



Davis AYSO Region 218

PARENT HANDBOOK

Davis AYSO Region 218

P.O. Box 1602

Davis, CA 95617

(530) 979-1344

<http://www.davisayso.org>

A non-profit organization

AUGUST 2006





Davis - American Youth Soccer Organization
It's for the KIDS!



Davis - American Youth Soccer Organization
<http://www.davisayso.org>

Davis AYSO Fall Season Refund Policy

While we recognize that plans change, and that it is difficult to know what you will be doing months in advance, we cannot always provide a full refund if you decide that you cannot participate in the Fall season after you have registered. There are certain unrecoverable costs that AYSO incurs at various times after you register. In addition, a tremendous amount of work goes into balancing teams, and having a player drop out after balancing has been done creates a significant amount of additional work for our staff.

For refund policies and deadlines, please see our website, under **FALL SEASONS, Refund Policy & Deadlines**, as these dates tend to change each year.

To request a refund you must submit a **Refund Request Form** found on our website under FORMS. You may choose to submit the form as an attachment by email to the Registrar at registrar@davisayso.net or by mail to: Davis AYSO (Refund), P.O. Box 1602, Davis, CA 95617. **Please note that refund requests will take a minimum of two weeks to process.**

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Parents and Players,

Welcome to AYSO! As you read through this handbook (read it carefully, there may be a test later!), please keep in mind the 5 major points of the AYSO philosophy: **Everyone Plays, Open Registration, Balanced Teams, Positive Coaching, and Good Sportsmanship**. These are the foundations that our program is built on. Our emphasis is on fairness and sportsmanship. We teach players, referees and coaches to play a clean, fair, and conflict free game. As parents of an AYSO player it is expected that you will contribute to this atmosphere and give your child, coach, and the referees positive comments and keep good sportsmanship in mind at all times.

Did you know that AYSO is an *all volunteer* organization? We need **you** to help us make this the best season it can possibly be. It takes a tremendous number of people to run a program the size of ours. **EVERYBODY** has a responsibility to help with our program. We have a severe shortage of referees every year - why don't you volunteer to help? We will train you and supply you with a nifty uniform and whistle. If that is not of interest to you I am sure that we can find a job that you are suited for. Without **you** we cannot supply our children with the best soccer program available. If you would like to help please call me at 979-1344 and we can discuss where we need help.

I hope that you will have a fun season (I know the kids will). If you have any comments or things that you want to discuss, please feel free to talk to me any time you see me at the fields, email me at commissioner@davisayso.net, or call me at 979-1344.

Steve Brown
Regional Commissioner
Davis AYSO



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Davis Community Network

The Davis AYSO Staff uses e-mail extensively for internal communications. In addition, we maintain e-mail mailing lists for coaches, referees, and the general membership. For those people who can access it, our World Wide Web Page is full of up-to-date information on a variety of subjects, including current season schedules, tournament information, clinic information, and more.



Our thanks to the Davis Community Network (DCN) for their invaluable support in this important tool.

Davis Parks & Recreation Department

Because of the size of our program AYSO places heavy demands on the Davis Parks & Recreation Department. We would like to thank everyone in that department for their patience and the extensive help that they give to our program.





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SECTION 1

AYSO

What is AYSO? Why are we here?

AYSO HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) was founded in September 1964 in Torrance, California. At that time, there were very limited options available for youth soccer players. In the first season, there were only nine teams of 9 to 12 year-olds. AYSO has now expanded worldwide to over 50,000 teams and 650,000 players ranging in age from 4¹/₂ to 18, including the newest two international regions in Moscow and Puerto Rico. The Davis Region (218) was established in 1979.

AYSO is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing an opportunity for young people to learn to develop a positive self image, self confidence and other positive character traits through their interest and participation in soccer. The five guiding principles of AYSO are:

- 1 **Everyone Plays**
- 2 **Balanced Teams**
- 3 **Open Registration**
- 4 **Positive Coaching**
- 5 **Good Sportsmanship**

How to Reach Us

There are a number of ways that you can get in contact with the staff of AYSO. We ask that you **PLEASE DO NOT CALL US AT HOME** unless there is an emergency. Have some consideration for our families.

You can reach us by one of the following methods:

- You can use e-mail for many of our staff members. Our current e-mail addresses can be found on our website under CONTACTS. This is the fastest way to contact someone, as most key contacts check email daily, and it's very easy for email to be re-routed to another person.
- Voice Mail system: call 979-1345 for registration related issues. Call 979-1344 for general questions, however please note that quick turn-around is difficult with voicemail in an all-volunteer organization. If there is a question about rained-out games, call 979-1344 and the recording will have the latest information about rain-outs.
- During the Fall season you can leave a note at our AYSO Building (Community Park, near the Community Pool).

Regional Board

AYSO is a non-profit corporation run by an Executive Director and a national office staff under the direction of a Board of Directors. There are over 1100 individual regions throughout the country.

Region 218, Davis, is administered by a Regional Executive Board appointed by the Regional Commissioner. The Davis Regional Executive Board consists of a:

- Regional Commissioner
- Assistant Regional Commissioner
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Regional Coach Administrator
- Regional Referee Administrator
- CVPA
- Registrar
- Safety Director

The Executive Board is responsible to the Regional Commissioner for operations within the region. Like the Regional Commissioner, the Regional Board members serve in a volunteer capacity. The Regional Board meets approximately once a month. The meetings are open to AYSO parents.

If you are interested in serving on the Regional Executive Board, email the regional Commissioner at commissioner@davisayso.net, or leave a message at 979-1344.



SECTION 12

Administration

AYSO Board Members and Volunteers



Although AYSO is committed to recreational soccer, we are also concerned that the competition be healthy and positive. Most importantly, AYSO believes that soccer should be fun for everyone involved (including players, coaches, referees and parents). After all, since AYSO is a volunteer organization, we should all be having fun and enjoying ourselves!

Potential Activity Conflicts

Over 2300 children on over 190 teams play AYSO soccer in Davis. Thus, it is impossible for teams, practices or games to be rearranged due to non-AYSO activities. Games are usually played on Saturdays, with very limited exceptions.

Eligibility

Davis AYSO is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 18 as of July 31st of this year, subject to field availability and volunteer support.

Registration

Formal registration of players is held during the spring of each year preceding the fall playing season. Late registrations will be accepted and placed on a waiting list. Registration fees are set annually by the Regional Board. A limited number of scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. Partial refunds may be available in the case of players who withdraw. For more information on our Refund Policy, please see page 42, or look on our website under Fall Seasons.



SECTION 2

About our Program

Who to Contact in Davis AYSO

HOW TO CONTACT AYSO

There are a number of ways that you can contact us, or get information about our program.

Phone

Davis AYSO maintains a voice mail system with a variety of options as well as AYSO email addresses. We would appreciate it if you would, as a first choice, use email, then optionally leave a phone message. Please try not to call our volunteers directly at home. The 979-1344 general phone number is the best way to find out about rained out games. During tournament season, we may activate another phone number, 979-1346, and issue tournament related information.

Dry the skin after the body temperature drops to a safe level (101 degrees F).

4. When the victim is able to drink, give all the water wanted
5. Treat for shock and obtain medical help immediately

Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion happens when the body becomes overheated. The body's methods of cooling itself fail.

When the weather is hot and someone begins acting strangely or feels faint and nauseous, suspect heat exhaustion. Look for these signs:

1. Body temperature above 98.6 degrees F but below 102 degrees F
2. Skin pale and clammy
3. Heavy sweating
4. Dizziness and fainting
5. Tiredness and weakness
6. Nausea and tiredness
7. Headache
8. Muscle cramps

Have the person lie down in a shady, cool spot with feet raised. Loosen clothing. Cool the victim with cool, wet cloths or a fan. Have the person sip water to which a pinch of salt has been added.

Recovery is usually rapid. If symptoms persist, however, consult a physician.

Heat Cramps

These are painful muscle spasms caused by loss of salt from the body, brought on by sweating and heat stress. While they are the least serious of heat exposure problems, muscle cramps can be a painful problem for people who work or do strenuous exercise in hot surroundings.

Heavy sweating and painful muscle cramping in arms, legs, and belly are the symptoms. Heat cramps may be associated with heat exhaustion.

Move the victim to a cool place and give sips of salted drinking water (1 teaspoon salt to 1 quart water). Apply firm pressure or gently massage to help relieve the muscle spasms.



will cover some or all of your costs (subject to a deductible). Details of this plan are available in a brochure that you should receive at registration. If you do not have a brochure, please ask your coach to get a copy for you.

4. In order to make a claim, you must first make a claim for payment with your family's and/or your employer's group medical plan. To make a claim to AYSO you must fill in the proper claim form and submit it to the Regional Safety Director, who will help you with your claim.
5. As all claims must be submitted to the National Office within 90 days of the injury, it is imperative that accidents be reported to our Regional Safety Director immediately.
6. Coaches and referees will report any injury to the Safety Director. Our Safety Director will assist the parents or guardians in making the claim.

ALL ACCIDENTS MUST BE REPORTED EVEN IF NO CLAIM IS GOING TO BE FILED!



HEAT FIRST AID

Heatstroke (Sunstroke)

Less common than heat exhaustion, heat stroke is much more serious. It occurs when extremely high temperatures overwhelm the body's heat control system. The body's cooling mechanisms become so overworked they simply stop working. As a result, the victim's temperature soars, becoming life-threatening.

Heatstroke pushes the body temperature to 102 degrees F or higher — usually higher than 105 degrees F. Signs include:

1. Skin red, hot, and dry
2. No sweating
3. Pulse extremely rapid
4. Confusion or disorientation
5. Fainting or unconsciousness
6. Convulsions

You must cool the victim immediately. Take the following steps:

1. Move to a cool, shaded spot
2. Place the victim face up with head and shoulders raised
3. Cool body temperature as quickly as you can. Take off the victim's outer clothing. Sponge bare skin with cold water and soak underclothing with cool water; drape bare skin with wet cloths; apply apply cold packs; use a fan; place victim in a tub of cold water.

E-Mail

If you have access to email, this is often the best way to contact us. We have the following standard email addresses - others are listed at our web page under CONTACTS.

- commissioner@davisayso.net
Regional Commissioner
- coachadmin@davisayso.net
Coach Administrator
- refereeadmin@davisayso.net
Referee Administrator
- registrar@davisayso.net
Registrar

We also maintain several email mailing lists that we use to send important notices. You can subscribe to any of these lists by browsing the following web page:

<http://www.davisayso.org/contacts.htm#emallistserve>

From there, you can sign up for any and all of these lists:

- *ayso-coaches*: coaches notices, team and equipment info, etc.
- *ayso-referees*: referee notices, clinic info, game scheduling, etc.
- *ayso-announce*: general info (if you are not on one of the other lists – great for parents)

Davis AYSO Website

You can check our website at www.davisayso.org for the latest information about our program.





SECTION 3

AYSO Volunteers

Please read this because we need your help!

AYSO is ALL VOLUNTEER

Davis AYSO is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization, and we need everyone to contribute time! Every parent should be able to find a way to help the program. After all, it's for the kids!



Please help us out however you can. We have a wide variety of jobs available, including coaching (we will train you), refereeing (we will train you AND supply your equipment), maintaining and distributing equipment, being a member of the AYSO board, making phone calls, and much, much more.

If you want to help, you can volunteer when you register your child, you can email us at commissioner@davisayso.net, or you can contact us via our voice mail system at 979-1344.

We are trying to divide the jobs up into small portions so that no one person has too much to do. The more people that volunteer, the less work anyone has to do!

- Tip unused goals onto their goal face, or chain goals to nearby fenceposts, dugouts, or any other similar fixture.
- Check all connecting hardware before each use. Replace damaged or missing fasteners immediately.
- Ensure safety labels are clearly visible.
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.

The Commission knows of a number of deaths that occurred since 1979 and were associated with mobile soccer goal tip-over. The victims ranged in age from 3 years to 22 years, and generally were not involved in the game of soccer when the incident occurred.

The typical tip-over incident happened when a child or young adult climbed on or hung from the crossbar of a soccer goal which was left unattended or improperly anchored. The heavy goal toppled onto and crushed the individual. In one case, the unanchored goal was blown onto the victim by a gust of wind.

The goals were constructed of wood, metal or plastic, and were either homemade, non-branded, or produced professionally by soccer goal manufacturers. Mobile-style soccer goals are used by private and public elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and municipal playgrounds and recreation areas.

Soccer Accident Insurance

Soccer has a low injury rate and is generally considered to be a safe sport. However, participants in any athletic activity may suffer injury.

AYSO provides Soccer Accident Insurance to supplement your current medical insurance. This covers accidents that occur during scheduled games, tournaments, and practices, as well as while traveling under adult supervision to or from scheduled games, tournaments, and practices.

All registered players are covered by this plan. In addition, all referees and coaches who fill out the proper volunteer registration form are covered.

You should be aware of the steps to take if your child (or yourself if you are a registered volunteer) sustains an injury.

1. If a player is injured at practice or at a game, notify the coach and the referee (if present) immediately. Fill out an accident report regardless.
2. If it looks as if the injured player should see a doctor, seek medical care immediately.
3. The AYSO Soccer Accident Insurance plan is intended to be a supplement to your regular medical insurance. If you are covered by an HMO or prepaid health plan you must follow the rules of that organization. If there are costs that exceed your current coverage, or if you do not have medical coverage of your own, the AYSO Soccer Accident Insurance



SECTION 11

Safety and Health

Goal Safety, Soccer Accident Insurance, First Aid

Goal Safety

No one under the age of 18 is allowed to handle soccer goals.

Players handling or playing within 20 feet of a goal that is being erected, can be issued a yellow card.

Moveable soccer goals can tip over, causing injury or death. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Coalition to Promote Safe Soccer Goals announced a warning label and safety information program on April 10, 1992 to address the hazard of mobile soccer goal tip-over when children climb on or hang from the goal.

To help avoid these incidents, CPSC and the Coalition urge consumers, school officials, soccer coaches, players, and organizers to follow these safety guidelines:

- Securely anchor or counterweight portable goals at all times.
- Never climb on the net or goal framework.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.

Never Climb on Goals!

Administration

A variety of administrative positions are available for assistance if not already open.

- Regional Commissioner
- Assistant Regional Commissioner
- Health & Safety Director
- Treasurer
- Registrar
- Board Secretary
- Coach Administrator
- Referee Administrator

Coaching & Refereeing

We need people who are interested in participating in the Coach and Referee staffs (education, communication, various administrative positions). Each year we need to recruit enough coaches and referees to staff 185+ teams during the Fall season alone, and 60+ teams during the Spring!

Davis AYSO **provides training** for all levels of coaches and referees.

Operational Committees

With over 2300 children participating, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in putting on our program. Rather than assign major jobs to a few individuals, we are forming committees to work on the various aspects of AYSO soccer. Each committee needs one or two people to manage it, and a varying number of members to do the work. Here is a partial list of the committees that we have:

- **Uniforms:** ordering, organizing, and distributing team uniforms.
- **Fields:** Making sure the fields are in playable condition, managing net & goal setup & takedown, repairing and purchasing goals and nets, helping with equipment distribution and management.
- **AYSO Bldg:** assist at the AYSO Bldg. at Community Park answering questions, directing people to fields, distributing information and maintenance/clean-up of the building.
- **Tournaments:** we run several tournaments during the year (Fall Season, Area, Davis World Cup, Select), and we need a group of people to organize each one.
- **Team Equipment:** preparing the thousands of soccer balls, cones, and goalkeeper equipment for the upcoming season, distributing the equipment, collecting it at the end of the season.

There are jobs that take a lot of time, jobs that take little time, jobs that go all year, jobs that take only a few days. There is a job for EVERYONE! Please volunteer to help the program, your kids won't have a wonderful AYSO soccer experience if everyone doesn't pitch in to help.



SECTION 4

Parents

What we expect the parents to do...

Parent Participation is Expected!

It is expected that each parent who has a player in the Region will volunteer her or his services in some way. Parents can help in a wide variety of ways: coaches or assistant coaches; referees or assistant referees; board members or staff, team snack coordinators, practice assistants, first aid parents, transportation coordinators, etc. Parents are expected to set up the fields (put up goals, nets and corner flags) when their child's team has the first scheduled game of the day and to take down the fields when it is the last game of the day.

Additionally, each team is scheduled to fill some time slots on **only one weekend of the season**, in which the parents filling those slots either hand out equipment from the AYSO building in the morning, or receive it from the fields (the take-down parents) later in the day. This is a special, one-time obligation, so please communicate with your coach to know when your timeslot is, and whether all slots for your team have been filled. Then help get everyone signed up to work those slots that day. Davis AYSO is a rewarding experience for both players and their parents. Please get involved. We need your help. You'll be glad you did!

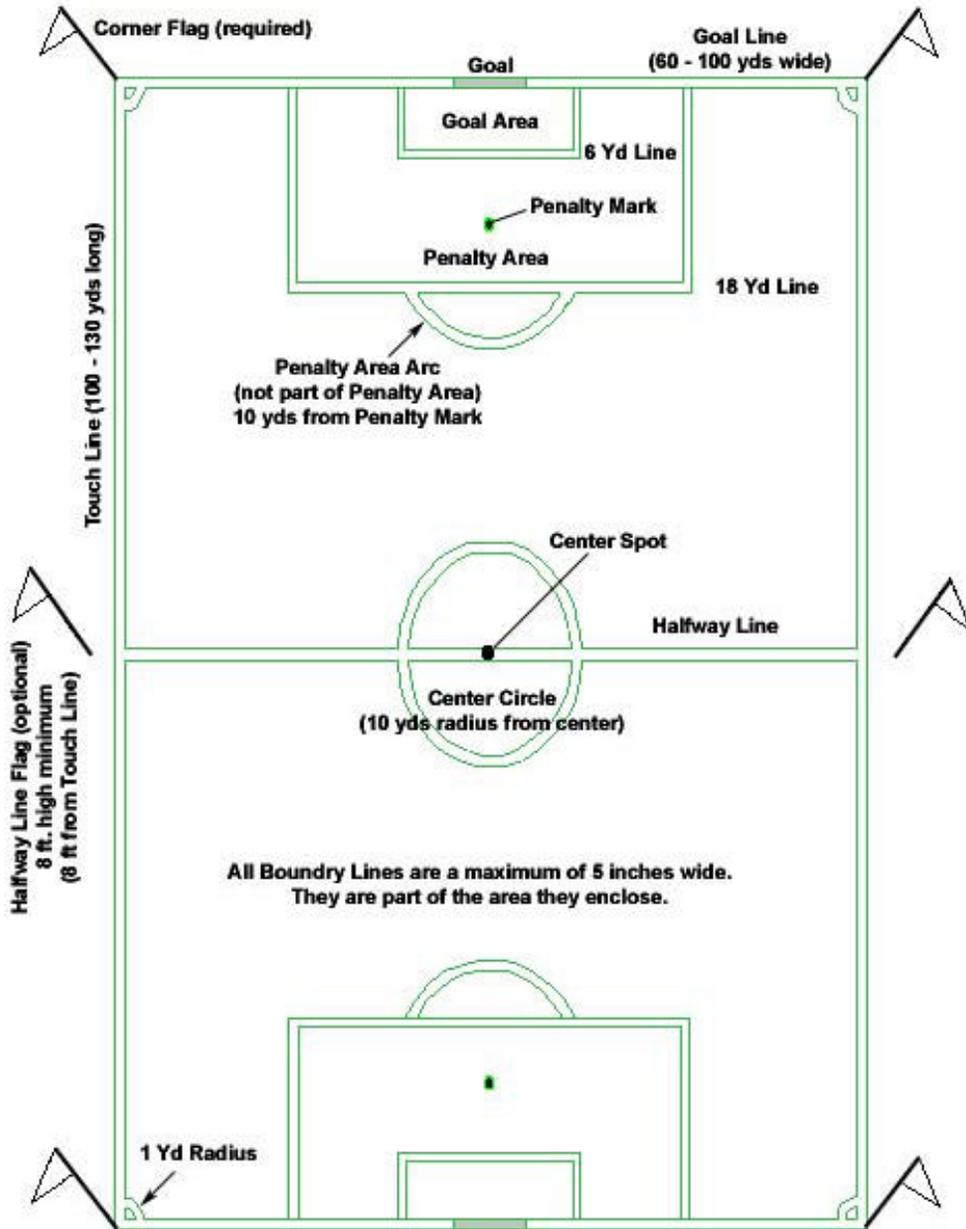
Advantage Claus

Soccer is one of the few sports where the referee, at his/her discretion, may refrain from penalizing a foul and allow play to continue. This power is known as the Advantage Clause. Referees allow the "advantage" when they decide that stopping play for the foul would cause a disadvantage to the fouled team, and then only when no serious loss of game control would result. If an applied advantage does not materialize as expected, within 2-3 seconds AND the ball is still in play, the referee is entitled to call the initial foul and bring the ball back to that point.



Bill of Rights for Young Athletes

- 1 Right of opportunity to participate in sports regardless of ability level.
- 2 Right to participate at a level which is commensurate with each child's skill level.
- 3 Right to have qualified adult leaders.
- 4 Right to participate in safe and healthy environments.
- 5 Right to share in the leadership and decision making of the sport.
- 6 Right to play as a child and not as an adult.
- 7 Right to proper preparation for participation in the sport.
- 8 Right to equal opportunity to strive for success.
- 9 Right to be treated with dignity by all.
- 10 Right to have fun through sport.



A Word for Parents

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

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

Soccer today is a booming sport all over the world. A quick look at the game's structure shows why. Play is fast, spirited and continuous. One of its strongest attributes is its fluid quality in that much of the action is made up as the game progresses. It's no wonder that more and more children and adults everywhere are playing soccer.

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

Tools for Parents

The following ideas may be helpful for being a supportive AYSO parent.

- Tell your child you love him/her regardless of the outcome.
- Tell him or her "Go for it, give it your best shot and have fun!"

- Understand that kids are over-stimulated during games. The coach may be giving instructions, opponents and teammates are talking, the crowd is cheering, and the referee is blowing the whistle. To a youth sports participant, the atmosphere is much like that of a fighter pilot with enemy jets racing all around. Do not yell instructions to your child during the game because it only adds to the confusion. Sometimes the best thing you can do as a parent is to be quiet.
- Cheer and acknowledge good plays by both teams.

After the game -

- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.
- Thank the coaches for their efforts. After a difficult loss, recognize that it is not a good time to question a coach.
- Thank your opponents for a good game.
- Congratulate your child and his or her teammates for their efforts.
- Compliment individual players on good plays they made in the game.
- Point out a good play your child made during the game.
- Avoid criticizing or correcting mistakes.
- Ask open-ended questions about how the game was played rather than how many points were scored. Here are examples of open-ended questions that might apply:

- What did you enjoy today?
- What was the hardest part of the game? What was the easiest?
- What did you learn from the game?
- What was the best play you made and how did it feel?



SECTION 5

Conduct

*How we expect everyone to behave;
explanation of red/yellow cards*

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

It is AYSO policy that the playing experience shall be positive. Most children registered to play soccer with AYSO are enthusiastic, motivated, and sincerely interested in having a good time. Most of our AYSO families support our program and its volunteers by assisting their players to arrive at practices and games on time and properly equipped.

However, there is the realization that it may be necessary to administer some disciplinary action for the good of both player and team. For example, a player may experience difficulty in adjusting to team play or in getting along with team members or a family is not willing to help a player get to practices and/or games. These rare problems have a way of upsetting entire teams, even divisions, and must be addressed before the enjoyment of the majority of players and families is jeopardized.

involving other players in general. These other infractions are: playing in a dangerous manner, impeding the progress of an opponent, and preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball.

Misconduct

There are two types of misconduct: cautions (yellow cards) and send-offs (red cards). For more information on this subject, see Section 5.

Offside

If a player is in an offside position (in opponents' half of the field, and ahead of the second to last defender, and ahead of the ball) at the moment the ball is touched or played by a teammate and is involved in active play (by interfering play or by interfering with an opponent or by gaining an advantage by being in that position), that player has committed an infraction called offside.

Direct Free Kick (DFK)

Awarded to the opposing team if a team commits a penal foul outside of its own penalty area (also see Penalty Kick, below). All players of the offending team must move at least 10 yards from the ball. The kicker then takes the free kick. A goal may be scored from a DFK if the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal.

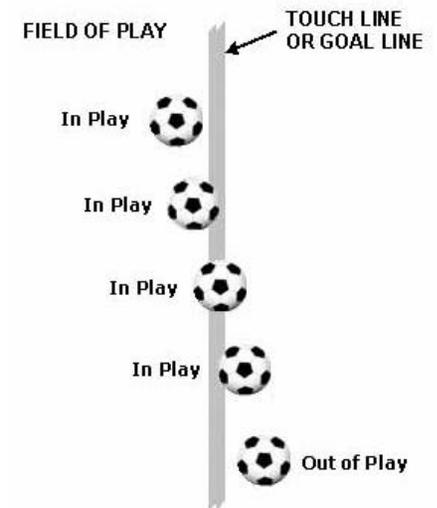
Indirect Free Kick (IFK)

Awarded to the opposing team if a team commits a non-penal foul or is offside. Otherwise like a DFK, with

the exception of the fact that the ball must touch a second player, offensive or defensive, before entering the goal and being considered a legal score.

Penalty Kick

Awarded when the defending team commits a penal foul within its own penalty area. Like a DFK, with the following variations: The ball is placed on the penalty mark. All players, with the exception of the kicker and the goalkeeper, must be outside the penalty area, be at least 10 yards away from the ball, and be no closer to the goal-line than the penalty mark. The goalkeeper must remain on the goal line between the two posts until the ball is kicked.





Forwards (Strikers)

Primary responsibility is to score, also assist the midfielders in shifting play from defense to offense. Forwards playing in the center of the field are known as strikers; those on the outside are wings or wingers.

It's important to remember that any player on a team may score a goal regardless of position. Also, physical size is not an important factor in becoming a skilled and successful player. Because of the game's pace, every child participates in the action.

The Laws of Soccer

AYSO uses the same laws used internationally with minor variations. The purpose of the laws is simply to make the game safe and fair. The officials, or referees, stop play for fouls or misconduct based on one basic "rule of thumb" - if it's unsafe or unfair, it's a violation.

Kickoff

Puts the ball in play from the center circle at the beginning of each half and after each goal is scored.

Throw-In

Taken along the touch-lines at the point where the ball went out of play. A throw-in is awarded to the team that was not responsible for the ball leaving the playing area.

Goal Kick

Taken by the defending team if the ball goes over its own goal line, last touched by the attacking team, and a goal was NOT scored. The ball is placed anywhere in the goal area and must be kicked by the defending team beyond the penalty area to be considered in play.

Corner Kick

Taken by the attacking team if the ball goes over the opponent's goal line, last touched by the defending team and a goal was not scored. The ball is placed within the corner arc in the corner of the field and kicked into play by the attacking team.

Penal Fouls

Penal Fouls are called when action between opposing players results in an unfair advantage. Six actions are penal fouls if done carelessly, recklessly or using excessive force: tripping, kicking, striking, pushing, charging, and jumping at an opponent.

Additionally, four other acts are considered penal fouls: making contact with an opponent before touching the ball when tackling, holding, spitting, and deliberate handling of the ball.

Non-Penal Fouls

Non-Penal fouls are broken into two categories; 1) technical violations by the goalkeeper involving handling the ball, and 2) other infractions



Game Conduct

The highest standards of conduct must be maintained at all times. By our participation in an AYSO Program, we have committed ourselves to its goals and objectives, which include a responsibility to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. This responsibility applies to players, coaches, parents and other spectators, and referees. Players whose conduct is not consistent with these ideals as specified in the Laws of the Game may be cautioned (Yellow Card) or sent-off (expelled) (Red Card) at the discretion of the referee. Similarly, coaches and spectators can be expelled by the referee. If an unruly player, coach or spectator refuses to leave the field when asked to do so by the referee, the referee may suspend or terminate the game.

Red Cards/ Yellow Cards

A player who has been sent-off or a coach who has been expelled will not be allowed to participate in the following game. The Judiciary Committee has the option to extend this to multiple games.

Game Protests

Protests of games are strongly discouraged and will not receive enthusiastic consideration. Referee judgment calls are final and are not grounds for protest. However, coaches may file with the Regional Commissioner a written report of any alleged misapplication of the basic rules within 48 hours. The Regional Commissioner, the Referee

Administrator and the Coach Administrator will review all reports pertaining to the event and may consult the Regional Board. The Regional Commissioner will advise the coaches, referees and the Regional Board of any decision and/or action taken in the matter. Referees have an obligation to file a written report of any abusive language used by coaches, players or spectators or for conduct which interfered with the proceedings of the game.

Conflict Resolution

The Regional Coach Administrator (RCA) is a resource for players, parents of players, and coaches to help with conflict resolution. If you feel that there is a problem relating to a player that you need AYSO to take a look at (conflict with a coach, conflicts with other players, etc.) then email the RCA for your division (Boys or Girls) at boysRCA@davisayso.net or girlsRCA@davisayso.net. Otherwise you can call our main phone line at 979-1344 and leave a message for an RCA to call you back.



Soccer Conduct

- Cheer positively for the play you like and encourage your team. Have fun!
- *Never* make derogatory comments about the other team or one of your child's teammates.
- The size of a soccer field and the continuous nature of the game seriously diminish the effectiveness of sideline coaching. Leave the coaching to the coach. Additionally, *coaching is limited to two coaches and to an area that extends ten yards from either side of the midfield line.* All coaching must be positive, encouraging, and instructive.
- Referees decisions are final. No useful purpose is served by shouting disagreement or derogatory remarks or making calls for the referee.
- All referees are to receive respect. They are also volunteers and are very important to our Regional AYSO program. Without their help, we would have a difficult time fulfilling our program needs.
- Harassing the referee or the coach is unwarranted and will not be tolerated.
- All spectators, players awaiting substitution and coaches are required to stand at least one yard from the touch-line. Please remember that the ball is not considered out of play until it is *completely over the touch-line.*

Thus a player may end up coming out of bounds in order to play a ball on top of the touch-line. It is for everyone's safety that this rule has been made. Coaches and referees enforce this rule.

- Spectators and players awaiting substitution are only allowed to stand along the sidelines between the penalty areas.
- Spectators, coaches and players awaiting substitution are not allowed behind the goal lines.
- Coaches may only enter the field of play with the consent of the referee.
- Whenever possible, the coaches should occupy the opposite sides of the field. The "home team" (the team listed first in the schedule) can pick the side. It is best if the parents can be on the same side of the field as the coach for their team.



A soccer game is played with a maximum of eleven players on each team on the field at any one time. However, in the younger divisions, we utilize small sided games with fewer players on each side to facilitate learning experience and player development.

Referees

AYSO provides referees with training, uniforms, and equipment. Given the large number of games that we have in the Fall season we are always looking for volunteers. Women and youths at least 12 years of age are especially encouraged to participate. If you are interested in information on becoming a referee please see our REFEREES webpage.

Coaches

With over 185 teams every Fall we always need people to volunteer to be coaches and assistant coaches. AYSO offers a series of coaching clinics, usually held in the summer, for beginning coaches through advanced. Even if you have coached in another organization or sport, we strongly recommend taking one of our coaching clinics.

Coaches are always assigned to the team that their child is on, unless otherwise requested. Coaching in AYSO is one of the most rewarding experiences you will have.

Field Description and Player Positions

The field is divided into halves. A center circle is used for kickoffs. A goal area and a penalty area are located at each end of the field. The four corners of the field are marked with flags and corner arcs (used for corner kicks). *Please see diagram on page 32.*

Goalkeeper

Responsible for guarding their team's goal, starting the attack and preventing the other team from scoring, the goalkeeper is the only player allowed to use their hands, only within his/her own penalty area.

Defenders (Fullbacks)

Primary duty is to prevent the opposing team from having a good shot at the goal, as well as work to gain possession of the ball and pass it to a teammate to start an offensive attack. Some defensive formations include a sweeper, the last defensive player playing in the center, and a stopper, a defensive player in the center of the field in front of the sweeper.

Midfielders (Halfbacks)

Play a "transitional" game from defense to offense and vice versa; because they back up both the defense and offense, they are the most active players on the field.



SECTION 10

A Little About Soccer...

An overview of the rules for those of us who don't know them

The Game



Soccer is played by two teams on a field approximately the size of a football field. Smaller fields are used for younger players. The game is played in halves of equal length. To advance AYSO's "Everyone Plays" commitment, quarter breaks are made in each half to allow substitution. The length of each half is determined by the age of the children playing: U16/19, 40 minute halves; U14, 35 minute halves; U12, 30 minute halves; U10, 25 minute halves; U08, 20 minute halves; and U6, 10 minute halves.



The referees scheduled for the game are completely in charge from the moment they enter the field of play. Please respect them and follow their directions. They are trying to keep the games to the established schedule so the later games are not delayed.



Most coaches request that players meet at a given time prior to the start of the game so that they can complete lineup details and warm up the players to avoid injuries. Help your coach by making sure that your players are not late. If you have a problem that you know of in advance, notify the coach so adjustments can be made (e.g., have the player be assigned out the first quarter).

AYSO Kids Zone

In recent months, the national media has focused on the negative, even violent, behavior of players, coaches and parents involved in youth sports. In a proactive effort to counteract this trend of violence, AYSO is initiating a program called Kids Zone.

As part of AYSO's education agenda, Kids Zone is a dynamic program targeted to eliminate negative sideline behavior. It is aimed toward producing a thoroughly positive impact on everyone involved in youth soccer. To execute this program, three basic elements are involved:

1. *The Badge.* This is a pin-on button bearing the program's logo. This will be worn by program supporters at games, and will serve as a reminder of the importance of positive sideline behavior.
2. *The Sign.* A large sideline, which lists positive behavior standards, will be posted at the entrance of participating fields. Parents and spectators who will abide by these standards are welcome — all others are not.
3. *The Pledge.* We will request AYSO parents to sign a pledge that holds them to the Kids Zone standards.



Davis AYSO is working to implement this Kids Zone program for our players to help enhance their game playing experience.



SECTION 6

Season

When do we play, What opportunities are there for games?

Practice and Season Play

Team practices will be held at the coach's discretion, usually once or twice a week on weekdays, at schools and parks around Davis. The location is at the discretion of the coach. Due to the limited availability of suitable practice fields, it is possible that the practice could be located at a location that may not be convenient for some players. If this is the case you can usually work out a carpool arrangement with the other parents or the coach.

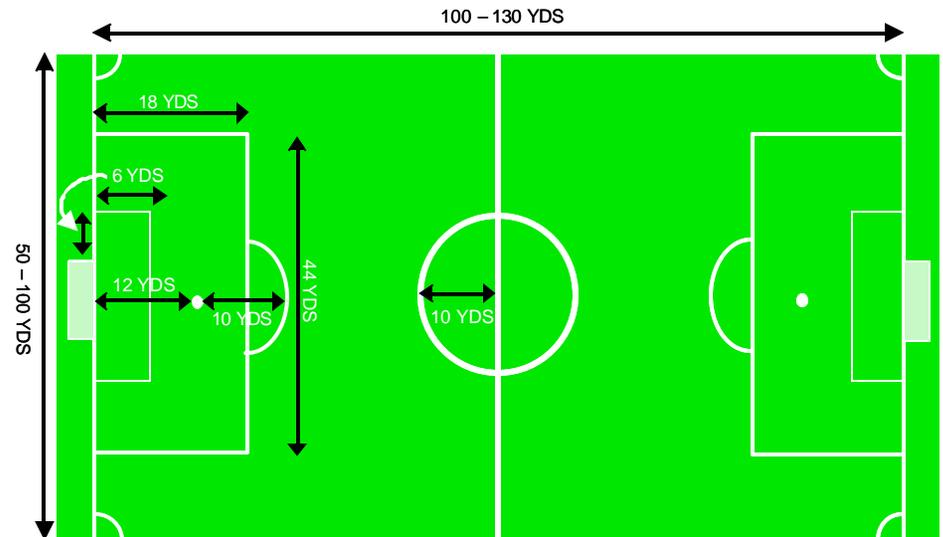
It is important that players attend practices as this is where game skills and strategy are taught. Coaches should be notified in advance if a player must miss a practice or game. Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to see that players get home safely after practices and games. This is *not* the coach's responsibility.



As our program grows we place an ever increasing demand on soccer fields in Davis. No longer can we hold all of our games in one location - we often find that we have to play games on fields scattered across the city. This makes it difficult for everyone involved. Administration is difficult with games at multiple locations. Referees find it difficult to get from one game to another, and still have the opportunity to see their own children play. Parents with multiple children enrolled find it difficult to see all of the games and to get their children to the games on time. Solutions to these problems are difficult, so we ask that you have patience with us as we try to provide the best program possible.

In the Fall season the majority of games are played at Community Park, those being U6 through U10, and U16/19 divisions. Other fields AYSO uses are Nugget, Sandy Motley, Walnut and Montgomery, for most of the U12 and U14 divisions, as well as some U16/19 games. Maps of these fields can be found on our website under MAPS.

During one Saturday in the Fall when DHS has their Field Hockey tournament, some of the younger division games will be played at other field locations, typically schools, and will be identified in the game schedules that go out at the start of the season.





SECTION 9

Fields

We need them, we use them, can you find them?



Fall Season

The Fall season is the primary season for Davis AYSO. Practices generally start around mid-August. Games typically begin on the first Saturday after Labor Day weekend in September and continue into mid-November.

Games are held on Saturdays, with the possibility of a few games on a Sunday in November.

All teams from U10 through U19 will participate in the *Davis Regional Tournament* in November. This will usually be held over two weekends, with some of the teams playing games on a Sunday. It is possible that regional tournaments will be combined into an area tournament some years.

The top teams from the Davis Regional Tournament are invited to the *Area 2D Tournament*, which typically is held on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, and will play other AYSO regional teams in our Area.

Select Season

The Select season is a follow-up program from Fall, open only to players who participated a minimum of 50% in the Fall season, in U10, U12, U14 and U16/19 divisions. This is an opportunity for players to improve their skills in a more competitive environment. Applications will be distributed to all players in late September or early October. The players who apply will be selected by the designated Select Coaches following observation during the regular fall playing season and then

will be notified shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday. The teams are drafted in November, with practices starting in December. The season typically runs from January through March (the dates vary from year to year), although many teams continue to participate in tournaments afterwards (usually through the end of May).

We ask that those players who play on a Select team be committed to play the entire season with their team. If you cannot commit to your team for the entire season, please don't apply for Select.

Select games will be played against other select teams in the area so some travel will be required. There is also a fee to cover operating costs and uniforms.

Spring Season

The Spring season is a great way to have fun, as well as introduce non-soccer experienced players to the game, or for a refresher for those who played in the Fall season and want to continue and advance in their skills. The Spring season typically starts in early April and runs for approximately 7-8 weeks in duration, with games being held on Fridays. Teams are co-ed and are generally formed based on combined location (North /West and East/South).

The age divisions run from Under 6 through Under 14. Flags for goals and colored pinnies are usually used in this season, and played on age-appropriate sized fields.



SECTION 7

Teams

How are teams formed; Ages of players, Events

The AYSO Team

Each team will have a volunteer coach. The coach is responsible for her or his team. Wherever possible, an assistant coach will also be assigned to help the coach at practices and aid or substitute when the coach is unable to make games. Parents of the team members need to volunteer to help the coach as needed. The more parent involvement the coach receives, the more attention the coach is able to devote to developing the players and building the team, which is the coach's primary purpose.

Team Assignments

We are committed to the concept of team balancing. Team assignments are by random draw each year based on age, skill level and experience. Coaches are entitled to keep their children on their teams. Additionally, requests for brothers or sisters within the same division to play on the same team will be honored whenever possible. It is intended that through team balancing each team have an equal opportunity to compete and be successful.

Suitable Dress for Scheduled Games

Players will not be allowed to play unless properly dressed.

1. *Issued* shorts, jersey (tucked into shorts), and socks (pulled up to knees). Socks must completely cover the shinguards.
2. Shinguards (worn under socks) - *no player will be allowed to play in either a game or a practice without shinguards.*
3. Soccer shoes with plastic or rubber molded cleats are recommended, although gym shoes or sneakers are permissible. If screw-in cleats are used, they must be in good condition (no exposed metal) and the stud must be part of the cleat, *not* part of the shoe. This is for player safety - if a cleat comes out in the game, no sharp metal (which could cause injury) will be exposed.
4. Goalkeepers may wear soft knee and elbow pads. They may also wear long or short goalkeeper pants or sweatpants.

Other Equipment

Coaches will have some soccer balls for practices and games, but it is recommended that each player have her or his own ball to use for practice. Such balls need not be expensive leather ones.

Prohibited articles

1. No emblems, patches, players' names, or unapproved awards may be added or attached to uniforms.

2. Players may not wear anything which could be dangerous to either themselves or other players (e.g., bracelets, earrings, wristwatches, barrettes, hair clips, casts or splints, etc.) while playing.
4. No caps or bandannas are allowed. Long hair should be tied back.
5. No other clothing may be worn over the uniform while a player is participating in the game on the playing field. However, matching long-sleeved tee shirts, turtlenecks, or sweatshirts may be worn under the uniform jersey. Tights or cycling shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts as long as they are the same color and do not extend below the shorts. Sweatpants may only be worn by the goalie.
6. Chewing gum or eating while participating in games or practices is prohibited.
7. Fingernails must be trimmed to a safe length.

Pictures

An individual and team picture Memory Mate are included as a part of your registration fee for Fall soccer. Picture days are usually scheduled in late September or early October. You will be notified by your coach or team parent as to the time and date scheduled for your team.



SECTION 8

Uniforms, Equipment & Pictures

What you must wear, what you cannot, and will we take your picture?

Uniforms for Various Seasons

FALL SEASON: Uniforms for the Fall season are included in your registration fee. Each player will be supplied with a jersey, shorts, and socks. PLEASE NOTE that we always make an effort to acquire the best possible uniform within the budget that we have. Also note that teams must not trade uniforms with each other!

SELECT SEASON: Uniforms are included in your registration fee.

SPRING SEASON: Generally in the Spring Season we do not wear uniforms - instead, we use colored pinnies to identify the different teams.

Players are assigned to teams within their age group.

Players are not allowed to “play down” (play in a lower level division than allowed by their birth date) except for developmental disabilities or unusual circumstances. “Playing up” is strongly discouraged. Any requests must be made at the time of registration, and will be reviewed by the Commissioner or an evaluation committee.

In the U6 through U10 age divisions we make an effort to build teams that are composed of players from the same area of Davis. However, this cannot always be done. Team balancing, the availability of coaches, and the number of players who register may create a situation where some players will be placed on teams in other areas of town.

Fall team rosters are distributed to coaches in mid-August. Players should be contacted by their coaches shortly thereafter.

Individual team names are chosen by each team; they are not preassigned. Please note that team names may not refer to a religion or nationality, nor be socially offensive.

Practice schedules are entirely at the discretion of the coach.

Transfer of Players

Transfer of players among teams can only be done by the registration staff. Coaches cannot “trade” players. Transferring of players is strongly discouraged. Teams are balanced to ensure fair and equal opportunities to play for every player. Requests should

be thought through carefully and submitted to the Registrar. Moving one player requires rebalancing of the two teams involved and may have the far reaching impact of requiring rebalancing of the entire Division.

In general, we cannot move a player to another team just because practice schedules are inconvenient. Usually you will be able to work out an arrangement with someone else on the team for carpooling. If you just cannot accept your assigned team, the player will be put on a waiting list for spots on other teams. Keep in mind that even if there is room on a particular team we might not be able to place your child there, due to balancing considerations.

Parents' Meeting

After the team rosters are distributed, each coach should hold a parent meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for parents to meet the coach, discuss the practice schedule, AYSO philosophy and parent guidelines. This is an opportunity for the coach to answer any questions the parents might have and to organize the team parent volunteers.



Game Cancellations

While soccer worldwide is generally played rain or shine, AYSO in Davis has made certain commitments concerning the use of fields. Inclement weather or poor field conditions may necessitate the cancellation of games from time to time. A notice of game cancellations will be placed on the AYSO Hotline, 979-1344. It is the responsibility of the coaches to call the Hotline for field status reports and then contact their team when necessary. Because of the many considerations involved, we ask that players plan to be at all scheduled games unless notified by their coaches or parents that the game has been canceled. We realize that this is inconvenient, but conditions change from hour to hour and may be different from field to field.

Player Attendance and Participation

All players are expected to demonstrate proper respect for other players, coaches, referees and other league officials at all times. Each player is strongly urged to attend every practice and game and expected to advise their coach when attendance is not possible. All players shall play at least three quarters of every game before any player plays the full game.

Moreover, it is the policy of this region to strongly encourage each coach to equalize the play of each player and, when practical, permit players to play different positions throughout the season. Any player who misses practice regularly may have their playing time in the game limited to one half as approved by the Disciplinary Committee. Players arriving late to games shall be substituted as follows:

1. If the player arrives during the first quarter, the player must play a minimum of two of the remaining three quarters.
2. If the player arrives during the second or third quarter, the player must play a minimum of one quarter.



EVENTS

Davis World Cup

Since 1986 Davis AYSO has hosted the Davis World Cup tournament on Memorial Day Weekend. AYSO teams from Northern California, Nevada, and even Southern California are assigned names of various countries that participate in international soccer and compete in a three day tournament.

In addition to being an extremely exciting soccer experience, this is also one of Davis AYSO's major fundraisers.

Most of the Davis teams that attend this tournament come from the Select season.



VIP Program

VIP players sign up at the same registrations, play on the same fields, wear the same uniforms, and enjoy all the other benefits afforded every AYSO player. While all special needs children possible should be placed on existing regional teams, VIP teams are created for the children whose challenges would prevent them from experiencing success in the regular program.

