits, a League Official shall send team Coach a warning following the second yellow card received by a player.
- f. **No Protest shall be allowed!!!!**

Lower Divisions

- a. A coach may use his/her own discretion to either substitute a player receiving a Caution (yellow card) or remove the player from the field to allow a temporary (3 minutes) cooling off period by playing short. If the cautioned player is substituted, they may not return to the field until the next substitution period. The cautioned player may return to the field with referee permission only if the coach played short during the cooling off period.

Upper Divisions

- a. There will be a mandatory cooling off period; coaches are required to remove a player receiving a Caution (yellow card) from the game for 3 minutes. A coach may use his/her own discretion if more time is needed, coach can also substitute that player out or play short until the 3 minutes have passed. If the team falls below minimum # of players (see table above), game will go on and not be suspended.
- b. Disciplinary action during league play, including red card and yellow cards, shall carry over into Area Playoffs.

VII. FIELDS

- a. All fields should have an Assistant Referee Lane parallel to the touchline; a minimum of 3 feet outside of touchline, between the 2 penalty areas.
- b. Coach box should be behind this area.

Upper Division League Play

- a. Home Region shall insure that the field is properly set-up and taken down, including corner flags. Field lines, including required 10-yard coaching restriction lines should be clearly visible. Recommended minimum field size is 60 x 110 yards

VIII. GAMES

- a. Teams must report for all scheduled games unless otherwise notified by Region or League official. Cancellations or (no shows) may result in removal from league.
- b. Referee shall allow a grace period of fifteen (15) minutes before cancelling the game. A team not ready at the time shall forfeit the match. If a team does not show for a scheduled match, its opponent will be awarded a 1-0 victory by forfeit (3 points). The AD may impose additional sanctions if the forfeiting team gains an advantage by the forfeit.
- c. First team on the schedule shall be the home team and shall set up on the North or East side of field; coaches, players and spectators shall remain on that side. Spectators shall not be allowed behind the goal lines, except for photographers who have received prior authorization from the Referee, and who will remain quiet and sufficiently back from the goal lines.
- d. Visiting team coaches, players, and spectators shall remain on opposite sides of the field unless otherwise advised due to restrictions. Coach may only coach one game at a time.
- e. Both players and spectators shall remain in their field half not covered by assistant referee.
- f. A Region site official shall be at all games. He/She shall assist the referee in uniform inspection and ensure that players' registration forms are available.

IX. SUBSTITUTIONS – UPPER DIVISIONS ONLY

- a. Site official shall collect substitution sheets, games cards, and referee game reports from referee at the end of each match.
- b. All players are only required to play half the time they are at the field and available to play their scheduled match. Example: If a player arrives at halftime, they must play $\frac{1}{4}$ of the match.
- c. Each team must maintain the official Substitution Record sheet during the game - documenting the minutes each player is out of the match.

- d. Coaches shall review substitution sheet at half time to ensure all players are receiving required playing time. Sheet shall be signed and given to site official at the end of match.
- e. Random monitoring of free substitution shall be conducted by Area League officials.
- f. Each team is required to submit a substitution sheet. Sub sheet must be filled out by a parent/spectator. Substitution sheets must be turned into the referee immediately following the whistle at the end of each match. Teams might be asked to submit an additional comparison substitution sheet (two parents will fill out two separate substitution sheets per game).
- g. Area G league coordinator shall be notified within 48 hours of any suspected violation of substitution.

X. STANDINGS - UPPER DIVISIONS LEAGUE PLAY

- a. Standings in league play, points shall be awarded as follows:

Win/Forfeit – 3 points

Tie – 1 point

Loss – 0 Points

Potential misconduct-point deductions will be assigned as follows:

Send Off = 2 misconduct-points

Caution = 1 misconduct-point.

A team shall lose 1 point in league standings when 10 misconduct-points are accrued and 1 point for each additional 5 misconduct-points thereafter.

- b. Tie breakers for standings at the conclusion of league play shall be as follows:

1. Cards issued (yellow and red) for coaches and players.

2. Head-to head play (outcome of the match involving tied teams).

3. Goal differential: goal scored, less goal allowed, maximum differential of three (3) goal per match. (All league matches not including practice games, and not limited to head-to head games).

4. Coin Toss

IX. PLAYOFFS

- a. One (1) hour prior to your game time, coaches shall present themselves along with the entire team to the official at the check-in area. Team line-up cards, rosters, player registration (medical authorization) forms and uniforms will be inspected.
- b. Referee shall allow a grace period of fifteen (15) minutes before cancelling the game. A team not ready at the time shall forfeit the match. If a team does not show for a scheduled match, its opponent will be awarded a 1-0 victory by forfeit (3 points). The AD may impose additional sanctions if the forfeiting team gains an advantage by the forfeit.

- c. Properly completed lineup cards in uniform number order shall be presented to the official prior to the start of the game and shall include the names of all players, present or not, and an explanation of absences.
- d. Standings in pool play, points shall be awarded as follows:
 - Win - 3 points
 - Tie- 1 point
 - Loss -0 points
 - Forfeit - 3 points
 - RED CARD = 2-point deduction for team (includes 2 points for each player, substitute, or coach.)
 - YELLOW CARD = 1 point deduction for team
- e. Tie Breakers for standings at the conclusion of playoffs shall be as follows:
 - 1. Cards issued (yellow and red) for coaches and players.
 - 2. Head-to-head play (outcome of the game involving the tied teams)
 - 3. Goal differential: goals scored, less goals allowed, maximum differential of three (3) goals per match. This applies to all playoff matches, not limited to head-to-head.
 - 4. Coin toss
- f. Referee shall allow 15-minute grace period for teams to have the noted minimum number of players (see table above)
- g. If the minimum is not available after the grace period, the referee shall note the circumstances on the game card and Area officials shall determine outcome of the match. (This should end in a forfeit)
- h. Playoff game durations will be reduced as follows:
 - a. 10U & 12U – 20 minute halves
 - b. 14U – 25 minute halves
 - c. 16U & 19U – 30 minute halvesSemi-Final or final match will be full length match if time allows. AD will determine time allotted.
- i. A site official shall be at all games.

Lower Divisions

- a. The schedule shall allow for each region to have 2 teams per division participate.
- b. Teams shall be divided into 2 pools. Pool groupings shall be drawn by Area G Regional Commissioners. Draw shall be conducted so that, where possible, regional teams do not play each other in pool rounds.
- c. Teams must report for all scheduled games unless otherwise notified by a Region or League official. Cancellations or “no shows” may result in a regions participation of a second team in said division.

Upper Divisions

- a. Points accumulated in Area Play will reset to zero. Suspensions received must still be served, but only cards issued in Area Playoffs will be used in the Tiebreaker.

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