

AYSO Region 122 - Frequently Asked Questions

Table of Contents:

General and Registration Questions

[When is registration?](#)

[How do I register a new player?](#)

[How do I register a returning player from 2024 or later?](#)

[What is the Schoolyard Program?](#)

[What is the EPIC program \(previously VIP\)?](#)

[Are need-based scholarships available?](#)

[What is the refund policy?](#)

[What do the registration fees cover?](#)

[How do I know what division my child will be in?](#)

[Can my child play up a division?](#)

[Can my child play down a division?](#)

[How are teams formed in each division?](#)

[Is my child guaranteed to be on a team?](#)

[I registered my child some time ago, but haven't heard from anyone since. When will we know more?](#)

[What is the weather policy?](#)

[What and when are the playoffs?](#)

[How do I learn more about post-season play \(aka All-Stars\)?](#)

Coach Questions

[How do I volunteer to be a coach?](#)

[What is the time commitment to the team?](#)

[What is my responsibility to the team?](#)

[I have never coached before. Is that ok?](#)

[Do I need a background check and fingerprints?](#)

[What are the rules by age?](#)

[Will my child be on my team?](#)

[Can I pick my assistant coach? Do they need to be certified?](#)

[Can I pick other players?](#)

[When do I schedule practices? How do I book a practice field?](#)

[My previous coaching certifications and record do not show up in InLeague. How do I fix it?](#)

[I have previous coaching credentials from another league. Do those carry over to AYSO?](#)

[A player on my team is injured. When can they return to play?](#)

[We have a conflict for one of our games. We talked to the other coach and can play another day/time. Is that ok?](#)

Team and Player Questions

[Can we request a coach?](#)

[Can we request to be on the same team as friends/classmates?](#)

[When is practice?](#)

[When are the games?](#)

[When do we get our uniforms?](#)

[What does my child need to bring to practices and games?](#)

[What size ball do we need?](#)

[Is jewelry allowed?](#)

[How long are the games?](#)

[My child is injured. When can they return to play?](#)

[Can we compensate our coaches and referees?](#)

Volunteer Questions

[Why am I being asked to volunteer?](#)

[Volunteer positions that need to be filled:](#)

[How do I sign up to volunteer?](#)

Referee Volunteer Questions

[I've never refereed before. Do you certify me?](#)

[Where can I learn more about the region's rules?](#)

[How does the point system work?](#)

General and Registration Questions

When is registration?

- Registration begins Friday, April 18th, 2025.
- Early bird registration cost is \$220 per player and ends May 31, 2025.
- Registration cost on June 1, 2025 and later is \$280 per player.
- Registrations after August 1, 2025 will be placed on a waiting list and assigned to a team on an as-needed basis.

How do I register a new player?

You can navigate to registration via the [main webpage](#). Be sure to select, "New Players and Families."

How do I register a returning player from 2024 or later?

You can navigate to registration via the [main webpage](#). If your child played in 2024, registration will be through the same system ([InLeague](#)). If your child played before 2023, but not in 2024, you must register as a new player.

What is the Schoolyard Program?

The Schoolyard Program is for players in the 5U age group. Focus is on developing fundamental motor skills for future success in soccer and sports. Parents are encouraged to participate in a positive and patient manner. More information is on the [Schoolyard Program page](#).

What is the EPIC program (previously VIP)?

The [AYSO EPIC Program](#) stands for **E**veryone **P**lays **I**n our **C**ommunity. EPIC provides athletes with disabilities the additional support they need to fully participate in a quality soccer experience. Volunteer buddies help our athletes not only participate, but excel in this wonderful program. If you would like to learn more, please see our regional page and reach out to our [EPIC Coordinator](#).

Are need-based scholarships available?

Yes! Needs-based scholarships are available for qualified families. For more information, please contact ayso122scholarship@gmail.com.

What is the refund policy?

- The deadline for a full refund is July 15, 2025 at 5pm PT.
- After July 15, 2025 at 5pm PT and before September 5, 2025, a refund less a \$75 administrative fee will be provided.
- No refunds permitted after September 5, 2025 at 5pm PT.
- If your player was not placed on a team, you will receive a full refund.
- If you qualify for a refund, you must email registrar.ayso122@gmail.com; no refunds will be provided in any instance if you do not contact this email for a refund request.

What do the registration fees cover?

AYSO is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit entity so we charge soccer fees that cover our expenses and nothing else. Our biggest expenses are uniforms (jerseys, socks, shorts provided to players), field rentals, goals, balls and other supplies, coach gear, awards, training for coaches, referees and volunteers, storage, field paint, volunteer background checks, etc.

How do I know what division my child will be in?

The age guide can be found on the [main webpage](#).

Can my child play up a division?

A child may play up a division in certain circumstances. The parent/guardian should determine if it's in the best interest and healthy for the child to play with older players.

Can my child play down a division?

No, players cannot play down a division. If you have been granted a lower division in the past, we will no longer be granting those requests.

How are teams formed in each division?

Please refer to the [team formation by division page](#) on the main website.

Is my child guaranteed to be on a team?

Not necessarily. We must have enough coaches for the number of players signed up for divisions at 6U and older. If we are short coaches, we will have to put players on the waitlist.

I registered my child some time ago, but haven't heard from anyone since. When will we know more?

Parents will hear from their child's coach around mid-August. We start forming teams around July 16th and have almost 3000 children to place on teams, all done by [volunteers](#)!

What is the weather policy?

Lightning/Thunder: Per Safe Haven and all other organizations, if you hear thunder, games and practices must be suspended for 30 minutes. Only if there is no thunder, play can resume after 30 minutes. If there is thunder in that 30 minutes, then the 30-minute clock starts again.

If there is thunder during a game, the tent at the field will determine how to handle lost time.

Hot Weather - Practices: The coaches have all had Safe Haven and Safe Sport. If it is too hot, they will make a decision based on what they are observing. If extra breaks and water are needed, they will know. Since our climate varies within our area it is a field condition decision.

Hot Weather - Game Day: The referees can build in additional water break time if needed. Of course, we do have water breaks built in already, but let what you are seeing with your good decision be the guide.

Additional information can be found on the national [AYSO Volunteer Resources page](#).

What and when are the playoffs?

The Volunteer Appreciation Playoffs are for 10U, 12U and 14U age divisions and are often in mid-November after the regular season ends. The dates will be listed on the [main calendar page](#) each year. Games will be played on the same fields from the regular season.

To qualify for the Playoffs, each team must earn 18 Referee credits. The team standings are only used to determine the playoff brackets and are not used for qualification to enter the playoffs. So, if a team is 1st in the standings, but does not have 18 referee credits, they do not qualify for the playoffs.

The best way to ensure your team qualifies is to get an early start in the season with team referees assigned and trained. [Here is the referee policy](#) and [here is the link to sign up to volunteer as a referee](#). You do not need any previous soccer or referee experience to sign up. We will provide full training and certification.

Teams in the top bracket that play in the finals match may be invited to participate in the Area League Playoffs, which are typically played a week or two after regional playoffs. Participation is

dependent upon proper coach certifications, player eligibility and sportsmanship through the playoffs and the regular season.

How do I learn more about post-season play (aka All-Stars)?

Post-Season is a great opportunity for players, coaches and referees looking to extend their playing season through the winter and spring months while playing in a more competitive, tournament based environment. [More info is here.](#)

Coach Questions

How do I volunteer to be a coach?

Thank you for deciding to volunteer as a coach! All of the details and requirements to sign up are on the [Volunteer page](#).

What is the time commitment to the team?

The time commitment varies by age division. Below is a snapshot of the weekly expectations. For Game Day, there is typically 1 game each Saturday with exceptions being for bye weeks for Lemon Festival (up to 10U) and UCSB move-in weekend (14U and above). There may also be some double game weekends in divisions with an odd number of teams.

You can also find more information on [rules by age levels \(games\)](#) and [practice](#) pages.

- 5U: No practice; Game Day only; no coaches and parents help with players
- 6U: 1 practice per week (1 hr); Game Day (20 minute halves)*
- 7U: 1 practice per week (1 hr); Game Day (20 minute halves)*
- 8U: 1 practice per week (1 hr); Game Day (20 minute halves)*
- 10U: 2 practices per week (1 hr each); Game Day (25 minute halves)*
- 12U: 2 practices per week (1.5 hrs each); Game Day (30 minute halves)*
- 14U: 2 practices per week (1.5 hrs each); Game Day (35 minute halves)*

*About half way through each half, there will be substitutions. The clock continues to run during this time.

What is my responsibility to the team?

- Complete all coach training and certifications on time (including background check and fingerprinting. [Details here.](#))
- Build a practice plan ahead of each practice (about 15 minutes); reviewed during in-person coach clinics
- You must have another coach, volunteer or parent of the opposite sex and over the age of 18 at all practices (as part of Safe Haven requirements)
- Make a lineup before each game (about 15 minutes); reviewed during in-person coach clinics
- Uphold [AYSO Values and 6 Philosophies](#)
- Tie shoelaces 😊

- Make it fun for the kids!

I have never coached before. Is that ok?

Yes! We will provide you with all of the coach clinics, training and mentoring that you will need.

Please take a look at our [Why Coach? page](#) for more information.

We also have a female coach and referee mentor program available should you like to be connected to a mentor. You can also sign up to be a mentor. The link for both is [here](#).

Do I need a background check and fingerprints?

Yes. This is mandatory for all coaches. No exceptions. Details [here](#).

What are the rules by age?

Rules by Age can be found [here](#). It includes details on length of games, ball sizes, goalies, punting, etc.

Will my child be on my team?

Yes, if you are coaching in the same age division as your child, they will be placed on your team.

Can I pick my assistant coach? Do they need to be certified?

Yes, you can request your assistant coach, assuming all head coach positions have been filled. To do so, please reach out to your [division coordinator](#) to make the request. Your assistant will need to be registered as a volunteer and complete all certifications, including background checks and fingerprinting. One assistant is allowed per team.

Please note that assistant coaches may be asked to coach another team if the region is short coaches in their division.

Can I pick other players?

No. Due to the large number of players in the region (almost 3000!) and being fully managed by volunteers, we are not able to honor special placement requests for coaches or players.

When do I schedule practices? How do I book a practice field?

As the head coach, you determine the practice days and time based on field availability. Please first review the [practice field info and etiquette page](#) when planning your practice day/time/location.

That same page is also where you will reserve your practice field.

My previous coaching certifications and record do not show up in InLeague. How do I fix it?

Usually this is a result of data entry error with an email address used, name or nickname (example: Dave or David) or a phone number. Please attempt to log-in with the consistent name, email and phone number. If you still have issues, [please reach out to someone here](#).

I have previous coaching credentials from another league. Do those carry over to AYSO?

Generally other credentials do not carry over to AYSO. Coaches are still required to take the approved AYSO courses for their role.

A player on my team is injured. When can they return to play?

Players should not return from an injury until they are fit to play again. You can read more on the [National AYSO Wiki](#) as well as determine if the parents/guardians need a Return to Play Release Form.

We have a conflict for one of our games. We talked to the other coach and can play another day/time. Is that ok?

No, coaches of teams are not allowed to rearrange scheduled games without prior approval from our region.

Team and Player Questions

Can we request a coach?

No. Due to the large number of players in the region (almost 3000!) and being fully managed by volunteers, we are not able to honor special placement requests for coaches or players.

Can we request to be on the same team as friends/classmates?

No. Due to the large number of players in the region (almost 3000!) and being fully managed by volunteers, we are not able to honor special placement requests for coaches or players.

When is practice?

You will hear from your head coach around mid-August. At that time, they will share with you the practice day(s) and times.

When are the games?

Game schedules will come out after the teams have been formed. Games typically start after Labor Day and go through early to mid-November. Game Days are on Saturdays, sometimes on Sundays when we have to make up for missed Saturdays. The [main calendar](#) will have the season dates for games and then once team schedules are completed, they will also be available in [InLeague](#) and the [Game Schedule](#) page.

When do we get our uniforms?

Your coach will pick up and distribute uniforms before the first game. Uniform kits include a jersey, shorts and socks.

What does my child need to bring to practices and games?

Every player is required to have shin guards, shoes or cleats and a water bottle for practice. For safety, shin guards need to be fully covered by socks. A soccer ball is recommended. For games, players will be required to have the above AND be in the uniform provided by AYSO. No alternate uniforms will be allowed. Additionally, altering of AYSO uniforms is not allowed (example: cannot add player names to uniforms).

What size ball do we need?

Please refer to [Rules by Age](#). For 8U and younger, size 3 ball. For 10U and 12U, size 4 ball. 14U and above is a size 5 ball.

Is jewelry allowed?

No, not in practices or games. Jewelry represents a potential hazard on the field when players are in close contact with each other. This includes earrings (and no, players cannot just "cover up" earrings with tape or bandaids.). This also applies to new piercings. Officially, no player will be allowed on the field with any object which the referee may deem as potentially harmful to any other player including, but not limited to earrings, necklaces, rings, watches, barrettes or other jewelry.

The only exception are medical bracelets that must be taped up with only the necessary medical information showing.

How long are the games?

Please refer to the [Rules by Age page](#) for information based on your age division. Each half has a break in the middle for substitutions and water break with a running clock. The halftime break is typically 5 minutes.

My child is injured. When can they return to play?

Players should not return from an injury until they are fit to play again. You can read more on the [National AYSO Wiki](#) as well as determine if you need a Return to Play Release Form.

Can we compensate our coaches and referees?

No, AYSO volunteers, including coaches and referees, cannot be compensated for their volunteer work.

Volunteer Questions

Why am I being asked to volunteer?

AYSO runs on volunteer power and no one is paid! Our region requires a large number of volunteers to support almost 3000 players, so each family should sign up for a volunteer role. As AYSO volunteers, parents/guardians/family members not only get to participate with their child, they also demonstrate the value of giving back to their community. Being an all-volunteer program is what allows AYSO to follow one of our 6 core principles: "Everyone Plays." Volunteers help to make our program accessible for every child who wants to play!

Coaches and referees are the most visible volunteers, but there are several different ways to help. Every volunteer role, no matter how small, makes a difference. When you register your child, please indicate what position(s) you can volunteer for. Grandparents and older siblings can volunteer, too! Once you decide how you want to volunteer, you can begin the process of becoming an official AYSO volunteer at any time. [Review instructions](#) for renewing your volunteer position or signing up as a new volunteer.

Volunteer positions that need to be filled:

All of the volunteer positions that need to be filled are listed under your InLeague account and under “Volunteer Registration.” We need head coaches, assistant coaches, referees, team managers as well as many other roles that come open from time to time. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on [this list](#) if you would like to get more involved!

How do I sign up to volunteer?

Thank you for volunteering! Here are the [instructions](#). You can also navigate to [InLeague](#) and click on “Volunteer Registration.”

Referee Volunteer Questions

I’ve never refereed before. Do you certify me?

Yes! No previous experience with soccer or refereeing is necessary. We will provide you with the online and in-person training needed to referee. Please refer to the [volunteer instruction page](#) to get signed up.

Where can I learn more about the region’s rules?

There is a great guide here: [Referee Info page](#)

How does the point system work?

Please refer to the [Referee Info](#) guide for full information.