



REGION HANDBOOK

FALL 2010

Greetings from the Commissioner

Hello Families and Friends of Region 55,

Thank you for your time, commitment and desire to ensure your child, as well as all those in our Region, the best soccer experience possible.

Our program is 100% volunteer. Without volunteers taking responsibility for our program, it simply would not exist - let alone grow nearly 10% a year. The number of coach and referee volunteers determines how many children we can serve. Most are parents, uncles, aunts, siblings and grandparents, who have never played soccer before.

We have a growing number of youth players in our region who give back to our program by coaching and refereeing. Please treat them as the valuable asset they are.

We understand there are many who work long hours and are busy during the week. Coaching does not require as much time as many think. As little as two to three hours per week is a small investment for such a large reward. Refereeing is also a perfect opportunity to help contribute to a child's positive experience. We train new refs for free after work and officiating is done on Saturday for an hour or two. You can also help our program in ways other than coaching or refereeing. We need help coordinating divisions, distributing uniforms, picnic help or even if you help set up or take down goals or simply grab a paint sprayer and paint lines when needed.

Fortunately, our region has a growing majority of volunteers who understand and support what our region encourages and requires - positive reinforcement and praise for effort, not result! This philosophy enables kids to feel that they are great soccer players and that they belong. Their positive experience comes from you and your understanding of what it's all about - THE KIDS! I am confident you will help us succeed in our goal to have every player want to come back next year.

Your time and effort as a volunteer is critical to our program, extremely valuable and very much appreciated!

Have a great season.

Russ Marlow
Commissioner
AYSO Region 55
commissioner@ayso55.org

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Contact Information

AYSO Region 55
PO Box 1852
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
714-585-3161

www.ayso55.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Phone Numbers and Additional Email Addresses are available at www.ayso55.org. The best way to reach us is by email.

Regional Commissioner
Asst. Regional Commissioner
Child/Volunteer Protection Advocate
Registrar
Coach Administrator
Asst. Coach Administrator
Safety Director
Secretary
Treasurer
Volunteer Coordinator
Field/Equipment Director
Referee Administrator/Instructor
Asst. Referee Admin
Referee Instruction
Team Parent Coordinator
Webmaster

Russ Marlow - commissioner@ayso55.org
(Open)
Susan Leites – cvpa@ayso55.org
Denise English - registrar@ayso55.org
Rich Veda - coach@ayso55.org
Jason Kakimoto – asstcoach@ayso55.org
Melissa Delgleize – safety@ayso55.org
(Open) – secretary@ayso55.org
Kristy Knox – treasurer@ayso55.org
Tom Scully – volunteer@ayso55.org
Nelson Leites – fields@ayso55.org
Klaus Schlechner - referee@ayso55.org
Peter Furman - assistantref@ayso55.org
Rick Sedivy – refinstructor@ayso55.org
Open - teammom@ayso55.org
Bruce Winsatt - webmaster@ayso55.org

Contact information for Division Coordinators can be found on at the region website.

AYSO Area K

Tony DeGiglio, Area K Director
Email: director@ayso11k.org
www.ayso11k.org

AYSO Section 11

Fred Freeman, Section 11 Director
Email: f.freeman@aysosection11.com
www.aysosection11.org

AYSO National Support & Training Center

12501 S. Isis Ave
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(800) 872-2976
www.ayso.org

About AYSO

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) was founded in Torrance, California in September 1964, by five men dedicated to youth soccer and the development of caring and concerned American citizens. In 1964, AYSO's family included only nine teams. Today, that number has grown to more than 850 regional programs and more than 40,000 teams. An average of one parent per family actively participates in AYSO acting as coach, referee, team parent, administrator, or sponsor. AYSO is currently supported by more than 250,000 unpaid volunteers.

AYSO programs work because our volunteers work. They work because they believe in the programs. Our phenomenal growth reflects AYSO's commitment to a healthy competitive atmosphere for youth soccer players and a concern for the development of caring and responsible individuals.

AYSO Mission

AYSO's Mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on AYSO's Six Philosophies:

Everyone Plays. Our goal is for kids to play soccer — so AYSO mandates that every player on every team must play at least half of every game. Region 55 extends this tenet to play every child at least 3/4 of every game, wherever possible during regular season play.

Balanced Teams. At the start of each primary season, we form teams as evenly balanced as possible because it is more fun where teams of equal ability play.

Positive Coaching. Winning kids are built up, not torn down!
We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism.

Open Registration. Our program is open to all children between 4 and 18 years of age who want to register and play soccer in our program. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.

Good Sportsmanship. We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

Player Development. We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Region 55

AYSO Region 55 is part of Area K which covers much of North and West Huntington Beach. Area K is a part of Section 11 which is one of 13 sections throughout the U.S. Region 55 serves over 1,500 players each season.

FALL SOCCER

This is the most familiar soccer season, running typically from August through November. It is our largest program. Registration occurs March through June with teams set by the end of July. Practice is allowed to begin August 1st with games beginning the first Saturday after Labor Day.

REGIONAL PICNIC

Each team will be assigned a 1-hour volunteer duty to man activities and/or to help with pictures. The picnic volunteer schedule will be posted on our website after game schedules are final.

OTHER HELP NEEDED FOR THE FALL SEASON

Many times before, during, and after the season, volunteers are needed to help with mailings, typing, sorting, alphabetizing, phone calls, etc. Any person willing to help is greatly appreciated. Contact the Tom Scully, our volunteer coordinator, at volunteer@ayso55.org.

FALL CHAMPIONS (U-10 and above)

The first place teams in the U10 & up Fall soccer divisions move on to compete against other regions typically in December/January.

ALL STARS (U-10 and above)

Selection is made by a panel of coaches. Games are played typically in late January and February. There is no additional cost for all stars.

SPRING SOCCER

Intramural spring soccer is an instructional, 1-hour practice on Saturdays beginning in March for U-6 through U-10. There is also spring select which is for competitive teams in U-10 & up. Check www.ayso55.org in late January for more information.

SOCCER CAMPS

Region 55 coordinates/facilitates 2-3 soccer camps each year. Typically there is one during spring break and 1-2 in the summer months. Check www.ayso55.org for more information.

VENDORS AND ACTION PHOTOGRAPHERS

During the season, your team may encounter businesses or individuals wishing to offer their products and services to you directly. They may claim that they have a “right” to be onsite to solicit you, but it is not true. We play on school district property, not public property, and according to Huntington Beach Municipal Code 9.02.040 “no person shall enter posted school grounds without first obtaining permission...”

The region will not stand behind an unauthorized solicitor should you receive faulty products, etc. Region 55 conducts background checks on individuals and businesses that do business within the region.

EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE

Region 55 has long term relationships with several local merchants whose generosity allows us to provide equipment for those players of families who are not able to purchase their own. If you are aware of a player in need, please call (or have the family call) the Region Hotline, 585-3161.

BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT REGION 55

Unicorn Sports Center
7632 Edinger, HB
(714) 847-1112

SoccerOne
Canoga Park
888-297-6386
www.soccersupplies.com

AYSO and Region 55 frown on items that make another team feel “less,” so for the regular fall season we ask that your team not have matching bags, jackets, etc.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Our referees, adult and youth, are unpaid volunteers who are doing their best to ensure our children's safety while upholding the spirit of the laws of the game.

The Board of Directors will not tolerate any abusive behavior towards any referee, player or coach. In addition to setting a poor example for the children, derogatory comments or complaining about the referee's calls jeopardizes our ability to attract and retain volunteers without whom we cannot play. Any player who uses profane, offensive, insulting, vulgar or abusive language or gestures will receive a red card and will be ejected from the game. The rule applies equally to the coach, assistant coach, substitutes on the bench, injured players and spectators. In instances where parents or coaches cannot control their comments or behavior, they will be dismissed from the game area, and in extreme situations, may not be allowed to watch future games.

This policy is especially true with respect to our youth referees. Youth referees are trained identically to adult referees, and due to their playing experience are frequently among the most knowledgeable referees on the fields. While we do ask our youth referees to make the same officiating decisions as adult referees, it is not reasonable to, and we do not expect, youth referees to confront or argue with adults. Youth referees are always be assisted by adult referees and are instructed, in the event of dissent from the sidelines, to suspend the game until the coaches have removed any offending individuals that impede the safe or fair conduct of the game. Any disciplinary steps taken with respect to abuse of referees will be doubled if a youth referee is involved.

Please help us ensure all our games are positive experiences for our children and for all our hard working volunteers.

Refunds

Refund requests may be submitted in writing or emailed to:

AYSO Region 55
ATTN: Refund Request
PO Box 1852
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
refunds@ayso55.org

Refund requests must include:

- Parent's and Player's name
- Player's date of birth
- Team name (if applicable)
- Address to mail the refund to
- Proof of payment (canceled check or payment receipt from Money Order, or registration form)

Requests not containing all required information cannot be processed.

Refund requests made after teams have started practicing are subject to a reduction based on costs incurred by the Region to that point (insurance, uniforms).

Full refunds will always be made to those players who were on waiting lists and did not get assigned to a team.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER OCTOBER 1ST.

Volunteers & Safe Haven

CHILD/VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ADVOCATE (CVPA)

Susan Leites - cvpa@ayso55.org

AYSO Region 55

Attn: CVPA

PO Box 1852

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

AYSO Region 55 coaches, asst. coaches, referees, asst. referees, linesman and team parents must renew their volunteer status annually by logging on to www.eayso.org, updating their information and submitting it for the new season.

Volunteer Forms

This is MANDATORY every year!

1. Go to **www.eayso.org** and log in using your user name and password. Don't have a user name or password? See below.
2. Click on the volunteer form link, or edit volunteer information.
3. Complete the volunteer form and print out two copies.
4. Sign and mail BOTH copies and a copy of your driver's license to the PO Box listed above

IMPORTANT!! You must actually OPEN your volunteer form and scroll through each page, clicking the "next" button at the bottom, until you reach the end BEFORE printing. If you only go to www.eayso.org and click on your form and print it, you will not be in the database for Fall Season.

Be sure to print and sign BOTH copies of the volunteer form. We cannot accept copied forms with copied signatures. You will also need to photocopy your driver's license (or other official government ID) and send this along with the volunteer forms to our CVPA. **Once your ID is verified, the copy of your ID is shredded.**

If You Don't Have A User Name and Password

1. Go to **www.eayso.org**.
2. In the NEW MEMBER, AYSO Volunteers, click the instructions link and follow the instructions. It's easy!

SAFE HAVEN

Region 55 requires safe haven for all coaches, referees, and team parents. Referees who take the referee safe haven one year and decide to coach the next year will have to take coach safe haven. Referee safe haven is a part of any "new" referee class. Team parents must take coach safe haven.

Safe Haven can be taken online at: www.aysotraining.com

It is highly suggested that you complete the Safe Haven on-line training prior to attending referee training classes. If you have already completed Safe Haven training from previous years, you do not need to repeat the course.

Field Information

Ocean View School District does not permit tobacco of any kind, alcohol, or pets anywhere on OVSD premises. NO bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or similar items.

GAME FIELDS FOR THE FALL SEASON will be on our website at www.ayso55.org along with maps for each location.

Teams are only allowed to practice on these fields: Mesa View, Lark View, Spring View, Sun View, Glen View, College View, Golden View and Westmont. Practices may NOT start before 4pm per OVSD policy.

No Practice at Mesa View or Spring View on Back to School Night: **September 23, 2010.**

PARKING

All parking is AT YOUR OWN RISK! AYSO Region 55 or OVSD is not responsible for any damages or losses. DO NOT PARK on any field or its perimeter. DO NOT PARK in any driveways or fire lanes. At each OVSD school site, please park on the school side of the street first as to not disturb the neighbors. Report all incidents to the Region 55 Hotline, 585-3161. Incidents with neighbors usually lead to us losing that field location the following season.

RESTROOMS

We will have port-a-potties at games field locations again this season. There is one port-a-potty at each site. The potty will be locked during the week and only be open on Saturdays for games. Please report any problems to the Region 55 hotline, 585-3161.

LIGHTED FIELDS

Region 55 does not play any night games, but has access to 1 lighted field for night-time practicing. College View has 5 practice slots available for night-time practicing. Information on how to request a slot is in the coach section.

FIRST AID

The bin at each field has a First Aid Kit and a list of emergency numbers. All injuries requiring medical attention must be reported to Melissa Delgleize, Region 55 Safety Director, within 24 hours to safety@ayso55.org or by calling 840-7688.

WEATHER

In the case of heavy rain, please call the Region Mudline, 585-3161, to learn whether or not games have been canceled for the entire region. Rain itself does not cancel games, unsafe field conditions cancel games and that call falls to the Regional Commissioner by 7am game days. Should conditions worsen after the decision has been made to play by 7am during the day the referee at each game has the authority to cancel any game he is scheduled to officiate in the name of safety. If the inclement weather occurs during the course of a game, the decision to continue play falls to the referee. Coaches will be notified by their Division Coordinators when/if games are rescheduled.

Coach Information

COACH ADMINISTRATOR/INSTRUCTOR

Rich Vedas - coach@ayso55.org
714-758-KICK (5425) ***please try email first***

ASSISTANT COACH ADMINISTRATOR

Jason Kakimoto - asstcoach@ayso55.org

Thank you for volunteering to coach. Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions. The best way to reach me is by email at coach@ayso55.org but please call me if you have an emergency.

GOOGLE GROUP

We utilize Google Groups to communicate information throughout the season. All coaches are automatically added to the group at the beginning of the season. If you are not receiving emails, please add region55coaches@googlegroups.com to your safe senders list. You can also subscribe to the group through the region website.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHING

All coaches must take age appropriate training for the division you are coaching and must have completed Safe Haven. Once you've completed Safe Haven, it does not need to be repeated.

Certification is earned by attending a coach clinic:

U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, Intermediate (U-14); or Advanced (U-16 & U-19)

Coaches with the higher certification are more likely to be selected as all star coaches than lesser certified coaches.

LIGHTED FIELD SCHEDULE

In order to practice at College View in the evening when it starts to get dark earlier you must be scheduled for a slot. College View is our only lighted field. Please email your requested days (maximum 2) and times (maximum 1 hour) for practices to coach@ayso55.org. Be sure to include your name and team division (including gender). The lighted practice schedule will be posted on our website, www.ayso55.org, and on the College View light posts, in October.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Evaluations allow us to balance the teams the following season. We must receive evaluations for all players U-8 and up. You will receive instructions via e-mail on how to complete your evaluations.

Please honor your commitment as a coach by evaluating your players and completing your evaluations before October 17th.

Teams missing evaluations WILL NOT receive their trophies, medals, etc and those players will have to come to a separate ratings session in the spring in order to be placed on a Fall 2011 team. Please do not make your players have to do that.

PLAYER ID CARDS FOR U-14, U-16 AND U-19

- All players and coaches in divisions U-14 and higher must have an AYSO ID card. ID cards MUST be signed by the Region Commissioner AND laminated.
- No Card – No Play – No Exceptions. A player without an ID card must remain on the sideline. The player may not participate in the game.
- Coaches without an ID card cannot coach. If the team does not have a coach or asst coach with an ID card, then the match must be suspended.
- Cards will be provided to all U-14, U-16 & U-19 coaches via their coordinator. The coach must apply the photograph of each player to their card.

DIVISION INFORMATION

Division	Each Half	Duration of Game	Ball Size
U-19	45 min	90 min	5
U-16	40 min	80 min	5
U-14	35 min	70 min	5
U-12	30 min	60 min	4
U-10	25 min	50 min	4
U-8	20 min	40 min	3
U-6	15 min	30 min	3

SUBSTITUTION POLICY – ¾ PLAY RULE

This policy applies to U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12 and U-14 divisions

In Region 55, a child who has been assigned to a team and is not under disciplinary suspension (red card) or injured (sick) has the right to play three-quarters (3/4) of each game, team size permitting, during the season. If s/he arrives after the start of the game, s/he is eligible to play one-half (1/2) of the time remaining in the game.

Referees are instructed to keep a record of player substitutions on the game line-up cards. If a discrepancy of the above policy is discovered during the game, the referee or one of his/her assistants will inform the coach of the discrepancy and will request the coach to correct it. If a coach fails to correct a substitution discrepancy after being informed of the problem by the referee or an assistant referee, the issue will be reviewed by the Discipline Review Committee. **Referees are instructed to make a note of the discrepancy on the game line-up card and inform the Referee Administrator or Assistant Referee Administrator as soon as possible.**

Any coach found to be willfully abusing this policy will be subject to a disciplinary hearing, possible suspension and forfeiture of the game in question.

U-16 and U-19 divisions have an open substitution policy and will follow AYSO National Rules and Regulations regarding player substitution policies throughout the season.

GAME POINT SYSTEM (U-10 & U-12)

The following point system will apply in order to determine standings and playoffs.

- 7 points for a win
- 1 point for each goal up to 3 maximum
- No points for a shutout
- 3 points for a tie

- Scoring over 5 point differential will result in 1 point deduction per goal over the differential

- Coach/Spectator ejections will result in 3 point deduction
- Red cards will result in 3 point deduction

- Maximum of 10 points per game

Please notice that this point system will mean that you can get scored on by the opposing team and still get all of your points if you win and score 3 goals. Also, you do not need to score more than 3 goals in any game. You will not get additional points for them. In fact any team with a goal differential over an opposing team of more than 5 goals will receive a 1 point deduction per goal.

We have had major problems in the past with coaches running up scores. **Running up scores will not be tolerated.**

Our guideline to judge running up scores is a 5 goal differential (ex: 5-0) 3-0 would be a preferable maximum, but 5-0 is within the differential. 6-0 is not within the differential. A good rule of thumb is to start to pull your team back once you are ahead by two goals, no later. If you wait, the score could get away from you before you can adjust your lineup. If you need advice on how to control your team from running up scores please contact the Coach Administrator, Rich Veda, at coach@ayso55.org.

U-6 & U-8 do not keep score and therefore do not acquire points. But, the scores are noted on the line-up cards and coaches running up scores in U-6 & U-8 will also be contacted. Make sure that the children on both teams enjoy the game. At U-6 you can even swap players in order to even things up.

U-14, U-16 and U-19 divisions will play under the Area point system which is explained on the Area Schedule Website. There will be a link to this site from our website once the schedules are posted.

Game Cards – Coaches & Refs

Please see the game card example. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. Please be sure to use team numbers and not just team names.

COACH FILLS OUT

numerical order

Cross out missing players & write reason

REFeree FILLS OUT GOALS SCORED & QUARTERS PLAYED.

Ref's - we must know who scored the goals so please fill it in

Ref's - show who sat out and what quarter. Also, who played goal keeper.

OFFICIAL LINEUP CARD

REGION 55 AGE GROUP U8G TEAM # 2 DATE 9/8/07

TEAM NAME Pink Ponies OPPOSING TEAM U8G-4

COACH'S NAME Doherty, Deb ASST. COACH'S NAME Hamm, Mia

All team players must be listed in order by Jersey #. If absent, indicate reason.

No.	PRINT PLAYERS NAME	Goals Scored	"Qtrs." Not Played			
			1	2	3	4
2	Wilkinson, Sarah		/			
3	Broder, Ceana			/		
4	Gehris, Kelly				/	
5	Cashman, Maddie					Sick
6	Escobar, Jessica					
7	Gehris, Brooke					
8	Vanasse, Cara		G	G	G	G
9	Young, Missy					/

Age Group	Each Half, not to exceed	Duration of the Game, not to exceed	Ball Size
U-19	45 Minutes	90 Minutes	Size 5
U-16	40 Minutes	80 Minutes	
U-14	35 Minutes	70 Minutes	
U-12	30 Minutes	60 Minutes	Size 4
U-10	25 Minutes	50 Minutes	
U-8	20 Minutes	40 Minutes	Size 3
U-6	20 Minutes (10 min recommended)	40 Minutes (20 min recommended)	

The Back of Card is for Referees:

Referees – Please be sure to clearly note the halftime score and the final score. And, be sure that it is clear which team won using team numbers and not team names.

All AYSO games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Board in effect at a date specified by the area director for his/her area (approximately the time of team formation for a given season), with the exceptions detailed in the AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

Referee Game Report

Date 9-8-07 Time 10:20am Field 2 Conditions _____

Home Team/Colors U8G-2 Visiting Team/Colors U8G-4

Halftime Score 2-0 In Favor Of 2 Final Score 2-1 Winning Team 2

Also, be sure to note any misconduct on the back of the card and put your name and the team number and division you are refereeing for. If you do not put this your team will not get credit for you refereeing that game. Be sure the Asst Refs information is there as well so that they get credit.

Disciplinary action taken: Caution for USB player #4 team 6

Additional comments: _____

Referee's Signature: _____ G. Mulcahy Team 1 U12G

Assistant Referee's Signature: _____ R. Sedivy Team 3 U14B

Assistant Referee's Signature: _____ T. Kiler Team 9 U10B

REFEREES!
PRINT your name, team
number and division

Referee Information

REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR/INSTRUCTOR

Klaus Schlechner – referee@ayso55.org

ASSISTANT REFEREE ADMINISTRATORS/INSTRUCTORS

Peter Furman & Colleen Daly – assistantref@ayso55.org

AREA DIRECTOR OF REFEREE INSTRUCTION

Rick Sedivy – refinstructor@ayso55.org

DOES EVERY TEAM NEED A REFEREE?

In one short answer – yes! AYSO is completely dependent upon volunteers to fill critical positions in the program, including both coaches and referees. Having trained, certified referees is one of the most critical functions of the AYSO program and is required under AYSO policy to insure games are fair and are played under safe conditions. Over the past several years, too few people have volunteered to serve as referees in our Region. As a result of this, as well as the continuing growth in the number of players and teams in our Region, the Board of Directors voted to take action to insure that there would be an adequate number of referees in the program to support the number of players and games played each Saturday in Region 55. As a result of this action by the Board of Directors, a referee point system was enacted.

The referee point system was not implemented to punish anyone or to make anyone's life miserable. The sole purpose of this program is to have three certified referees present at each and every game during the 2008 fall soccer season in Region 55. The program must be capable of supporting our players so that they can play soccer, and to do this, every team must support this program with a volunteer referee. Simply put – no referee – no play. It is not fair, nor is it expected, for a handful of referees (some who don't even have kids in the program) to carry the bulk of the referee load over the course of the season.

If you would like to volunteer to help your team earn their referee points, but you do not feel comfortable as a Referee, this is not a problem. Two-thirds of all referee positions are Assistant Referees. Several training classes are held in August and September (see referee training schedule on the web site). Your help as a Referee or Assistant Referee will greatly enhance our referee program in Region 55.

If you have any questions about refereeing in the AYSO program, please feel free to contact your referee staff and any of us will be more than happy to answer your questions for you. Thanks for helping!

TEAM REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

U-6 Teams: Each team must provide at least 1 referee volunteer. U-6 division will referee their own games. "Home" team will provide the Referee. Use parents (one from each team) as assistant (linesmen) referees, unless certified referees are available.

U-8 Teams: Each team must provide at least 1 referee volunteer. U-8 division will referee their own games. "Home" team will provide the Referee. Use parents (one from each team) as assistant (linesmen) referees, unless certified referees are available.

U-10 – U-19: Each team must provide at least 1 volunteer referee (2 to 3 referee volunteers suggested). It is suggested (but not mandatory!) that you sign up for the game AFTER your child plays. If this is the last game of the day, then sign up for the FIRST game. **Do not sign up to referee your own child's game!**

SCHEDULING

Scheduling for the all games is done by the individual referee online. For U-6 through U-19 games, go to the Region 55 website (www.ayso55.org) and click on the referee scheduler. Follow the instructions – it's easy!

POINTS

The referee point system applies to the U-10, U-12 and U-14 divisions only. Each team must earn the required referee points as outlined below. Failure to earn the required referee points will cause that team to be ineligible for participating in the playoffs as well as play in the Area K playoffs. Points are awarded on the following basis: The REFEREE earns 2 points per game; ASSISTANT REFEREES earn 1 point per game. Point tally will be taken from the game line-up cards, not the referee scheduler – so, print your name and team number clearly. Points are awarded for U-10 through U-19 games! No points will be awarded for U-6 or U-8 games.

Referees must be certified and in uniform to earn their team points. Points will not be awarded to a team for having a parent "run the line" during the team's game.

U-10 and U-12 Teams must accumulate a total of **15 REFEREE POINTS** by the end of October 23rd (game 7). U-14 Teams must accumulate a total of **7 REFEREE POINTS** by the end of October 23rd (game 7). Only games refereed at Region 55 'home fields' make a referee eligible for referee points (Sun View, Spring View, Glen View and College View). If a team fails to accumulate the necessary referee points, the team will be allowed to play the remaining 3 games of the season; however, the team will be ineligible for the play-off rounds.

U-10 and U-12 Teams that have accumulated the required 15 points (or 7 points for U-14 teams) by the end of October 24th are eligible to advance to the play-off rounds provided that the team earns an **additional 8 points** in pool play (last 3 games of the regular season). U-14 Teams must accumulate an **additional 4 points** during the last 3 games of the regular season. Failure to earn the required 8 points (or 4 points for U-14) will result in the team being excluded from the play-off rounds.

Referees DO NOT have to ref within their own division. For example, U-6 or U-8 refs wishing to gain experience in the upper divisions are encouraged to sign up (use the online ref scheduler) for these games either as a referee or assistant referee. You must be certified as a REGIONAL referee to help with these games since Offside, Fouls and Misconduct laws are applied.

AYSO REFEREE TRAINING

All referee class dates, times and locations are available online at www.ayso55.org.

The **U-8 Official Class** is designed to prepare you to Officiate or act as a Linesman in U-6 and U-8 soccer matches. Training for a U-8 Official is approximately 4 hours.

The **Basic (Regional) Referee Class** is designed to prepare you to act as a Referee or Assistant Referee in U-6, U-8, U-10 or U-12 soccer matches. Training includes the 4 hours of U-8 Official instruction PLUS an additional 4 hours of training for offside, fouls and misconduct.

Note: The U-8 Official and Basic Referee Course must be taken in order. If you completed the U-8 Official class (modules 1-7) last year and want to upgrade to a Regional Referee this year, you need to complete the second 4 hour training class for Basic Referee. However, it is highly recommended that you take both the U-8 Official and Basic Referee class for the Regional Referee program. This provides a refresher and better understanding of the basic principles of the Laws of the Game and will provide a better foundation to continue into the Basic (Regional) Referee course.

SUBSTITUTION POLICY – ¾ PLAY RULE

This policy applies to U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12 and U-14 divisions!

In Region 55, a child who has been assigned to a team and is not under disciplinary suspension (red card) or injured (sick) has the right to play three-quarters (3/4) of each game, team size permitting, during the season. If s/he arrives after the start of the game, s/he is eligible to play one-half (1/2) of the time remaining in the game.

Referees are instructed to keep a record of player substitutions on the game line-up cards. If a discrepancy of the above policy is discovered during the game, the referee or one of his/her assistants will inform the coach of the discrepancy and will request the coach to correct it. If a coach fails to correct a substitution discrepancy after being informed of the problem by the referee or an assistant referee, the issue will be reviewed by the Discipline Review Committee. **Referees are instructed to make a note of the discrepancy on the game line-up card and inform the Referee Administrator or Assistant Referee Administrator as soon as possible.**

Any coach found to be willfully abusing this policy will be subject to a disciplinary hearing, possible suspension and forfeiture of the game in question.

U-16 and U-19 divisions have an open substitution policy and will follow AYSO National Rules and Regulations regarding player substitution policies throughout the season.

When Do Substitutions Occur

Players may be substituted (U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, and U-14):

- Approximately midway through the first half when the referee stops play.
- At halftime.
- Approximately midway through the second half when the referee stops play.
- Injury.
- At the beginning of any overtime period.

Coaches are reminded that substitution breaks are not intended to be coaching sessions or strategy sessions. Substitution breaks should be no more than 1 minute in duration. Coaches should have their substitutes ready when the referee calls for the break. A team that delays the restart of play because substitutes are not ready will be warned by the referee. If the team continues to delay the restart, the captain of the team, at the discretion of the referee, can be cautioned for delaying the restart of play.

Substitution for Injury:

- If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute player, in which case the injured player may not return until the beginning of the next quarter. Only the player who is injured is credited with a quarters play regardless of the actual time played.
- The coach may choose to play short thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter in which s/he was injured. The player may not enter the field until s/he is recognized and given permission by the referee.

In all cases, players substituting must report to the referee.

U-16 and U-19 division free substitution rules for inter-region play:

1. On a throw-in by the team taking the throw-in. Reciprocation is permitted.
2. By either team on a goal kick or a kickoff.
3. For an injured player. The other team may substitute a like number of players.

Changing the Goalkeeper

The coach has the right to change his/her goalkeeper at anytime during the match. Any of the other players on the field may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that:

- The referee is informed before the change is made.
- The change is made during a stoppage in play.

Note that only a player on the field of play can change places with the goalkeeper (unless it is a normal substitution break). This is not a substitution because the goalkeeper is not being replaced by a player from the bench area.

PLAYER ID CARDS U-14, U-16, U-19 DIVISIONS

- All players and coaches in the U14 and higher divisions must have an AYSO ID card. **ID cards MUST be signed by the Region Commissioner AND laminated.**
- Referees must check each player and coach ID card during check in.
- **No Card – No Play – No Excuses.** A player without an ID card must remain on the sideline with his/her jersey removed (or covered). The player may not participate in the game.
- Coaches without an ID card cannot coach! If the team does not have a coach or assistant coach with an ID card, then the team cannot play and the match must be suspended.

LINEUP CARDS

As referees, we have many duties and responsibilities while we are on the pitch. Controlling the game to be sure it is being played in a safe and fair manner within the Laws of the Game is our most important function, but filling out the paperwork correctly is also one of our responsibilities. One of the most important pieces of paperwork under your direct control is the lineup card. The lineup card serves as the official record of the game, yet many referees do not check the card for accuracy or complete their portion of the card correctly.

To assure that you receive proper credit for the games that you ref, please be sure that you complete all information on the back of the lineup card (see example below).

- **PRINT** your name.
- **PRINT** the team number that you are refereeing for.
- **PRINT** the Division your team is in, indicating B (boys) or G (girls).
- List any cautions (yellow card) or send-offs (red card) that may have occurred in the game.
Any cautions or send-offs MUST be reported to the Referee Administrator.

- List any other comments that you deem necessary. For example, any spectator or coach incidents. *These also MUST be reported to the referee administrator.*
- All Report incidents should go to: Klaus Schlechner, Region 55 Referee Administrator at referee@ayso55.org

After the lineup card is complete, place them in the "Game Cards" hanging folder in each Mailbox at each field. They are collected at the end of each game day by the Division Coordinators.

The coach should present you with a completed lineup card at the start of the game. Be sure the entire top portion is completed including the coach's name and the assistant coach's name. This is important because if the coach is dismissed from the field, the team cannot continue to play without a named assistant coach.

Players should be listed numerically, last name first, first name last. Do not accept lineup cards from a coach with only first names. Why? If a player is cautioned or sent-off, you will need to know who that player was for your game report. All players on the team roster should be listed on the lineup card - even if they are unable to play. Simply print to the right of the players name a reason why they are unable to play; absent, injured, etc. You should also note the captains of the team. Most referees do this by simply placing a "C" next to the player's name.

Because of AYSO and Region 55 play time rules, referees need to keep a record of the quarters a player does not play. The AYSO lineup card makes this task easy! Just mark an "X" in the "QTRS Not Played" column next to the player's name. In Region 55, we have a 3/4 play policy, so no one player should have more than a single "X" marked in the quarter columns next to their name. (It should be noted that this applies to U6-U14 divisions only. U16-U19 divisions use a free substitution policy and playing time is not recorded by the referee team). If a coach attempts to substitute a player who already has an "X" marked in the QTRS Not Played column, you need to bring this to the coach's attention so that it can be corrected. If a coach purposely substitutes a player for more than a single quarter (excluding injury, illness or other excusable reasons), you need to report this to the referee and coach administrators and note this on the back of the lineup card under "Preliminary Incident Report."

It is also extremely important, especially in the younger divisions, that you mark any goals a player has scored next to their name. The goals scored column is divided into first and second halves. Region 55 uses this information to help balance teams at the beginning of the fall season.

The back of the lineup card, while not nearly as complex as the front half, still requires specific information for the referee and assistant referees to complete. The card is usually divided into two sections; the upper portion for the game report and the lower portion for any incidents that need to be reported. Be sure the date, time and location of the match are correct. The half time score and final score should be noted in the area provide and the winning team should be clearly stated. The referee and both assistant referees should clearly print their name in the spaces provided. If team ref points are being accumulated, you should note the team that you are earning ref points for immediately to the right of your name.

The lower portion provides a separate space for the referee to list any misconduct or other actions that the referee has taken during the course of the game, including any coach or spectator dismissals, or any serious injuries that may have occurred. This "preliminary incident report" section should be kept short and to the point. The referee must also complete a "Match Report" and file it with the proper authority for any incidents reported here. The referee and assistant referees also need to print their names in this area of the card.

Safety

SAFETY DIRECTOR

Melissa Delgleize - safety@ayso55.org
714-840-7688

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S JOB

Before the game or practice, Referees and/or Coaches ensure a safe environment by:

- Inspect playing field for unsafe conditions.
- Inspect players to ensure that:
 - No jewelry or metallic objects are being worn
 - No baseball/softball shoes with toe cleats are being worn
 - Shin guards are on and covered by socks
 - No casts or splints are worn
- Be familiar that a first aid kit is in the equipment bin at each field
- Maintain possession of medical release forms at all times

During the game or practice, Referees and/or Coaches:

- Make sure players continue to wear proper equipment
- Monitor and ensure appropriate behavior on the sidelines

After the game or practice, Referees and/or Coaches must:

- Report accidents to Safety Officer by phone or email
- Request Replacement first aid supplies for the bin to Safety Director
- Report any unsafe field or equipment conditions to the Division Coordinator and/or Fields/Equipment Director
- Get players to clean up sidelines
- Don't leave until all players are picked up
- Don't be the only adult alone with a child that's not yours

EMERGENCY SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Give first aid and have someone call 911 immediately if necessary
- Notify Parents immediately if they are not on the scene
- Notify the Region's Safety Officer by phone or email within 24 hours

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

There is a close to non-existent risk of contracting an infectious disease when you are exposed to someone else's blood or bodily fluids. To reduce the potential for transmission, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Use latex gloves to prevent exposure
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Bleeding must be stopped, open wounds covered, and bloody clothes changed before a player may return onto the field and continue the game

REPORTING AN ACCIDENT/INJURY

Should an accident/injury occur during a game or practice, a report must be submitted within 24 hours to the Region Safety Director. Details of the incident must be included:

- Date
- Time

- Location
- Name of player
- Player contact information
- Nature of the injury
- Cause of the injury Type of first aid administered
- Witness contact information

INSURANCE COVERAGE

The **Soccer Accident Insurance (S.A.I.)**, underwritten by the Peoples Benefits Life Insurance Company, pays medical costs up to \$50,000 maximum per claim to an insured person for accidental bodily injuries incurred as a direct result of participation in a covered activity. This is a **Full Excess Policy** and all claims will be paid on a Usual & Customary basis.

Insurance Forms can be downloaded from ayso.org (Once there click on AYSO RESOURCE on the top navigation bar, then click on “Forms and Documents” then on Insurance Forms. The downloadable forms are on this page.)

Each claim is subject to a \$200 Deductible

Other benefits under the policy are:

- \$5,000 for Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- \$50,000 for dental expenses resulting from accidental injury/loss to sound, natural teeth
- \$1,000 for Physical Therapy/Chiropractic visits

WHO IS COVERED?

All AYSO registered players, coaches, referees, & volunteers are covered for accidental injury while participating in the following activities:

- Scheduled games, tournaments, team practice sessions or other sponsored activities, provided they are under the direct supervision of a team official.
- Group travel directly to or from such games, tournaments, practice sessions or sponsored activities, provided that players are traveling as a team and a licensed adult driver operates the vehicle.

WHAT IS COVERED?

Specifics of what is and is not covered can be obtained by emailing safety@ayso55.org

Uniforms

When uniforms are ordered, they are ordered in a pre-determined set of sizes. They are loose-fitting and you should be able to fit your team into the set provided. If you have uniform sizing issues, please contact your division coordinator.

To distribute uniforms to your team, line your players up smallest to largest. Starting with the largest player, determine which uniform size will fit (the largest jersey number) and work backwards to the smallest sized jerseys (it won't be a perfect fit). The players cannot pick their jersey number unless it happens to be their size. But, if you open this door when passing them out – good luck! You'll notice that there is not a "Number 1" jersey as AYSO believes that no one individual is "Number 1," we play as a team.

UNIFORM ADD-ONS

Nothing may be added to an AYSO uniform. No player names on the backs, no sponsor names or anything else.

SOCKS & SHORTS

Each team is to wear the specific uniform issued to them. Do not swap out socks.

CLEATS

Cleats are required. Baseball/softball shoes with cleats on the toe are not allowed. If you have a player on your team who is playing in need, please call, or have them call, our Region Hotline at 585-3161 for assistance with equipment.

SHIN GUARDS

Shin Guards are mandatory at every practice and game and must be fully covered by socks. Socks should be worn on top of the shin guards, not under and folded over. The referee will check prior to each game.

JEWELRY

No jewelry, barrettes, ID bracelets, etc. may be worn during any game or practice. The Referee will check prior to each game.

CASTS/SPLINTS

Casts, hard or soft, or splints are NOT allowed during any game or practice. They are on for a reason, let us all use common sense and understand it is just soccer. Neoprene supports as well as braces to prevent injury are allowed provided all metal parts are covered with padding.

HAIR BOWS

For safety reasons, the hair bows cannot have any hard parts or components such as bobby pins or barrettes. Directions to make hair bows can be found in the Team Parent section of this Handbook.

Trophies and Medals

Please note that neither medals nor trophies will be distributed to teams who have not turned in their player evaluations! NO EXCEPTIONS.

Player evaluation requirements are explained in the coach section of this handbook.

- U-6 & U-8 – Participation Trophies are provided for all players. The distribution of these trophies will be posted on our website. Check your team's mailbox for the most up-to-date information. The spelling of names for trophies will be verified through the team parents.
- U-10 & U-12 – 1st through 4th will receive placement trophies. Trophies are distributed at the end of the game that determines the season placement. 3 placement medals are provided for coaches or team volunteers. Participation medals are provided to all non-placing teams including 3 extra per team for coaches or team volunteers. Placing teams will only receive trophies.
- U-14 & U-16 – Participation medals are provided to all players with 3 extra per team for coaches or team volunteers.

Team Pictures & Sponsors

LOCATION: Central Park

The city is allowing us to use Central Library for our region picnic and team pictures. Team picture information packets, pictures schedule and exact location will be distributed via the region mailboxes at the first game.

Each player receives a photo package with their registration. This package includes: a 5x7 team photo, a 3x5 individual photo in a cardboard frame, 4 wallet size individual photos and a photo button.

Each player needs to bring their form, filled out, with them on picture day. Have your team players arrive 10 minutes before their picture time and don't forget your banner! Bring a ball if your players want a ball in their individual photo.

MAKE-UP PICTURES

Make-up picture day information will be on our website at www.ayso55.org

TEAM SPONSORS

Team Sponsor:	\$200
Full Page Yearbook Ad:	\$200
Half Page Yearbook Ad:	\$100 (no \$50 towards Team Parties)
Business Card in Yearbook:	\$50 (no \$50 towards Team Parties)

Each \$200 Sponsor receives:

- Sponsor plaque with team photo
- Business card ad on our website

Currently, team sponsors are not mandatory unlike many AYSO regions that play around us. Region 55 would like to see each team have at least one sponsor. For each \$200 sponsor brought in, the team that the player (that brought in the sponsor) plays on will receive \$50 towards team parties. There is no limit to the number of sponsors or \$50 team party rebates per team. Rebate checks are cut in late October/early November to the team parent (must be a cleared volunteer) and are mailed directly to their homes.

Sponsor forms are available online through our website. Sponsor forms may be turned in on picture day or mailed to the region's mailbox by October 1st:

AYSO Region 55
Attn: Sponsorship
PO Box 1852
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Be sure to include a check payable to "AYSO Region 55" and include 2 business cards.

Team Parent Information

AYSO region 55 is very grateful to the many volunteers who assist our region in operating successfully. The team parent is a very special person to the team and has a very active role in these efforts. You serve as a vital communication link between the coaches, parents, and the players. By helping the coach with all the extra details, you help the team to function well and leave the coach free to instruct the players.

Being the team parent is not meant to be a burden. A positive, happy team parent helps the team have a great season. You should delegate whenever possible, people like to be included. Many times, parents are just waiting to be asked to help. Just as the players must work together as a team to be successful, the parents will find more satisfaction if they, too, become involved and work together for the team's benefit.

We thank you in advance for creating the best possible experience for your players, their parents, and your coaches. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues that you may have arise throughout the season.

OVERVIEW OF TEAM PARENT ACTIVITIES

Prior to Regular Season:

- Prepare roster
- Prepare snack schedule
- Organize acquisition of banner, hair bows, etc.
- Help with uniforms

During Regular Season:

- Plan team parties
- Help with team pictures

End of Regular Season:

- Plan team party
- Buy coach gifts
- Pick up trophies or medals

Post-Season/All-Stars:

- Prepare roster
- Help with team pictures
- Plan team parties
- Buy coach gifts

PRIOR TO REGULAR SEASON

MEET WITH AND TALK WITH YOUR COACH

Learn what your coach's expectations are of you and of other team volunteers. If you have participated in soccer before and your coach is new, perhaps you can give them insight (or reverse if you are new). Discuss team parties, volunteer duties, etc. So you are both on the same page. A good partnership can really make a team "go."

TIPS FROM EXPERIENCED TEAM PARENTS

- Label hand-outs with the name of each player before you hand them out. This way, when someone isn't at practice, you know exactly who didn't get the info. Also, try to give information to the adults as children are often not reliable about getting information to parents.
- Make sure the player's last name and phone number is written on their ball and water bottle. This makes it much easier for lost items to be returned!
- The "ultimate" team parent is prepared at all times with the team roster, extra copies of the game schedule, important AYSO or region dates or info, and a cell phone.

MONEY

There are a couple of ways to approach funding the team. Some team parents like to collect a flat fee at the beginning of the season to cover the entire season's expected expenses. Just be sure everyone agrees on the plan. And be sure to keep the parents apprised of the season's expenses and how you spent their money and they won't question anything come the end of the season.

You need to be sensitive to the financial situations of all your families. Just because you or a couple of families want "the works," doesn't make it fit in everybody's budget.

PREPARE ROSTER & TEAM INFO SHEET

The roster serves as a useful tool for the team. It should include player names, phone numbers, and parent's first names. Addresses, birthdays, etc. should be listed only if all the parents want that information public.

Hint: it helps parents with children in multiple sports/levels, if the team roster is printed on team color paper.

The team info sheet should include practice & game schedules. List where and when they are. You can also include a map. Maps to all locations are on our website at www.ayso55.org

Also, give your parents the region phone number (714-585-3161) and website address (www.ayso55.org). This will enable parents to answer their own questions, allow an unhappy parent to vent outside the team and not bring the spirit of the team down and keep you out of the middle of their issues.

PREPARE SNACK SCHEDULE

Each player should provide snack at least once during the season. Be sure to check for food allergies or sensitivities first. One of the easiest ways to prepare this schedule is to "assign" the families alphabetically and if the date doesn't work for them, to trade amongst themselves. Sometimes there aren't enough players to cover all the games, so some families will have to provide a snack

more than once. Your team also needs to decide whether or not to provide for siblings. Snacks should be healthy, though that is not always the case. You, as team parent, will need to set the tone for snack expectations.

Some coaches don't expect to be in the snack cycle. Check with them to see what they want before you assign them. Sometimes, it's very important to their player to be "snack leader" just like everybody else. Also check for birthdays. Many players want to bring snack near their birthday to celebrate with the team.

Hint: It is very nice and appreciated if you bring the Referee a bottle of water or sport drink for half-time. Offering a snack after the game is appreciated as well.

Hint: Ice from the cooler comes in handy for minor injuries, You may want to have a Ziploc bag of ice available.

And lastly...**TRASH!** We are guests on the school district fields and we want to maintain that privilege by keeping the fields clean. Don't be shy, you are the team parent—a cheerful "here's the trash bag" usually works.

You can assign these "hints" as "duties" when you publish your snack schedule. Just list it as "when you are snack leader, please also bring water for the ref, a ziploc bag of ice, and a trash bag."

BANNERS & FLAGS

Hint: Find a banner volunteer who will bring the banner to/from games and picture day. They could also be in charge of acquiring it as well.

Banners and flags display the team name and are brought to every game and to picture day. **Banners are traditional, but are not required.** The cost of the team banner/flag is usually split evenly among the team's players.

The banner/flag can be purchased or handmade and can be any size. The most common types of purchased banners are an "airbrushed on felt" (\$80-\$100 range) and "silk-screened on vinyl" (\$50-\$70 range).

How to make a Banner

The traditional, finished banner is 6 feet wide and around 4 to 5 feet high. It should have a top sleeve and 2 side sleeves of 1 to 2" for holding it onto the banner stand. Banners can be made inexpensively by using a twin flat sheet which is cut down to size. Most hand-made banners are made with felt. Decorations and lettering can be drawn, painted, or fabric that is glued on. Gluing is best done with a hot glue gun. Letters and other decorations can be created using stencils and/or fabric paint (3d, glitter, or puff) or fabric markers. Be sure to allow enough time, typically 24 hours for the paint to dry. Banner kits are available through Banners USA and Unicorn Sports.

How to Display Banners

Banners are typically displayed on poles (usually PVC piping) supported by two short pieces of steel re-bar hammered into the ground. Display poles are made from one 20' section of 3/4-inch PVC tubing. Have them cut it at the hardware store to (2) 7-foot sections and (1) 6-foot section. Also buy (2) 3/4" Slip "L's" (L-shaped pieces of PVC without internal threads). Do not glue these "L's" on as you will be putting them on & taking them off each time you assemble the banner.

You will also need (2) 3-4 foot pieces of rebar that fits inside your PVC pipe. You will hammer this into the grass first and it will support your banner that has been assembled on the PVC pipes. You could also try going to a soccer store and getting stakes for corner flags.

Banners USA sells pole kits for around \$15.

HOW TO MAKE SOCCER HAIR SCRUNCHIES

Supplies Needed:

Elastic pony tail holders

- No metal on them
- Medium thickness (available at Target, Sav-on, etc.)

Ribbon, Lace, Fabric

- 3-4 different colors, textures & styles works best (ie: ribbon, fabric)
- 1/2" width is ideal; smaller widths you'll need more pieces

To determine how much to buy:

Take 1 yard per girl of each style of ribbon, lace, and fabric – if using smaller than 1/2" width, you'll need more than 1 yard per player.

To Make Hair Scrunchie:

Longer style:

Cut each "1 yd" length piece in half to create (2) 18" pieces of each color, texture, and style of ribbon.

Shorter, fuller style:

Cut each "1 yd" length piece in thirds to create (3) 12" pieces of each color, texture, and style of ribbon.

Tie each piece of ribbon or fabric on the pony holder, alternating in color, texture, and style. Have fun!

DURING THE SEASON

TEAM PARTIES

Team parties are optional. Usually, teams will have 2 to 3 team parties during the season, though you can have as many as you like! They can be pizza parties, bbqs, or anything else you can think of.

Be sure to make a reservation for your team 2-3 weeks ahead of time & check your coupons (if applicable) for expiration dates and what exactly is provided. Pizza certificates feed the players; the player's family buys their own meals.

Also, keep in mind that the pizza parlors plan for approximately 1-1/2 hours for team parties. Be considerate by concluding the festivities in a timely manner.

TEAM PARTY IDEAS - ideas/tips from experienced team parents:

If your pizza party is after a game or practice, order your pizza before you leave the practice/game field. This way, the pizza is already cooking and arrives to your table quickly. This helps maintain control of your group and the parents aren't forking out as many quarters!!!

Having a team party early in the season helps the parents and players get to know each other.

You must be aggressive at some establishments when using “team specials.” Sometimes only the manager is aware of the deal and the employee at the register has no idea what you’re talking about. Have your flyer or coupon with you to back up what you’re saying.

For younger teams, pizza/potlucks at a park are a great idea. The kids have things to entertain them and the parents aren’t constantly putting out quarters. Just be sure to have everyone bring blankets, sand toys, etc.

When out and about, ask at different establishments what they could do for a team party.

TEAM PICTURES

Picture day forms will be in your team mailbox at your first game. These need to be filled out by each player and brought to picture day. Find a team picture day volunteer for your team to gather your players for pictures.

END OF THE SEASON

PLAN TEAM PARTY

The end-of-season team party is held just after the season has ended to distribute trophies, yearbooks, medals, etc. Check with your coach to determine when/where this party could be. Some suggestions include pizza parlors, picnics, or a potluck.

COORDINATE COACH, REFEREE, TEAM VOLUNTEER GIFTS

The team parent traditionally coordinates a small gift for the coach, assistant coaches, referees, and any other team volunteers. This is done by collecting a donation from each family on the team. The gift is a way of thanking the volunteers for the many hours spent working with the children. Some suggestions include gift certificates for a local restaurant or sporting goods store, a photo album with hand-written notes from the players, or coaching supplies.

Most parents will be familiar with this custom. You can determine the amount and collect from each parent on the team excluding the coach. Just be sure to collect enough money to also get small gifts for the asst. Coach and referee.

BANNERS, END OF SEASON

At the end of the season, the banner can be raffled off to a player or cut apart and the players can take their “name” home. Some banners are designed to be cut-apart which makes it easier at season-end. For example, a team called the “blue butterflies” might have butterflies with each player’s name on a butterfly. This can then be cut apart at the end of the season with players taking home a butterfly with their name on it.

TROPHIES AND MEDALS

Trophies and medals are provided by the region depending on your division. Check the “trophy and medals” info in your team’s mail in October. It is typically the team parent’s job to pick these up.

Please note that no trophies or medals will be distributed to teams who have not turned in player evaluations! (U-8 & up only)