

Appleseed Youth Soccer Association Coaches Manual

Adopted 2008 by the A.Y.S.A. Board of Representatives

Disclaimer

Any and all information contained within this Coaching Manual, as well as any information and / or rules distributed verbally or written is subject to change, alteration or deletion by the Appleseed Youth Soccer Association Executive Board at any time with or without notice.

This manual is intended for the use of Appleseed Youth Soccer Association's clubs, coaches, players, parents and / or referees. This manual may be reproduced for distribution.

Introduction

Appleseed Youth Soccer Association Coaching Manual is intended information and guidance for clubs coaches and administrators. The information contained here in recaps the rules under which we play soccer matches in this league. Each item of information is a procedure, rule or group of rules. This Coaching Manual is not the A.Y.S.A. Rule Book. The wording of this Manual is not always the precise wording of the applicable rule as it appears in FIFA Laws of the Game, USSF Administrative Hand Book, OYSAN Constitution, and / or the A.Y.S.A. Constitution , By-laws, Rules of Play and Resolutions. Furthermore all information and rules in this Coaches Manual are subject to change without notice.

The Appleseed Youth Soccer Association (A.Y.S.A.) plays matches under the rules of FIFA, the international governing body. The first rule in the FIFA rule book allows for modification of the Laws of the Game, for various age groups and to suit local conditions. AYSA has chosen to modify many rules of the game as outlined in this publication, to suit youth players. Only the rules so modified and published may be changed.

A.Y.S.A. is affiliated in good standing with Ohio Youth Soccer Association North (OYSAN). OYSAN is affiliated with United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and through it, with USSF, the governing body in North America. It is the duty and obligation of each member club in this league to follow the rules which will preserve the good standing of A.Y.S.A. with OYSAN

AYSA DIVISIONS

AYSA has many divisions available for teams at all levels of ability. For youth teams, there are competitive divisions available if there are at least 4 teams in a division. Youth girls may play on youth boy's teams. These divisions are Co-ed and considered to be boy's teams. Youth girls may play on youth girls only teams and this is considered a girls team. Youth boys may only play youth boy's teams.

Each level of play offered increases in difficulty, and/or the level of skill of the players. Divisions are named A, B, C, etc. A is considered the highest division. The number of divisions offered depends solely on the number of teams entered.

AYSA carefully examines your request to place a team in a given division, based on our estimate of the team's ability and our past with the team and/or coach. AYSA has the final say on which division a team is placed in, and reserves the right to move any team up or down in order to balance the level of play and number of teams in each division. In general, such factors as past experiences with the team or coach, the number of players from which the club has to draw its team, the number of ages of the players on the team, and other things which will influence the competitiveness of a team are considered by the AYSA Board in placing your team in a division. The decision of the AYSA Board in placing your team is final and may not be appealed or challenged.

Please note that AYSA is permitted to make rules governing its age groups, divisions and team eligibility, which may differ substantially from those of OYSAN. Most of these differences govern level of play and player movement between teams.

LIST OF AGE / GENDER DIVISIONS OFFERED BY AYSA

Athletes with Disabilities: Contact Independent Living Center Kathy McGlone 419-526-6770 for ages 5 to 17 year olds.

U6, U7 (girls, boys, co-ed) Players must be 4 years old by start of season to be eligible to play.

U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, (girls, boys, co-ed)

Combined U13 U14 – U15 also referred to as Jr. High Division (girls, boys, co-ed). Unless there are enough U13 players in this age groups to allow for a separate U13 division.

- High School players may not play on U14 – U15 teams
- Age groups may be combined in the event of an insufficient number of teams per age group
- Based on the number of teams registered, as many as 5 divisions per age group, per gender may be created.

COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players, spectators, and themselves. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of every person, including guests on their side of the field. A coach is recognized by AYSA as a participant in the match and may receive yellow or red cards from the referee. The referee is not required to warn coaches before issuing either yellow or red cards.

Coaching is restricted to the team area only, which should be marked by the home team during field preparation, and which extends 10 yards to either side of the mid-field line. If a club fails to provide lines marking the designated area, it is implied.

No person may move up and down the length of the touchline for the purpose of coaching, instructing, players or shouting encouragement.

Expect the referee(s) and players in the game, NO OTHER PERSON IS ALLOWED ON THE FIELD unless, and until, authorized by the referee.

Spectators, coaches and substitute players are required to remain at least 5 feet back from the touchline on their side of the field.

Fighting by any persons, either in the game on the sidelines, and/or loud verbal abuse or physical/verbal assault of the referee, shall be grounds to immediately suspend the match if the referee chooses. Such a decision is that of the referee alone. The coach will be held responsible by the league. The league also has the right to begin disciplinary proceedings in the event league officers witness such actions, even when the referee does not choose to take action. If a referee suspends a play, or if a match is interrupted for any reason, the outcome of suspended matches will be decided solely by the AYSA disciplinary committee based on the referee's report and game reports.

Poor conduct by a team, leading to suspension of a match, will be grounds for forfeiting a match, and AYSA has the right to impose harsher penalties.

FAILURE TO REPORT TO A GAME

Failure of a team to show up (field a minimum number of players) at a scheduled or rescheduled game by the expiration of the 15-minute grace period will result in the no-show team forfeiting and paying the total referee fee and the team will be fined \$25 (adopted 2/06). These games will NOT be rescheduled. The league must be notified immediately by the other team that DOES appear by email @ woosterhtsoccer@yahoo.com

DROPPED TEAMS

Any club, which has a team(s) suspended or dropped after registration, forfeits its registration money, is fined \$50 and must bring account back to current requirements at the next registration.

GAME REPORTS

It is the responsibility of the coach to complete the AYSA End of Season Summary Report, due by November meeting and June meeting, for all games. These reports are needed for alignment of the next season. There will be a \$10.00 fine for every end of season summary not turned in. This form is available through your club registrar. This form will be the only accepted form no schedules or homemade forms. Forms are to be filled out completely. Send to AYSA 2152 Walker Lake Rd. Box 119 Mansfield, Ohio 44903, or give to your BOR to be turned in.

GAME ROSTERS

Each coach must be ready to present the referee with the official AYSA approved game roster at the start of each and every game. Each coach must cooperate with the referee at player check-in, and have the team ready to check-in whenever the referee desires. The referee will be paid on the field BEFORE the start of the match. Each coach must present the opposing coach with a copy of the AYSA APPROVED ROSTER also. The copies that are exchanged must only show the player's jersey number and name. Any questions of the validity of the roster must NOT be addressed at the field (other than playoffs). Contact the League registrar after the game. At least one approved coach is required for each team. The roster is not to be used for any other reason by anyone than for the sole purpose to check the eligibility of players listed.

COACHES AND PLAYER WITH RED CARDS

Players/coaches (anyone receiving a red card or sent off) will be reported to AYSA by the referee for review and possible disciplinary action by AYSA. Coaches will NOT allow any red-carded player to play in the next AYSA scheduled game. Coaches that are sent off will NOT coach at the next AYSA scheduled game. Generally, yellow and red cards will be shown when given but is not necessary for the referee to show a card or to verbally warn any person before taking a stronger action, or to directly notify any person that he has been sent off from the match.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

It is important that coaches, parents and club officials honor the lines of communication established by the AYSA Executive Board for efficient handling of concerns. Expect for direct violation of the "Parents Code of Conduct" and the "Coaches Code of Conduct" and the violations of AYSA rules and regulations, each club is responsible for the discipline and to address questions.

1. All communications should be presented to your Club Representative
2. The Club Representative will then contact the appropriate Executive Member
3. The Executive Board will then contact the appropriate person to resolve the problem or question at hand.
4. The communication/response will then be passed back down to you through either your Club Representative or Executive Board Member
5. In the event this procedure is followed without receiving a response in an appropriate amount of time, you should write the AYSA Board a complete report and mail it to: AYSA 2152 Walker Lake Rd. Box 119 Mansfield, Ohio 44903 or email. Email addresses are found at aysasoccer.org. Please do not call Executive Board Members at home

Risk Management Form

All players and coaches must be properly registered with their club. AYSA, the state association and the national association by following our standard registration procedures and paying their fees. All coaches must complete a Risk Management Form (submitted online only). By going to www.oysan.org click on Programs, Risk Management, *Oysan Risk Management Disclosure Form, code is 69538. Good for one year from the date you receive your confirmation number.

What is registration?

- Player and coach registration is the act of signing up to participate and paying fees to a member club of AYSA. Team registration is the act of turning in Team Registration Forms and Waivers, Team Rosters, Field Availability Form and paying fees to AYSA each fall and spring at AYSA registration. Player and Coach Rostering is the act of placing a player or coach on a specific team.
- Team registration can only occur at AYSA registration no late registration of teams is permitted. After AYSA registration, late registration of a player must be performed by the AYSA Registrar ONLY. Fees must be enclosed with the proper Fee Form provided by the League Treasurer.

Players register once a year, with the registration in the fall season. New players in the spring are defined as those who did not play an AYSA registered team in the fall. A player's date of rostering with a team is defined by national rule as the date on which he plays his first match with that team. All new players are to be denoted on the spring roster. There may only be five (5) competitive players (that play outside of AYSA) rostered on any one team at any time on U11 – U15. U9 – U10 there may only be 3 competitive players rostered to any one team. These players must be marked on the roster as competitive.

Teams are required by AYSA to register each time for both fall and spring seasons. Coaches register with teams and must be updated immediately if changed at any time.

PLAYOFF'S

Participation in AYSA playoffs is assumed for age divisions U9 and up unless:

1. Outstanding fees or fines
2. Disciplinary action
3. Completion of all games in the playoff's can not be guaranteed (teams must be available to play on all scheduled dates of the playoff's)
4. The league scheduler is notified at least two weeks in advance of the playoffs in writing. There will be a \$25 fine per team for any game forfeited by no-show. Playoff games are conducted in single elimination format. Awards are given by AYSA to the 1st and 2nd place teams. Detailed rules addressing playoffs are available. There are no reschedules of playoff games. Any team or teams that attempt to reschedule playoff games will be banned from the playoffs.

The winning coach will need to report the game scores immediately following each match by email to mark.shramko@aksteel.com

REFEREE AUTHORITY

Every referee, including emergency volunteers in no-show cases, has complete and total authority for the conduct of the match and to enforce discipline from the moment he arrives at the field until he leaves. This includes all pre-game and post-game activities.

The referee is responsible for starting each match as close to the scheduled time as possible.

Referees are to be paid on the field before the start of the game. A referee may refuse to referee the game unless paid. Each coach is responsible for paying ½ of the fee. This also includes the U8 division, in which case the HOME coach is responsible for providing a referee.

THE REFEREE AUTHORITY AND JUDGEMENT SHALL NOT BE CHALLENGED, NOR MAY HIS JUDGEMENT BE APPEALED.

REFEREE NO-SHOWS

The referee has 15-minutes after the start of the game time to show up to the field of play. Both teams must remain at the field during this 15-minute grace period. If a referee fails to show:

If the assigned referee does not show up, the HOME coach shall referee the 1st half of the game and the Visiting Coach shall referee the 2nd half. Or an individual that is mutually agreed upon may referee the game and is to be treated as such. That person will be paid just like a certified referee. The final score of the said match will be considered valid and recorded by the League.

ROSTER SIZE

Players may be registered and added to a team's roster up through the deadline set and announced each season by the Executive Board.

The roster minimums and limits for teams:

Division	Minimum	Maximum
U6,	4 players	6 players
U7, U8	6 players	10 players
U9, U10	8 player's	12 players
U11 – U12	9 player's	16 players
Jr. High	11 player's	18 players

Exceptions to the roster maximums may be granted by a vote of the AYSA Executive Board. **PLAYERS CAN BE ROSTERED ON MULTIPLE TEAMS AS LONG AS THE TEAMS ARE IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS. Players may only play on the team that they are registered to.**

An accurate listing of names and addresses of all coaches must be registered and updated throughout the season as needed.

RUNNING UP SCORES

Soccer is a GAME. It is intended to be fun for ALL participants, not just the winning team. Without a worthy opponent, no purpose is served in playing any competitive game; running up the score either by accident or to embarrass an opponent, is pointless. No matter what the actual score, AYSA records no more than a 6-goal margin. Referees will report the actual score to AYSA.

The following rule will apply:

- A win by a margin of 6 goals is acceptable to AYSA, with the 6-goal differential being recorded.
- A win by a margin of 7 or 8 goals will count only as a 6-goal differential being recorded.

Any intentional running up of the score will result in:

- A win by a margin of 9 goals or greater will result in a forfeit of the match with considerations
- Any own goals scored by either team to circumvent these rules will result in a forfeit.
- Coaches abusing the intent of these rules will be subject to suspension and fines.

POSSIBLE METHODS TO CONTROL THE SCORE

When the margin reaches +6 in any match, the referee may remind the winning coach of the AYSA policy, but the referee has no authority to force coaches to adopt one of the following:

- Switch the players around to different positions
- Establish a minimum number of touches by the team, and/or by each player
- Pull one or more players off the field until some parity between the team is achieved
- Limit players from winning the team to defensive half of the field
- Mix and combine the players from both teams to form two new teams
- After opposing team is ahead by 5 goals add 1 player to the field for each goal there after (if the differential reverses, players should be removed in the same fashion).
- Have your team attempt to hone their foot skills and passing skills when you are ahead by a few goals
- Have your players use their weaker foot

AYSA recognizes that there will be times when opposing coaches will not cooperate with the established guidelines voted on and adopted by the Board of Representatives. When such a time occurs, please do not confront anyone on the field. Continue the match if you wish and contact AYSA IMMEDIATELY. AYSA tries to ensure that teams are put in the correct division at the time of registration. However, appear that a team is in the wrong division due to players being dropped or added to the team after alignment, or failure of the team to properly represent themselves. This is no excuse for teams who consistently and intentionally run up the score on their opponent.

POLICY ON FAIRPLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND REFEREE ABUSE/DISREPECT

This policy has been adopted to assure all persons involved in AYSA soccer matches understand the manner in which the League will address such incidents, and understand that their participation in the League subjects them to the rules contained in the policy. Participation in AYSA is a privilege, not a right. By taking these steps, we are not trying to find ways to punish the great people involved in our soccer programs but are simply trying to maintain a sense of fair play.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is defined by AYSA as unwelcome touching, striking, spitting or the verbal threat to do so. The league will not tolerate this conduct. Any physical abuse of a referee by a coach, player or spectator, or by a referee against any coach, player or spectator whether it occurs before, during or following a game will result in an immediate ban of the offending person from future AYSA games and participation in AYSA programming. In addition, the incident will be referred to OYSA-N for consideration of further disciplinary action.

Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse is defined by AYSA as a verbal attack of sustained, excessive, obscene or offensive nature. It is not intended to include mere dialogue or question by or among coaches and/or referees.

SPECTATORS

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse directed toward a referee, any player, any coach or any other spectator, the referee will **stop the match** (if it is going on). The referee will warn the coach and allow the coach to advise his spectator(s) of the warning and counsel the spectator(s) to cease immediately, if such incident occurs **before a match**, the referee will similarly warn the coach and instruct the coach to warn his spectator(s). If such incident occurs **following a match**, the referee will notify the League immediately and call 911 if necessary.

A **repeat offense** occurring during the same match will be cause of stoppage of the match, at the sole discretion of the referee. The team associated with the offending spectator(s) will forfeit the match and will be immediately fined \$25. Such team will immediately provide the name(s) of the abusive spectator(s) to the referee. If the team refuses to do so, it will be suspended immediately from all AYSA matches until the offending person(s) is identified in writing to the President of AYSA. The AYSA Executive Board will notify the club of its decision and disciplinary action. Spectators **DO NOT** have appeal rights and there will be no hearing. Spectators that violate the Executive Boards decision or choose to ignore said decision will jeopardize the standing of the team and entire club. Fines and sanctions will apply.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a future match by any spectator(s) from the same team during the same season will result in suspension of that team the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season. An automatic fine of \$100 will be imposed on that teams' parent club.

Any future incidents involving spectator(s) from the same team will jeopardize the clubs' standing within AYSA. The team will be disbanded. Continued abuse from the club will be cause for disciplinary action up to and including removal from AYSA. The League will maintain records of spectator offenses from season to season.

Coaches and Players

Current rules concerning yellow/red card procedures apply. The Executive Board will follow the Disciplinary Hearing Guidelines established by OYSA-N. Coaches and players have the right to a hearing and have the right appeal.

Referees

Upon any initial of verbal abuse by a referee directed towards any player, coach, or other spectator, the coach observing the behavior shall report it to the League President. Matters, including the conduct of officials, brought to the attention of AYSA, will be subject to review or submission to the Referee Association for review, but remedies will never include changing the result of a match.

GAME AND FIELD REGULATIONS

AYSA games are played under FIFA Laws of the Game with local modifications.

The referee is the ultimate and final authority as to who may or not participate, suitability of a field of play, and enforcement of the Laws of the Game. Neither the referee's judgment nor his rulings may be challenged or appealed at the field of play.

Emergency Game Cancellation Due to Field Shutdown

AYSA recognizes the fact that the majority of Clubs do not have the final authority over the use of their fields. The Board of Education or the Parks & Recreation Division within their community controls most fields. In the event that a field is shut down by on of the above due inclement weather the following steps must be taken:

1. Notify AYSA by leaving a message at 419-524-1397, before 8:00 am Saturdays and before 3:30 pm on weekdays. The person that will be reporting field closings must be registered with AYSA prior to the start of the season.
2. All field closings (received by the correct time) will be listed on the AYSA message line.
3. All reschedules must be handled according to the schedule/reschedule policy as defined.
4. Any clubs that fails to report field closings by the designated time will NOT get their field closing listed on the message line. The club will be responsible for any and all referee fees, and the rescheduled game may be moved to the opposing team's field.

FIELD PREPARATION AND DIMENSIONS

It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to have the field in proper condition for regular season and post-season games. The field must be properly marked to the satisfaction of the referee. This includes lines, nets, and corner flags. In the absence of nets or properly prepared field, the referee has the right to suspend the game with the home team forfeiting. Here will be \$50 fine should this occur.

Plastic traffic cones (minimum of 2 feet tall), regulation corner flags (on posts with minimum height of 5 feet, with rounded tops), or spring loaded corner flags must be positioned at the corners of the field for games. Corner arcs must be marked.

It is the responsibility of both teams to arrive at least 15 minutes before the game time. The referee must be able to check in the players before the scheduled start of the match. AYSA allows a 15- minute grace period only to allow teams to correct field preparation problems and for the late arrival of officials. There is not a 15 minute warm up time!! The grace period will not be used to allow a team to wait for the full number of rostered players to arrive. Games may start with 4 players for U8, 5 for U9 and U10, 6 for U11 and U12, and 7 players for Jr. High. U6 must have 3 players in order to play.

A soccer field is considered dimensionally acceptable if it is accepted by AYSA for scheduling. Only the referee has the right to determine the acceptability of a field for any given match, and he/she may abandon the match or require modifications to the field for reasons of markings and/or safety. Each referee has the right to make this determination for each individual match without regard to any previous rulings. The HOME TEAM is responsible for having the field marked, corners marked, corner flags in place, nets hung, and goals properly secured and anchored by game time. Goals must be securely anchored to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy the Goal Safety Policy requirements.

Field Dimensions:

All field markings and measurements can be obtained at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/coaches/RulesSmallGames.asp>

The Home team coach/players will choose their side of the field; the opposing team coach/players will take the same side of the field as the home team. **All spectators are to take the opposite side of the field from the players.**

Only the referee can decide the playability of a field due to weather conditions or line marking.

AYSA Severe Weather Policy

All games will be cancelled or suspended if a severe weather warning is in effect, regardless of the time the warning goes into effect.

Goal Safety Policy—attached

All goals must be secure before the match can begin. Please refer to the policy as outlined. Supervision is critical to prevent horseplay on or around goals. Parents and coaches must remind children not to climb on goals and tell any child fooling around a goal to get off! Coaches must make goals “off limits” as a part of their pre-season speech about keeping safe.

GAME SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Forms are available to list conflicts and every effort will be made to accommodate reasonable requests. These forms are due to AYSA (available through you club registrar at the time of team registration. School and religious functions will be honored, if it is all possible (school functions are NOT other school related sports or other outside activities). Special requests will NOT be honored after the completion of schedules. **Except for extreme weather conditions and field closings games cancellations must be made 72 hours before the game start time.** There will be a \$10.00 fine for every game cancellation made less than 72 hours prior to the scheduled game.

Procedure for game cancellations:

1. The team canceling must notify Referee assigner Joe Ganim at jlganim@zoominternet.net
2. The team canceling must contact their BOR who will give them the opposing teams BOR phone number for the coaches phone number.
3. The canceling team must notify the opposing coach to work out rescheduling the game if needed

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

All players except the goalkeeper must wear like-colored jerseys with a permanently attached number for identification. Each goalkeeper must wear a shirt different in color from either team. Goalkeepers do not need permanently affixed numbers. In case of a conflict in the color of team jerseys, it is the responsibility of the HOME team to change to an alternate color. If the home team must change colors, the alternate shirts do not need numbers so long as the original numbered jerseys are worn underneath.

Warm-ups, compression shorts, or long pants may be worn during a game ONLY if there are no zippers or strings hanging or swinging around, and then only with approval of the referee. This option is not at the discretion of either team coach.

Casts and other support equipment such as braces must be padded and covered in such a way as to not be dangerous to another player. It is at the discretion of the referee as to whether or not a player may participate while wearing casts, braces or anything else other than the approved uniform. There is no appeal on each individual decision of each referee; the fact that one referee permitted the item in one game shall not be grounds for approval of the item in a different game.

Jewelry or other body adornments, including hair pins or beads, earrings, etc., is **NOT permitted**. Covering earrings with band aids is NOT permissible. Earring must be removed from the players' ears and other exposed body parts before the start of the game. This also includes starter earrings for new piercing.

All players are required to wear shin guards covered with socks in all AYSA games at all times! The cleats on soccer shoes and their condition are at the discretion of the referee. Shoes designated for other sports including baseball, football, and rugby are not allowed. Referees should not allow cleats that potentially injure another player. Cleats that are sharp or otherwise dangerous are not allowed.

GAME BALL

The HOME team is responsible to supply a suitable game ball, which must be acceptable to the referee.

Ball sizes are as follows:

U6 & U7: size #3

U8 – U12: size #4

U13 and up: size #5

LENGTH OF GAME

DIVISIONS

HALF TIME

LENGTH OF GAME

For U6 thru U8 refer to specific game rules.

U9 & U10

5 minutes

(2) 25 minute halves

U11- U15

5 minutes

(2) 30 minute halves

*Changes in the length of the game may occur during time constraints and daylight savings. NOTE: Only the referee is the official timekeeper during any match!

OFFICIAL GAME

Any game ended at the end of the first half, no matter what the reason, other than behavior problems, will be considered official. AYSA will make a determination whether or not the game will be replayed. The game score will be reported as the official score. Any game abandoned by the referee prior to the second half kick-off for other reasons (such as lack of discipline) will be reported to AYSA, which will make the final determination as to the outcome and final score of the game based on the referee's report.

OVERTIME

There is no overtime except for **Playoff's** where a winner is needed. Regular season games that end in a tie will be recorded as a tie.

INSURANCE

By virtue of affiliation and registration with Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North and through them, US Youth Soccer and USSF, AYSA had both liability and secondary coverage medical insurance for every player, coach, club officer, and league official as long as they are properly registered. There are certain rules, used to monitor and control coverage and/or claims, which pertain to insurance. To file a claim contact the League President @novmom1959@aol.com

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE FOR FIELDS

Many entities that own or control your fields (park boards, school boards, etc.) may require a certificate of insurance before they will allow you to play or practice. The purpose of this document is to prove that you belong to an organization that carries sufficient liability insurance, and to add the name of the entity that owns the field to the coverage. Any AYSA club may obtain a certificate of insurance by direct contacting OYSA-N.

LOCAL MODIFICATION TO THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

Breakaways and “Professional” Fouls

Referees are required by FIFA Laws to deal harshly with fouls against the game—fouls which are intended to replace soccer skill with brute force. In particular, referees are required to issue red cards to any players who intentionally commit so-called “professional” defensive fouls, no matter how forcefully, in order to stop play of the game, and/or breakaways, when there is a clear scoring opportunity.

Slide Tackling

Slide tackling is **NOT ALLOWED** in any recreational game. Period.

Substitutions

Substitutions for U6, U7, and U8 are outlined in the rules for each age division.

For all others, U9- Jr High

The referee must authorize all substitution by making a direct and unmistakable sign to the coach that he has permission to substitute. Play will not begin until all players leaving the game are off the field. Substitution is allowed with permission:

- Prior to throw-in in your favor, or the other team’s throw in IF THEY ARE ALSO SUBSTITUTING
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- At any injury time-out, limited to one-for-one
- After a goal is scored by either team
- When a player has been cautioned (only the yellow carded player may be replaced)
- At half-time

In U9-Jr. High, players must be at midfield before the stoppage of play in order to be allowed to enter the field.

TEAM PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

AYSA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MOVE ANY TEAM AS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BALANCING DIVISIONS OR FOR SCHEDULING, AND TO SUB-DIVIDE DIVISIONS AND OR/LEVELS TO BALANCE THE NUMBER OF TEAM, AVOID BYES, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

The team movement policy allows coaches and/or clubs to request placement in specific divisions to meet their own team development goals, but also allows the Executive Board to preserve the balance of each division and smooth out scheduling. The final decision on placing a team in a division always rests with the AYSA Executive Board and may not be challenged or appealed.

AYSA assumes every team is the same from season to the next, especially within a seasonal year. Coaches should note that is illegal, under the national rules, to force a player off a recreation team roster unless he 1) moves to far away to participate with that team, 2) is injured to such an extent that he can no longer participate, or 3) disciplinary reasons.

However, some teams do disband or change due to player participation in other sports. AYSA will take this into consideration if you let AYSA know at registration. If a team is roughly 65% the same from season to season, AYSA will treat this as an unchanged team regardless of the ability of the players who have come or gone.

Standings are used for alignment of teams for the following season, not to establish a playoff seed.

YELLOW AND RED CARD POLICY AND OTHER DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

In AYSA, players and coaches can receive red and yellow cards. Two yellow cards equal a red card and an ejection from the match. Ejected players or coaches must leave the area immediately; the player will not be replaced on the field. The referee has the authority to issue both yellow and red cards from the time he arrives at the field to the time he leaves it. The referee never has to warn a player or coach before issuing either card(s). Generally, cards will be shown, but it is NOT necessary for the referee to show the card for disciplinary action to be taken.

The Disciplinary Committee will monitor yellow card reports. Disciplinary action may be taken, with or without warning, against habitual and repeat offenders. Such action may include phone calls from the Committee to the participant, coach or club officers, and letters of warning of reprimand, and/or summons to a disciplinary hearing. However, it is never necessary for any of these actions, or any other form of warning to occur before stronger disciplinary action can be initiated when deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee or Executive Board.

Every disciplinary action for various red card infractions stated in the AYSA Constitution, Bylaws and elsewhere, is always stated as minimum. You may be suspended for many more games than the stated minimum, and the Disciplinary Committee has the power and authority to suspend any participants, including spectators, for up to 99 years. Every red card will be evaluated on an individual basis there is no appeal to precedent.

In the event a coach is red carded, the club president and the coach will be notified. If the coach fails to heed the disciplinary action handed out, the team will be barred from the further participation until a decision by the Executive Board has been made. The club officers will be held accountable for the further actions within the team.

It is the responsibility of the coach to insure sportsmanlike conduct of players, spectators, and guests on and off the field of play. A coach can receive a red card as a result of the actions of spectators or players. **There is no room in soccer for fighting, unnecessary rough play, or harassment of any kind by or towards any player, coach spectator, or referee.**

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

All protests for all corrective and/or disciplinary action must be submitted in writing and signed within 48 hours of the offense to the League President. (Contact AYSA, 75 N. Walnut St., Mansfield, OH 44902) The Disciplinary Committee will review the protest and will contact the party involved with the following decision:

1. A hearing will be held
2. There is no grievance
3. A hearing is not necessary, but the party will be contacted

The referee's judgment(s) will regard to the physical condition of the field, its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match and those prerogatives granted him by the FIFA Laws of the Game **shall not be challenged.**

APPEALS

Before there can be an appeal, there must first be a ruling. Only Disciplinary Committee and Executive Board rulings may be appealed. Decisions of the referee can never be appealed. Coaches and players have the right to hearings and appeal decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee. These appeals are made to OYSA-N. Parents and spectators **do not have the right to a hearing or to appeal.**