

AYSO AREA 11L

SPRING GUIDELINES



PLAYSOCCER
American Youth Soccer Organization



SPRING SEASON GUIDELINES

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PROGRAM

- a. Area 11L's Spring Season ("Spring Season") is offered to all American Youth Soccer Organization ("AYSO") regions within Area 11L.
- b. Area 11L's Spring Season is designed to provide an Area 11L based gaming circuit for players in the U8 – U19 age divisions. In some instances, Area 11L may also partner with a neighboring Area at the U16/19 divisions.
- c. Spring Season shall start play in March and end in May culminating in Area 11L's Spring Tournaments for qualifying teams from Area 11L.

JURISDICTION

- a. Area 11L Spring Season Program shall be conducted in accordance with the current AYSO Rules and Regulations, except as otherwise noted, Bylaws and National Policies, the current FIFA Laws of the Game (AYSO Edition), and the guidelines as contained herein.
- b. Area 11L's Spring Season guidelines compliment Area 11L's Rules and Regulations, as amended October 25, 2012.
- c. Area's 11L's Spring Season Guidelines, Rules and Regulations, and Calendar shall be published on Area 11L's website – See www.ayso11l.org for information.
- d. The program will be administered by Area 11L and fall under the jurisdiction of the Area 11L Director ("Area Director") and any conflicts between any of the governing documents shall be resolved by the Area Director, or his designee.

FEES

- a. Team fees are \$75 per team for teams within Area 11L and such fees shall be paid by each participating region. Fees for teams from outside Area 11L shall be separately identified.
- b. No later than March 10, Area 11L's Treasurer will issue an invoice to each participating region for each region team.
- c. Regions shall submit payment within 30 days of invoice.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. The AYSO National player database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the players' current registration status.
- b. Players must be registered with AYSO for the current season.
- c. Player placement shall comply with AYSO's Age Guide (http://www.ayso.org/resources/registration/age_guide.aspx).



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- d. Players may play on ONLY one Area 11L Spring Season team which shall include EXTRA teams. This limitation does not preclude a player from playing for a club soccer team, such as Pacific Soccer Club.
- e. The official roster for a team is the latest eAYSO generated roster submitted by the team's Region to the Area Director for that season's competition.
- f. Each participating region, through its Regional Commissioner, is responsible for overseeing/verifying that the Spring Season Program requirements are met as pertain to coach eligibility, team formation, field support and referee support.
- g. In addition, the following factors shall be taken into consideration as relates to player placement/eligibility:
 - i. Children of Regional volunteers who have fulfilled their required participation during the previous fall season shall be given placement preference.
 - ii. Regions shall attempt to fill all spring teams from players within their Region.
 - iii. If vacancies (still) exist, Regions shall attempt to fill such from AYSO players from neighboring Regions who have played in the preceding fall season and are currently not placed on a spring team in their home Region.
 - iv. The Area shall facilitate this process and the Regional Commissioners must concur to any player move.
 - v. If all of the above have failed to fill vacancies on a spring team(s), the applicable Region may seek/add players who did not play in AYSO during the preceding fall season.

COACH ELIGIBILITY

- a. Head and Assistant Coaches ("Coach" or "Coaches") must have the following in order to participate in the Spring Season:
 - i. Have a current volunteer application on file at the National Office.
 - ii. Be Safe Haven certified.
 - iii. Be in good standing with the Region, Area, Section and AYSO.
 - iv. Have age appropriate coach certification.
- b. In the case of training/certification deficiency, the applicable volunteer will not be permitted to serve as a Coach in the Spring Season.
- c. The AYSO National database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the coach's current training/certification and volunteer status.



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FORMAT OF PLAY

- a. The Spring Season will serve the U8 through U19 divisions. Roster sizes and format of play are as follows:

Division	Roster Size	Format of Play	Length of Match
U8	10	7v7	40 minutes
U10	12	9v9	50 minutes
U12	15	11v11	60 minutes
U14	15	11v11	70 minutes
U16	18	11v11	80 minutes
U19	20	11v11	90 minutes

- b. Regions may increase the size of these team rosters to accommodate registrations and reduce wait lists. In such cases, notification to the Area Director is required and concurrence must be received.
- c. Coaches are required to accept all player additions per the direction of their Regional Commissioner or their Designee.
- d. Each team is allowed a maximum of two (2) coaches who meet Coach Eligibility requirements in Section 5.
- e. Inter-regional recruitment of players is not permitted without the prior approval of the Area Director. Recruitment without prior approval may result in sanctions levied by a Disciplinary Review Board which shall be convened by the Area Director.
- f. Regions must submit rosters to the Area Director or his Designee by second Monday in February. Regions must submit revised roster to the Area Director or his Designee.

PLAYER & COACH IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- a. Player Cards
- i. Player identification cards ARE NOT required.
- b. Coach Cards
- i. Area 11L will issue coach ID cards. Neighboring Areas will issue their own Coach ID cards provided they are uniform.
- ii. No later than February 13, Regions must supply the following:
1. A .jpg image of each Coach saved in the name of the Coach. Example:
Coach Stan Smith = stan_smit.jpg
 2. The resolution must be 300 dpi.
- iii. Any volunteer not provided with a coach ID card is NOT considered a Coach.
- iv. The failure to have a “credentialed coach” present during the pre-game check-in process shall cause the Referee to declare a “game not played” during the seeding



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round and as a forfeit to the offending team(s) during the medal round. Should this occur,

1. The Referee shall file a match report within 24 hours.
2. Referees may stay to preside over any scrimmages, but they are not required to do so.

ITEMS COACHES MUST HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES

- a. eAYSO team roster signed by the applicable Regional Commissioner or his/her designee.
- a. AYSO Player Registration / Medical Release Forms for each participating player.
- b. Coach Identification cards.
- c. NOTE: Referees are NOT to request team rosters and/or to use same as part of the team check-in process prior to a match.

REFEREES QUALIFICATIONS

- a. Requirements to Referee:
 - i. Be an AYSO trained and certified referee.
 - ii. Have a current volunteer application on file at the National Office.
 - iii. Be Safe Haven certified.
 - iv. Be in good standing with the Region, Area, Section and AYSO.
- b. The AYSO National database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the referee's current badge level and volunteer status.
- c. Spring Season referees must be approved by the applicable Regional Referee Administrator (RRA) and/or Area 11L Referee Staff.
- d. The Area Referee Staff will create a database of referees validated to officiate Spring Season Program matches and will advise validated referees match signup protocols.

REFEREE GAME COVERAGE

- a. Match assignments require the following:
 - i. U8: U8 or Regional Referee or higher.
 - ii. U10: Regional referee or higher.
 - iii. U12: Regional Referee or higher.
 - iv. U14: Intermediate Referee or higher.
 - v. U16 Girls – Intermediate referee or higher (center) Referee.
 - vi. U16 Boys and all U19: Advanced or higher level (center).
- b. The Area Referee Administrator or his designee is empowered to modify the match level of any referee as necessary to assure compliance with program guidelines.



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- c. Unless otherwise approved by the Area Referee Administrator, the Referee shall be a minimum of two years older than the oldest players in the division to which they have been assigned.
- d. All Spring Season Program matches shall be officiated using the Diagonal System of Control, i.e. one (1) Referee and two (2) Assistant Referees.
- e. Hosting Regions are responsible for providing a minimum of three (3) referees, badge level appropriate, per team to cover Spring Season Program matches.

FIELDS

- a. Regions must provide an adequate number of fields, based on a formula of .75 game slots per team entered. There is a requirement for Saturday and Sunday play.
- b. Fields and equipment must be age appropriate. In cases where fields supplied are not adequate to support the total number of teams, schedule pairings may reflect a “home match” outside of the Region unable to provide adequate field allocations. In this case the Region listed as the home team will be responsible for Referee support.
- c. Participating Regions are responsible for properly preparing all fields used. Field set-up and take down is the responsibility of the hosting Region. Regional Commissioners are to attest to compliance.

UNIFORMS

- a. All uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations.
- b. The Referee is the final authority on the safety of any player’s uniform and equipment.
- c. Earnings may not be worn.
- d. All players must wear shin guards of an acceptable size and quality during games, practices and scrimmages, covering half of the leg from the knee down as a minimum, and worn completely under the socks.
- e. Braces meeting the requirements of AYSO National Rules and Regulations may be worn during games, if deemed safe and allowed by the Referee. Casts and splints are not allowed, even if covered by soft foam wraps.
- f. The goalkeeper on each team must wear colors (jersey or scrimmage vest) that clearly distinguish him from other players on both teams to the satisfaction of the Referee.
- g. The Home team in a match is responsible for wearing uniform jerseys (or scrimmage vests) that clearly distinguish them from the other team. In case of color conflicts, the Home team is required to change uniform colors.

PRACTICE/TRAINING



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- a. Teams are NOT permitted to begin practice or engage in any other training activity without prior approval by their Regional Commissioner.
- b. Only players on the official roster of the team are permitted to participate in team practice/training.
- c. A 1 to 8 ratio (adults to players) is recommended and efforts to adhere to gender guidelines published in connection with AYSO Safe Haven Guidelines (i.e. – girls' teams coached by a male need to have a female adult present at all team activities and vice versa) is encouraged..

COMPETITIONS

- d. The gaming schedule/standings for the Area Play Spring Season Program will be hosted by MatchTrak. The gaming schedule/standings page may be accessed by visiting <http://www.ayso11l.org/schedules.php>.
- e. At check in each coach shall present to the Referee an eAYSO generated/pre-printed lineup card. This is the ONLY acceptable form of lineup card. The only item that may be handwritten is the jersey number. If a player name is handwritten on the lineup card, that player may not participate in the game match. If a coach presents a lineup card in any other form/format, the Referee shall not allow the match to start. In a case such as this, the match will be recorded as a “game not played” during the seeding round and as a forfeit recording against the offending team(s) during the medal round. The Referee shall file a Match Report.
- f. At check in each coach will present to the Referee laminated Coach ID card.
- g. Coaches without proper ID cards will not be allowed to coach
- h. If a team does not have a certified coach with proper identification, the match shall not proceed. In a case such as this, the Referee shall file a Match Report.
- i. All matches shall be played as scheduled (date, time and venue).
- j. The Area Director shall have the discretion to reschedule any match for reasons he/she deem to be in the best interest of the Spring Program.
- k. Games Not Played Due to Weather / Other Field Closure:
 - i. In the case of matches not played as the result of inclement weather and/or any other field closure by the permitting authority, the coaches and regions involved shall work together to reschedule the match(es).
 - ii. Any rescheduled match needs to take place during the time frames related to either the seeding round, (see calendar), or medal round, (see calendar), whichever is applicable and may not result in a double-header for either team on the day the game is played.
 - iii. Notification of any rescheduled match must be provided to admin@ayso11l.org no later than 5pm on the Wednesday following the match in question. The failure to comply will result in Area 11L unilaterally rescheduling the match.
 - iv. If a match is suspended prior to completion due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, the game score will stand as recorded by the Referee,



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provided one half or more of the regulation game time had been played at the time of suspension.

- i. Area 11L's Fields page contains a listing of fields within Area 11L with links to neighboring regions. The sole source to determine field status and whether fields are open or closed shall be located at the following link: [FIELDS OPEN/CLOSED](#). Fields posted as closed in the morning shall remain closed for the remainder of the day.
- m. No team will be allowed to secure a place in positions 1 – 4 in the season standings (seeding or medal round) as a result of not playing a scheduled game due the conditions described above. In such case(s), the Area Director or his designee will have the authority to reschedule the match.
- n. If a team does not show for a scheduled game match, their opponent will be awarded a 1-0 victory by forfeit, i.e. 8 points to the winning team. The Area Director may impose other sanctions if the forfeiting team gains an advantage by the forfeit.
- o. If either of the teams is not ready to play at the scheduled kick-off time, the Referee may allow a grace period of up to ten (10) minutes before abandoning the match. A team not ready to play at the scheduled time shall forfeit that game and the team shall lose by a score of 1-0, i.e. 8 points to the winning team.
- p. The coaches, substitutes, and spectators of the two teams will watch the match from opposite sides of the field of play unless the Referee gives permission for them to be on the same side, in which case they will remain at separate ends of that side of the field. Home teams shall have the choice as to side of field. Teams and spectators will only be allowed in areas approved by the Referee.
- q. If there is no coach with a current ID card, the referee shall terminate or abandon the match. In a case such as this, the match will be recorded as a "game not played" during the seeding round and as a forfeit to the offending team(s) during the medal round. The referee shall file a match report within 24 hours.
- r. Coaches are responsible for reporting game scores to the Area 11L website, www.ayso11L.org. Scores should be reported expeditiously and no later than 12:00 noon on the Monday following any given weekend.
- s. The Referee is responsible for reporting all misconduct, including the cautions or send-off of players, coaches, or spectators or any other area of concern including terminated or abandoned matches, unsafe conditions, injuries, etc. to the Misconduct Reporting System within twenty-four (24) hours of the game. The Misconduct Reporting System will make appropriate distribution of the Misconduct Report.
- t. If the Referee terminates/abandons a match before completion because of actions by players, coaches and/ or spectators, the Area Director or his designee will determine the match result including whether the match is replayed, continued from the time left in the match, winner by forfeit, winner/tie by score at the time the match was terminated or abandoned.
- u. If less than one-half of the regulation match time had been played at the time of the game suspension, the game shall stand as a NOT- PLAYED match, irrespective of the score at



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the time of match suspension. Adjudication of a situation of this nature shall be determined by the Area Director or his designee.

GAME CANCELLATION POLICY DUE TO REFEREE COVERAGE

- a. Matches that do not have a neutral Referee (center) assigned by 9:00 PM two days prior to the match *may be subject to forfeit*.
- b. No referee may sign up for their own teams match until after 9:00 PM two days prior to that weekends matches.
- c. If a qualified 3 person referee crew is not signed up 5:00 PM 1 day prior to the schedule match, the match will be recorded as a forfeit for the home team.
 - i. Teams subject to a forfeit under this provision shall still scrimmage, but referees shall not be required to stay for the match, and the match result shall remain as stated in Section 11(c).
- d. Miscellaneous:
 - ii. If a full 3 person referee crew signs up, and one of the referees fails to show for the match, Club linesmen may be used. The Dual (two-man) System of Control is not permitted. (U8 matches only require a Referee.)
 - iii. Once a match starts, Club linesmen may be used if one of the referees is injured and cannot complete the match. The Dual (two-man) System of Control is not permitted. (U8 matches only require a Referee.) If a qualified Club linesmen is not present, the match should be Abandoned.
- e. Games cancelled for the aforementioned reason during the seeding round of Spring play will be recorded as a “game not played” and during the medal round games cancelled will be recorded as a forfeit by the home team. (See additional notes under “Competitions”)

GAME CANCELLATION POLICY DUE TO OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- a. Games canceled due to weather will be re-scheduled by the regions based on field availability and other considerations.
- b. Non-weather (All circumstances for U14-U19) related requests for game reschedules must be sent to and approved by the field scheduler at least 5 days before the game date.
 - a. If you need to reschedule, please contact the coach of the opposing team and determine the dates/times for the reschedule.
 - b. The proposed reschedule date must be approved by each Region. Either the Regional Commissioner or his/her delegate may approve on behalf of the region.
 - c. Details regarding the approved date, field location and time must be sent by the hosting region’s scheduler to Area 11L (admin@ayso11l.org) 5 days prior to the proposed reschedule date.
 - d. Requests sent with less than 5 days will be denied.
 - e. If all criteria has been met, then Matchtrak will be updated.



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GAME SCORING/STANDINGS/FORMAT OF PLAY

- a. Points for the U10-U19 divisions shall be awarded as follows:
 - i. Win - 6 points;
 - ii. Tie - 3 points;
 - iii. Loss - 0 points
 - iv. Shut-Out - 1 point
 - v. Goals For - 1 point per goal (3 point maximum)
- b. No standings will be kept for U8 matches after the seeding round.
- c. Three (3) POINT WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH SEND-OFF (EJECTION) RECEIVED BY A PLAYER, COACH OR SPECTATOR DURING MEDAL ROUND MATCHES (ONLY).
- d. No team shall be allowed to benefit themselves in the seeding or medal round scoring by their own forfeit, such as assuring their final standing above another team over which they have a 9 point lead prior to the forfeit. If necessary, scores shall be adjusted to avoid such benefit.
- e. The final standings (in both the seeding round and medal round) will be determined based upon average points per game for each team during the applicable portion of the Spring Season Program (total points divided by number of games played) to account for any inequities in number of games played.
 - i. Example: team A plays 10 games and has 61 points and team B plays 11 games and has 66 points. Team A wins because their point average is 6.1 (61/10) vs. 6.0 (66/11) for team B.
- f. Tie breakers for standings at the conclusion of pool play shall be as follows:
 - i. Head to Head play (outcome of the game involving the tied teams).
 - ii. Goal Differential: goals scored, less goals allowed, maximum differential of three (3) goals per game.
 - iii. Team with the lowest number of goals against.
 - iv. Team with highest number of goals scored, maximum of three (3) goals per game (counting no more than three goals more than their opponents in any game).
 - v. Lowest point deductions for misconducts and send-offs.
 - vi. Coin toss.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION

- a. U8 – U14 games shall have a substitution opportunity midway through each half, at half time and in the event of injury. The half time break will be a minimum five (5) minutes.
- b. U16 & U19 teams will employ the supervised “free substitution” methodology. The half time break will be a minimum five (5) minutes.
- c. In U16 & U19, substitutions may be requested at any dead ball situation, free kicks, ball out of play, etc. Substitutions must be approved by the Referee, and may only be conducted after the Referee has granted permission. To speed the process, coaches should have



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their substitutes stand at the half-way line prior to the substitution and let the assistant referee (AR) know in advance that they wish to substitute at the next opportunity. The Referee may deny the substitution in the interest of maintaining game flow or lack of remaining time.

- d. U16 & U19 coaches are responsible to monitor play time to ensure compliance with the 50% playtime requirement.

MISCONDUCT

- a. It is the responsibility of the Referee to submit a written Misconduct Report to the Area 11-L Misconduct Reporting System within 24 hours after the conclusion of the match at which the offence occurred.
- b. There is no mandatory “cooling off” period for cautioned players. It is recommended that, at the coach’s request and with the Referee’s permission, a cautioned player, or any player having difficulty controlling his/her emotions, may be substituted at the earliest opportunity.
- c. The Referee and the ARs must also report any behavior by players, coaches and/or spectators on or off the field that seriously interferes with the game and/or proper standards of conduct.
- d. Note: See Area Guidelines for more information.
- e. If in the event of a Coach Send-Off and there is no Certified Assistant Coach to take over, the Referee will abandon the match, file a Misconduct Report with details within 24 hours. The Area Director or his Designee will determine the outcome of the match.
- f. If the player Sent-Off is a minor (under 18 years of age), he/she must leave the field of play in the company of his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). Otherwise, the player must leave being accompanied by a Safe Haven certified adult. If no parent/guardian or Safe Haven certified adult is available, the player may remain in the proximity of the field, under adult supervision.
- g. Should violators of the penalties set forth in this section refuse to immediately leave the field when requested to do so by the Referee, the game shall be suspended until the situation has been resolved. If it is not resolved, in what the Referee considers a reasonable amount of time, the game shall be terminated and the incident reported to the Misconduct Reporting System.
- h. A player serving a suspension and not in uniform may attend the team’s next scheduled game as a spectator, but may not participate in any manner.
- i. An adult serving a suspension may not be present at the game (including pre and post game activities) or participate in any manner.
- j. In the event a suspended player or coach participates in a match for which he/her has been suspended, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 forfeit in favor of the opposing team. For each such event, the original suspension must be served at the next game played by the team, an additional 1 game suspension must be served at the following game, and the coach of such team must serve a 1 game suspension.



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- k. Send-Off's (Red Cards/Expulsions) and/or Cautions (Yellow Cards) given in Spring Season matches are not subject to appeal.
- l. Each Send-Off carries a (3) point deduction as detailed in GAME SCORING (above).
- m. The Area Director or his designee will publish a weekly Suspension Report – distribution to the Area Director, Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator and the applicable Regional Commissioner and Regional Referee Administrator. This report will list all Send-Offs and when/where those suspensions are to be served (by gender/age bracket, player name, coach name, date and location).