

# **AYSO AREA F 2007/2008 LOWER DIVISION PLAYOFFS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **1.0 GENERAL:**

As used in these Tournament Rules and Regulations, the “Area Director” (herein referred to as AD) or in his absence, a designated representative, are synonymous.

The AD, or his designee, shall have sole responsibility for coordinating the running of the Playoff games.

**ALL TEAMS MUST PLAY ALL THEIR SCHEDULED GAMES.**

These rules do not supersede AYSO Rules and Regulation, but are intended to cover those situations not addressed by AYSO Rules and Regulations, which shall prevail in case of conflict.

The following rules are designed to achieve the highest degree of sportsmanship in keeping with the AYSO philosophy, and to give all players, coaches and spectators the opportunity to participate in a wholesome environment.

## **2.0 JURISDICTION:**

The AD, or his representative, shall have sole jurisdiction over the Playoff games, and in any disciplinary decisions and in the enforcement recommendations made by the Review Board. All disputes will be resolved immediately or as soon as possible thereafter by the AD.

## **3.0 TEAMS, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS**

The Regional Commissioner will advance teams, which meet the highest level of sportsmanship and character, to Area 1F Playoffs.

- 3.1 RC’s and coaches are responsible for insuring the eligibility of their players. All team rosters will/may be verified through AYSO National computerized registration file for eligibility requirements specified under Paragraphs 3.2 through 3.4 below.
- 3.2 Ages of Players—Must be of indicated age or younger as of July 31, 2007
  - 1) Under 10 – 9 years of age or younger
  - 2) Under 12 – 11 years of age or younger
  - 3) Under 14 – 13 years of age or younger
- 3.3 Players must be registered in an AYSO Program as of October 31, 2007.
- 3.4 All players must have played in at least one-half of the games with the respective team during the AYSO Fall 2007 season. The ONLY exception is if an injury or illness prevented them from playing the minimum number of games.
- 3.5 Failure to provide proof of eligibility when requested or falsify eligibility of players will result in the team’s expulsion from the Playoffs and forfeiture of all games played and all remaining scheduled games. 8 points will be awarded to the winning team of forfeited games.

- 3.6 Coaches must carry AYSO registration (release) forms at all times. If a coach cannot provide the forms prior to the start of a game, that game will be forfeited.
- 3.7 The RC is responsible for providing the AD or his designee the number of teams by Division no later than **FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE LOWER DIVISION PLAYOFFS**. Regions who fail to uphold this date may be omitted from the schedule. Fully completed rosters, **SIGNED BY THE RC**, must include player's jersey number and **BIRTH DATES**, and must be given to the AD at the coach's meeting December 18, 2006. Any wrong information in the roster will result in game forfeiture and further disciplinary action.

#### **4.0 COACHES:**

- 4.1 Coaches participating in the lower division playoffs must have previously completed a Safe Haven Coach course and completed a volunteer form that has been submitted to their Region.
- 4.2 All Head Coaches shall be a minimum of 18 years of age.

#### **5.0 CONDUCT:**

The RC shall be held responsible for the conduct of his coaches who in turn shall be responsible for the conduct of his players and spectators. **PERSISTENT INTERFERENCE WITH THE GAME FROM THE SIDELINES MAY BE CAUSE FOR TERMINATION OF THE GAME AND/OR THE SUSPENSION OF SPECTATORS FROM FUTURE GAMES.**

#### **6.0 FIELD OF PLAY RESONSIBILITIES:**

The region hosting play is responsible for preparing the fields of play.

- 6.1 Both teams scheduled to play the first game of the day are responsible for setting up goal posts and nets and placing corner flags. Both teams scheduled to play the last game of the day are responsible for taking goal posts, nets and corner flags down and returning the field equipment to the designated location.
- 6.2 **NO DOGS** are allowed anywhere on the sites.
- 6.3 **NO SMOKING** is allowed anywhere on the sites.
- 6.4 Each team is responsible for **CLEAN UP** in the general area of the fields they play on.
- 6.5 Failure to put away goal posts, nets and flags and clean up playing area will result in suspension from future play to the offending team, coaches and players.
- 6.6 **NO ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS** are allowed in the playing area.

#### **7.0 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a team in U14 and U12. A minimum of six (6) players shall constitute a team in U10.

- 7.1 The Home team shall change jerseys or wear a slip over vest when there is a color conflict concerning uniforms. The Home team is the first team listed on the schedule. The hosting region will make pennies available.
- 7.2 Teams shall remain on designated sides of the field for the entire duration of the game. The Home team will take the North or West side of the field depending on the field layout.
- 7.3 Each team is allowed only two (2) coaches and they shall remain on their own side of the field no further than 10 yards on either side of the halfway line. Coaches and substitute players must stay one (1) yard from the Touchline.
- 7.4 Only coaches and players are allowed on the field of play. Spectators are to remain between the Penalty boxes and at least three (3) yards from the Touchline.
- 7.5 Each site shall be responsible for reporting the scores of the game to the Area Webmaster no later than 9:00pm of the day of the game (the result/score, caller's name and telephone number should be left on the answering machine). The referee is responsible for turning in all-game cards to the site coordinator or his designee following each game. (If received by the Webmaster, the Playoff scores will be posted on the Area 1F Website.)

## **8.0 REFEREE/REFEREE REPORTS:**

All games shall be officiated using the Diagonal System.

- 8.1 All referees shall be of the highest caliber available. They are to be of appropriate age and ability, a minimum age of 16 years and be at least 3 years a senior to the participating teams.
- 8.2 The host regions will assign referees for pool play. The AREA REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR shall assign neutral referees for the Semi-finals and Final games.
- 8.3 Referees shall submit a detailed report within 24 hours to the AD or his designee on all send offs (red card) offenses and any abusive conduct on the part of the players, coaches or spectators. A copy of the report shall also be submitted to the Area Referee Administrator with 24 hours for review and evaluation, the results of which shall be reported to the AD.
- 8.4 Area 1F requires that yellow and red cards be shown to all offending participants and spectators.

## **9.0 GAMES:**

Duration of games – All games will be two (2) halves as listed below:

- 1) U14 – 35 minute halves
  - 2) U12 – 30 minute halves
  - 3) U10 – 25 minute halves
- 9.1 Pool games may end in ties. Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Final games must have a winner. If at the end of regulated time, the score is tied, there will be two COMPLETED overtime periods as follows: U14 – two 9 minute periods; U12 – two 7 minute periods; and U 10 – two 5 minute periods. If in the event teams are tied following the complete overtime periods, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with FIFA LAWS of the games.

- 9.2 Games shall be played as scheduled. THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD. Failure of a team to be ready to play at game time or to show up shall constitute forfeiture, giving the opponent team 8 points.
- 9.3 In the event games are postponed due to weather conditions or any other unforeseen circumstances, the games will be played on the following scheduled day or as posted on the Area 1F Website.
- 9.4 Failure to play a game as scheduled or refusing to continue to play a game that has already begun when so directed by the referee, shall be subject to disciplinary action including exclusion of participation in postseason or remaining Playoff games.
- 9.5 Only the referee or the AD or his designee may cancel a scheduled game.
- 9.6 Purposely starting a game with less than 11 players in the presence of substitutes to allow a particular late player entrance into the game upon their arrival is not in keeping with AYSO soccer philosophy AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. THE GAME WILL START WHEN THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS ARE PRESENT.
- 9.7 After the game schedules are handed out at the coaches meeting, it becomes final and changes will not be made except in case of field availability or conditions.
- 9.8 ALL COMPLETED GAMES ARE FINAL.
- 9.9 The outcome of games terminated by the referee due to control problems or the refusal of a team to continue to play when so directed by the referee, will be determined by a hearing of a Review Board convened by the AD.

## **10.0 EQUIPMENT:**

Player's equipment shall conform to AYSO Rules and Regulations and Regional Rules, and the following:

- 10.1 Shin guards are required to be worn at all practices and games. They shall be worn under the socks, shall be commercially manufactured, and shall be of such size to afford adequate protection to the player.
- 10.2 Bicycle shorts are allowed if they are the same color as the uniform shorts.
- 10.3 Uniform jerseys shall have sleeves (no tank tops allowed).
- 10.4 Players may not wear any kind of jewelry.
- 10.5 Players with casts or splints are not allowed to practice or participate in any game. Players may wear hard knee braces if they meet the requirements specified in Paragraphs 10.6 through 10.9 below.
- 10.6 Provide a signed letter from their doctor to the AD, which states that the player is required to wear a knee brace while playing soccer.

- 10.7 Provide a signed letter from their parents to the AD, which states that they are aware of their child's injury, that their child's doctor's orders are required to wear a brace while playing soccer and under these circumstances, they give their permission for their child to play soccer.
- 10.8 Prior to the start of each game, players wearing braces must receive an approval from the AD or his designee that the brace and its fasteners are adequately covered and padded. Approval will be noted on the game card.
- 10.9 The referee shall be responsible for ensuring that the brace continues to be safe during the game. If the brace should become unsafe by accident or due to the player's action, the player shall be removed from the game and substituted and not allowed to re-enter the game.
- 10.10 All uniforms shall be in compliance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations. All players must have the same jersey, shorts and socks with the exception of the goalkeepers. Jerseys shall bear the AYSO logo on the left chest area with numbers on the front (optional) and the back. No other markings allowed except for a manufacturer's logo.
- 10.11 All players must wear a jersey with a different number and may not exchange it with another player. Goalkeeper jerseys and uniforms replaced because of bloodstains are exempt. (See Paragraph 13) Jerseys shall remain in place while players are on the playing field.

## **11.0 TOURNAMENT FORMAT:**

The Tournament uses a standard tournament format. Modifications may have been made due to the number of teams in each division. SEE THE APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILED INFORMATION.

- 11.1 The Tournament starts with a "round robin" formula to determine seeding in single elimination games i.e.... QTR, SEMI-FINALS
- 11.2 For all Pool play, points will be awarded as follows:
  - 6 point for a win
  - 3 points for a tie + points for goals with a maximum of 6 points
  - 1 point for goals scored, maximum of 3
  - 1 point for a shutout – no shut out points for a 0-0 tie
  - 10 points maximum possible for each game
  - 8 points for forfeiture
  - 1 point for red card to player/coach
- 11.3 All games will count fully in determining the winner of each pool. If there is a tie in points at the end of the pool play, the winner will be determined by using the following tiebreakers in the order in which they are listed:

**RED CARD PLAYER/COACH –1**  
**HEAD-TO-HEAD**  
**TEAM WITH THE LOWEST GOALS ALLOWED**  
**GOAL DIFFERENTIAL UP TO 3 POINTS PER GAME**

RESULTS OF ANOTHER PLAYOFF GAME (and a coin toss will be used for seeding if needed)

**12.0 SUBSTITUTION:**

In all games, the Quarterly substitution shall be invoked with  $\frac{3}{4}$  participation for all players except for U14 teams having more than 15 players.

**13.0 INJURIES/BLEEDING:**

Coaches shall report immediately to their respective Region RC and his Safety Director of any injury that occurs during a game involving any AYSO participant. Any player who is bleeding must be immediately removed from the game and is not allowed to re-enter the game until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is completely covered. Any part of the uniform that contains blood must be replaced before the player will be allowed to re-enter the game. Substitutions for the bleeding player shall be handled in the same manner as any other injury would be handled.

**14.0 DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

All participants (players, coaches and spectators) are subject to FIFA rules as modified for AYSO, AYSO Rules and Regulations and Policies, and Section 1 Rules as well as these Area 1F Rules and to the disciplinary actions set forth as follows:

- 14.1 If a player, coach or spectator has game suspensions remaining at the end of the regular season, that player, coach or spectator must sit out any playoff games, post season games and/or tournament games until the game suspensions have been completed.
- 14.2 After a player, coach or spectator is sent from the field, the referee MAY SUSPEND the game until that person has COMPLETELY left the area (out of sight and sound). The suspended player, coach or spectator is NOT ALLOWED to return to the field after the game is finished, nor is that person allowed to be present at the team's next played game or games depending on the length of their suspension (don't come to the field-stay at home!) Suspended players not accompanied by a parent will remain with their team, but separated from teammates, remain completely quiet and not participate in any post game activities (celebrations, handshakes, etc.) The enforcement of these requirements will be the responsibility of the coach.
- 14.3 Should a suspended player, coach or spectator violate the "out of sight and sound" requirement during or after the game for which they were suspended, or during any part of the time they were suspended, **one additional game of "out of sight and sound" shall be added to the discipline requirement.** In addition, at the discretion of the referee or AD, should the player, coach or spectator continue to violate the "out of sight and sound" requirement, the game may be suspended and after a reasonable time, terminated.
- 14.4 AYSO and Area F disapprove of any form of abusive language, which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin. Players, coaches or spectators who resort to this behavior will be sent from the field (red card). This applies from the time the person arrives until the person leaves the playing site, which includes the parking area.

14.5 Persons sent off for conduct contrary to AYSO philosophy occurring before, during or after a game may be expelled from further AYSO participation. ANY PERSON WHO ASSAULTS OR THREATENS (EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, PHYSICALLY OR VERBALLY) AN OFFICIAL (REFEREE OR ADMINISTRATOR) WILL BE EXPELLED FOR A MINIMUM OF THE REST OF THE SEASON AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO PERMANENT EXPULSION FROM FURTHER AYSO PARTICIPATION.

14.6 ANY PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN OR ATTEMPTS TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENT CONDUCT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED FROM THIS PROGRAM.

**15.0 RULES/RULING**

NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED. All decisions in judgment made by the referee are final.

15.1 Rulings shall be the responsibility of the AD or his designee and shall be final. These rules do not supersede AYSO rules and regulations, but are intended to cover those situations not addressed by AYSO Rules and Regulations, which shall prevail in case of conflict.

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