

**AYSO REGION 7  
PARENT HANDBOOK  
2011-2012 SEASON**



**Cheryl Savitt**  
Regional Commissioner  
310-215-9024  
rc@ayso7.org

**[www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org)**

**The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)** is a national organization serving approximately 600,000 players across the nation. The force that drives the program is a dedicated network of over 200,000 volunteers. These men and women are the parents of the children in the program. That's right—you and people like you. Your child's experience in AYSO will depend on your participation. Keep this in mind as you decide which aspect of the program your talents may serve.

AYSO Region 7 serves Playa Vista, Westchester, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Marina Del Rey, and Playa Del Rey. During the fall 2010 season, approximately 1,400 children and young adults participated in our region.

## **MISSION**

The AYSO Mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs where everyone builds positive character through participation in a fun, fair, safe, family environment based on the AYSO philosophies:

**Everyone Plays** - Our Region's goal is for kids to play soccer - so we mandate that each player on every team must play at least three-quarters of every game.

**Balanced Teams** - Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play each other.

**Positive Coaching** - Kids win when they are built up, not when they are torn 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.

**Open Registration** - Our program is open to all children between 4½ and 18 years of age who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.

**Good Sportsmanship** - We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-cost attitude. Our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

**Player Development** - We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

**The core values guiding AYSO are:**

Fun for all! Education for all! Ethics for all! Accessible to all!

## **Kids Zone Pledge**

AYSO has initiated the Kids Zone concept. The intent is to focus on the fact that AYSO is Kids Play. You may be asked to sign and abide by the Kids Zone Parent Pledge.

1. I pledge to be on time or early when dropping off my child for a practice or game. I understand that it is embarrassing for my child to be late to a game or practice and that I am putting him/her at physical risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I understand the importance of picking up my child on time for all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, who has other time commitments, and it tells my child that he or she is my top priority.
2. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids, and that I will encourage my child to have fun and keep sport in its proper perspective. I understand that athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive.
3. I will redefine what it is to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child. A Winner is someone who makes maximum effort, continues to learn and improve, and does not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, stop them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that I will redefine what it is to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child. A Winner is someone who makes maximum effort, continues to learn and improve, and does not let people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self.
4. I will "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example of sportsmanship to my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and referees. I understand that officials, coaches and players make mistakes. If the referee makes a "questionable" call, I will continue to respect the individual and be silent. I understand that games can be exciting times for my child who is trying to deal with the fast-paced action of the game, respond to opponents, referees, teammates and listen to coaches. I will not add confusion by yelling out instructions. During the game, I will limit my comments to encouraging my child and other players for both teams.
5. I will not make negative comments about the game, coaches, referees or teammates in my child's presence. I understand that this plants a seed, which can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience.

## COMPETITION

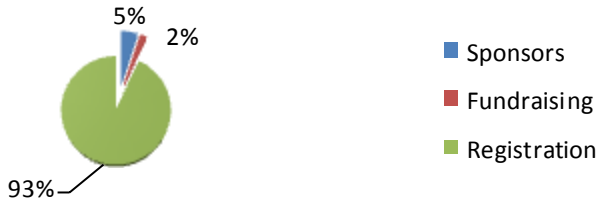
Athletic contests naturally involve competition. AYSO desires to create a healthy environment in which games are played through its philosophies of Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship and through its participation in the CHARACTER COUNTS! COALITION. Region 7 recognizes that the intensity of competition increases as players' skills and age grow. AYSO carefully designed its programs, especially the training and instruction of coaches and referees, to accommodate this fact. The various Codes Of Ethics seek to keep the AYSO soccer experience Safe, Fair, & Fun.

## AYSO REGION 7 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

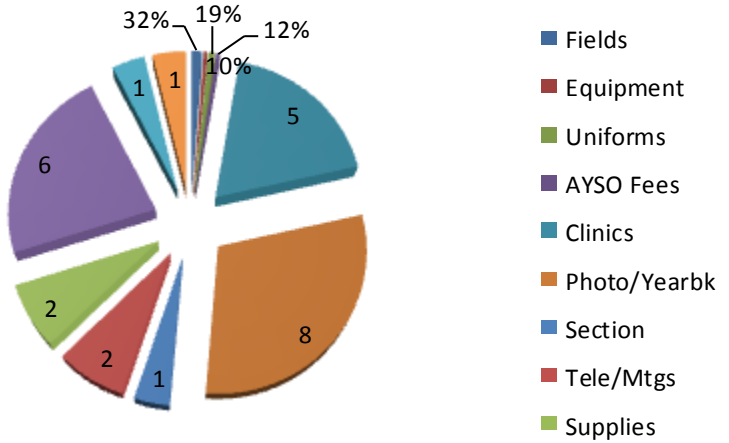
Region 7 maintains a reserve fund for the purpose of meeting future field development needs consistent with AYSO Guidelines.

	<b>2011-2012 Budget</b>	<b>2010-2011 Actuals</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Registration	\$ 178,960.00	\$ 174,580.00
Sponsorship	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Fundraising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 275.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 190,960.00</b>	<b>\$ 179,355.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
AYSO Fees	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 23,818.00
Uniforms	\$ 34,851.00	\$ 38,607.00
Equipment	\$ 19,170.00	\$ 28,352.00
Fields	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 45,470.00
Field Development	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Awards/Scholarship	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 8,188.00
Playoff Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Supplies	\$ 4,018.00	\$ 2,518.00
Phone/Meetings	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,895.00
Section/NAGM	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 700.00
Photos Yearbook	\$ 15,425.00	\$ 5,868.00
Clinics	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,813.00
Contingency	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 190,214.00</b>	<b>\$ 171,729.00</b>

## 2011-2012 Budget Income



## 2011-2012 Budget Expenses



## **AYSO REGION 7 REGISTRATION AND REFUNDS**

The AYSO philosophies of Everyone Plays and Open Registration, mandate that there is no talent criteria for playing, only interest and enthusiasm. The Registration process includes four elements.

1. Each parent/guardian or player must submit a proof of age; ordinarily a copy of the player's birth certificate.
2. Each parent/guardian or player must submit a completely filled out eAYSO registration form, signed and dated by a parent/guardian. .
3. Each parent/guardian volunteers for some activity/position.
4. Payment of the applicable fee.

**Refunds must be requested in writing by sending a letter or email to the Regional Registrar:**

Withdrawal through 7/31	100%
Withdrawal after 7/31	No refund

### **AYSO REGION MANAGEMENT**

AYSO Region 7 is managed by a volunteer executive board. **Check [www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org)** for a complete list of board members.

### **AYSO REGION 7 BOARD MEETINGS**

Between April and January, the Board meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome. Check **[www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org)** for the location

## **VOLUNTEERS**

AYSO Region 7 is an all-volunteer organization. Everyone must volunteer to make this a successful year for the players. Your volunteer efforts are needed both for duties to support your child's team and for duties to support the Region's activities. Registered volunteers will be provided training and certified. The key positions are the coaches and referees. If you don't qualify as a coach or perform another key volunteer job, we can't guaranty that your child will be placed on a team.

## **COACHES**

All coaches are volunteers. Registered coaches will be trained and certified. AYSO provides a range of coaching courses, beginning with the U-6 course. Each course develops both coaching skills and the AYSO philosophy of the volunteers. Each course is tailored to a specific age group of players and consists of classroom lectures and on-field demonstrations. Note that the role of the coach is to work with the players. Team administrative duties are to be handled by a team manager.

## **REFEREES**

All referees are volunteers. No previous soccer experience is necessary. Registered referees will be trained and certified. AYSO provides its own training courses, leading to four different badges, known as Regional, Intermediate, Advanced, and National, which develop the refereeing skills and philosophy of the volunteers. One of the most important elements of AYSO is the recognition that our referees are volunteers and are doing their absolute best. No harassment of referees will be tolerated. We invite all those who have opinions about referees and their abilities to obtain AYSO referee training and to join our referee staff.

## **SAFETY AND UNIFORMS**

Region 7 supplies each player with a uniform consisting of a jersey with the original AYSO logo, a pair of socks, and shorts. Each player is expected to provide his/her own appropriate footwear and shin guards. Players who arrive game day without their uniform may be prohibited from playing. Players may not wear chains, watches, earrings, bandannas or other ornamentation or anything else that is likely to cause risk of injury to him/herself or to the other players during games. Nothing may be added to the uniform issued by the Region. Coaches must report all serious injuries to the Safety Director. See [www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org).

## **FIELDS AND PARKING**

Nielsen Park

Westchester High School

Westchester Park

Orville Wright Middle School

Playa Vista Field

The Campus At Playa Vista

Any other site we can develop

Refer to [www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org) for directions to the fields.

Please observe all parking regulations at and near our soccer fields. Do not park at red curbs or where fire lanes are marked. Emergency vehicles must be able to access the fields. Failure to observe parking restrictions may cost AYSO the use of these fields.

L.A.U.S.D. field permits stipulate that fields open at 8:00 A.M. on Saturdays. At Orville Wright, please park only in the parking lot located at the corner of 80<sup>th</sup> Street and Cowan Avenue. Anyone parking on Cowan Avenue will receive a parking ticket. When using Westchester High Football field, please use the large lot at the corner of Manchester and Park Hill.



## **Game Day**

Set up of the fields involves setting up the goals, nets, flags and marking the field. Allow a minimum of one half hour before the scheduled game time for set up. Taking down involves placing nets, flags and, perhaps goals, and placing them in the assigned storage facilities. Each team throughout the day must pick up the trash at the field as they depart. No trash shall be left on the ground at any facility. All trash may be placed in the dumpsters at the facility, but not in the facility's trash containers near the fields. The region policy is that: any thing carried in gets carried out including any trash.

We play in the rain. The division commissioners will be contacted if fields are not playable, and in turn he/she will call the division coaches, who will then call the team players. Plan to play even if it is raining!

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLAYERS AND PARENTS**

The highest standards of conduct and good sportsmanship must be maintained at all times. Abusive, insulting or foul language is forbidden. The use of alcohol or tobacco products in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games is strictly forbidden. No pets are permitted near any field or within the fences of any facility where fields are located.

Spectators at games must remain behind the spectator line (three yards from the touch line) and between the penalty areas. Their vocal efforts should be limited to positive compliments to the participants. Under no circumstance should parents or spectators attempt to instruct any players or address derogatory remarks to players or referees or use mechanical noisemakers of any sort.

Acceptance of a place on any AYSO team implies a commitment to that team on the part of the player and his/her parents. That commitment includes the obligation to arrive and leave on time for any scheduled practice or game and to actively participate and cooperate with the coach and other players. A player who fails to fulfill this commitment may be subject to disciplinary procedures in the following order:

- a. Verbal notification/discussion of problem by coach
- b. Written notification of continuing problem by the Division Commissioner
- c. Suspension from game(s) by the Division Commissioner with approval of the Regional Commissioner.
- d. Suspension from team by the Division Commissioner with approval of the Regional Commissioner.

It is not the responsibility of an AYSO coach to transport or babysit team members. A child not picked up within 15 minutes of the end of practice or a game will not be left unattended, but will be entrusted to the care of a responsible adult. The child's parent/guardian has the responsibility of locating the responsible adult.

Parents/guardians who habitually fail to pick up their child in a timely manner will be asked by the coach to make adequate arrangements or risk suspension of their child from the team. The Division Commissioner, if suspension becomes necessary and is approved by the Regional Commissioner, will notify the parent/guardian.

- **FIELD RULES—ALL LOCATIONS**
  - **NO ABUSIVE, INSULTING, OR FOUL LANGUAGE.**
  - **NO BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, OR SKATEBOARDS.**
  - **NO UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN.**
  - **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES.**
  - **POSITIVE CHEERING ONLY**
  - **BOTH TEAMS SET UP FOR FIRST GAME.**
  - **BOTH TEAMS TAKE DOWN AFTER LAST GAME.**
  - **NO PETS.**
  - **NO ALCOHOL.**
  - **NO SMOKING.**
- CARRY YOUR TRASH HOME WITH YOU**

## TEAM FORMATION

The Division Commissioner supervises team formation. Team formation takes place in mid August. Your coach will call you in late August to notify you of practice and meeting times.

## DIVISION ORGANIZATION OF AYSO REGION 7

Date of Birth between:

U5	-----	8/1/06 to 7/31/07 inclusive
U6	-----	8/1/05 to 7/31/06 inclusive
U7	-----	8/1/04 to 7/31/05 inclusive
U8	-----	8/1/03 to 7/31/04 inclusive
U10	-----	8/1/01 to 7/31/03 inclusive
U12	-----	8/1/99 to 7/31/01 inclusive
U14	-----	8/1/97 to 7/31/99 inclusive
U16	-----	8/1/95 to 7/31/97 inclusive
U19	-----	8/1/92 to 7/31/95 inclusive

Remember, all ages in AYSO are determined as of July 31<sup>st</sup>. For example, if your child turns six on August 1 of this year, your child is a five-year-old as far as AYSO and AYSO age divisions are concerned

## INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISIONS

These divisions are purely instructional; no game results or standings are kept. The season ends before Thanksgiving. Three adults (the coach, assistant coach and another parent) should be present at all team events. Your child is expected to be present for the entire period of all practices and games.

**4 and 5 year olds: (U5 & U6) Boys and Girls.** Each game day, teams are scheduled for 60 minutes, about 2/3 of which is practice followed by a short-sided (5 v 5) game for the last 1/3 of the scheduled time (about 20 minutes of playing time.) Since there are no weekday practices, you and your child are expected to be present for the entire period.

**6 year olds: Under 7 (U7) Boys & Girls.** Play at this age division consists of short-sided games (5 v 5). Practices may prior to their Saturday game.

**7 year olds: Under 8 (U8) Boys & Girls.** Games are short-sided (7 v 7) with goals keepers. Practices may occur once during the week, but may be no longer than 90 minutes. Character Counts! All Stars will be selected and honored.

**VIP Program: Boys & Girls, all ages with special needs.** Short-sided games are played. Some inter-region play with nearby AYSO Regions may be scheduled. See [www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org) for more information

## **COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS**

All teams in competitive divisions are formed in accordance with the AYSO philosophy of Balanced Teams. No team requests will be honored other than placing siblings playing in the same division together on a team.

**8-13 year olds: Under 10 (U10), Under 12 (U12), and Under 14 (U14) Boys and Girls.** Practices typically occur once or twice a week for about 90 minutes each. U10 plays short-sided (8v8) games while U12 and U14 play full field (11v11) games. In U14, there may be occasional inter-regional play with travel to nearby regions. Game results are kept. A champion team will be determined in each division. Character Counts! All Stars will be selected and honored. An all star coach and team will be selected, but will not be announced until all league champions are determined. League champions, possible wild card teams, and all star teams will compete in January and February in the Area D Tournament against comparable teams from El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, Lennox, North Redondo and South Redondo. Select teams from these divisions may be formed to enter various AYSO tournaments with permission of the Regional Commissioner.

**Players must play 2/3 of their regular season games to be eligible to play in All-stars or post-season play.**

**U16 & U19 Divisions.** This program is for high school age players. These divisions follow Area D Rules and Regulations. The season ends in mid-November to conform with CIF rules that govern high school players. U16 and U19 teams play against comparable teams from AYSO Regions representing El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, North Redondo, and South Redondo and may play at fields throughout those communities



**Questions?**

**Check our Website throughout the season**

**Helpful Information**

**AYSO Region 7 Web site**

[www.ayso7.org](http://www.ayso7.org)

**AYSO Area1D Web site**

[www.ayso1d.org](http://www.ayso1d.org)

**AYSO National Web site**

[www.ayso.org](http://www.ayso.org)

**AYSO Store**

[www.aysostore.com](http://www.aysostore.com)