



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
A nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
Everyone Plays
March 19-20, 2016

2016 AYSO Western States Championships
Sections 1, 2, 10, and 11

Tournament Guidelines for League, All Star and EXTRA

Welcome to the 2016 annual AYSO Western States Championships being held March 19-20, 2016 at Rotary Park, 2415 Lakeside Dr., Bullhead City, AZ 86429. This event will bring together AYSO Core, All Star, and EXTRA teams from Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington states.

These Guidelines have been established to set a standard under which all teams will compete in the tournament. Your knowledge of these Guidelines could be the difference between an enjoyable or a disappointing experience for you and your team. All coaches, players and spectators are urged to read these Guidelines which will be strictly enforced. This will provide a positive and sporting atmosphere which will benefit the young people who participate and play soccer in our respective programs -- teammates and opponents alike. These Guidelines do not supersede AYSO Rules and Regulations; they are intended to cover situations not addressed in the Rules and Regulations, which shall prevail in case of conflict. Questions concerning these Guidelines should be directed to the Section 1 Tournament Director, Larry Caplinger at lcaplinger@verizon.net.

Please remember these Championships are only secondarily a competition. They first are an opportunity to celebrate your team's success in getting here. Have fun, and do your best to make sure your team and all the other teams have a fun time, too. Section 1 observes the tenets of the AYSO "Kid Zone" program.

1. **Conduct**

Each Regional Commissioner, Area Director, and Section Director shall be responsible for the conduct of their coaches, who in turn shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. We expect everyone to display the most positive aspects of good sportsmanship and conduct in keeping with the AYSO philosophy. All of our young people deserve the best examples of sportsmanship, goodwill toward all players and participants (including opponents), and respect at all times for the referees and officials. Please join us in making this an exceptionally good tournament for all.

2. **Coordination**

The AYSO Western States Championships will be coordinated by the hosting Section Director, the hosting Section Tournament Director, the hosting Section Referee and Coaching Administrators and their designees. All decisions concerning fields, schedules, discipline, eligibility, etc., shall be made by and within the discretion of the hosting Section Director and shall be final.

3. **Eligibility**

Each Regional Commissioner, Area Director, and Section Director is responsible for ensuring the eligibility of each player from their respective programs. Only eligible and registered players may participate in this tournament. Teams playing non-eligible players shall be subject to discipline, forfeit of games, or elimination at the discretion of the hosting Section Director.

4. **Roster Changes and Additions**

No roster changes or additions may be made. Rosters may only be submitted by a Section Director or Section Tournament Director no later than 1 week prior to the tournament. Rosters must be eAYSO tournament rosters, in numerical jersey number order and approved by the Regional Commissioner.

5. **Player Registration/Medical Release Forms**

- a. Coaches must have in their possession at all times a valid Player Registration/Medical Release form for each player on the team. Forms without an original or electronic signature will not be accepted and the player or players affected will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- b. At check-in, the coach shall present the Player Registration/Medical Release forms of all players shown on the submitted roster to the official in charge of team check-in.
- c. No player will be allowed to play unless a valid Player Registration/Medical Release form has been presented.

6. **Schedule/Format**

- a. League and Boys Extra will play on Saturday, March 19, 2016. All Star and Girls Extra will play on Sunday, March 20, 2016. All matches will be played in accordance with the published schedule. Each team will play a semi-final and either a championship or consolation match.
- b. All matches will be regulation length (70 minutes for U13 and U14, 60 minutes for U11 and U12, and 50 minutes for U9 and U10). Games tied at the end of regulation will be decided by an overtime period, which shall not be “sudden victory.” Teams will change ends of the field at the end of the first half of overtime. Substitution will be permitted in overtime only at the break between overtime periods or for injury. If a team is playing short because of ejections, it will continue to play short during the overtime period.
- c. The duration of overtime will be as follows:
 - U9 and U10 = one ten (10) minute overtime period consisting of two five (5) minute halves
 - U11 and U12 = one fourteen (14) minute overtime period consisting of two seven (7) minute halves
 - U13 and U14 = one eighteen (18) minute overtime period consisting of two nine (9) minute halves
- d. Matches tied after the overtime period will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- e. Champion through fourth place teams will receive medals at the awards presentation following their final match at the tournament headquarters check-in area.
- f. Due to time constraints, match duration and tiebreak rules may be adjusted within the discretion of the hosting Section Director.

7. **Home Team/Uniform Conflicts**

- a. The “home” team is the first team listed on the schedule.
- b. Coaches and players for both teams will occupy the North or East of the field on opposite sides of the halfway line. The spectators for both teams will occupy the opposite touchline directly across from their respective team. There will be a 10 yard open space spanning the halfway line on the spectators' touchline. There will be a 2 yard open space between all substitutes, coaches and spectators and their touchline.
- c. The home team is responsible for supplying the game ball(s).
- d. In case of conflicting colors, if a team has alternate jerseys, it shall be allowed to change; otherwise, both teams shall wear scrimmage vests provided by the Section hosting the competition. The referee shall make the final decision regarding color conflicts.

8. **Field Responsibility**

- a. It is the responsibility of all teams, coaches, players and spectators to clean up their trash at the end of each match, and to leave the sidelines promptly at the conclusion of each game so the next game may start on time.
- b. Noisemakers and loud music are not allowed while in the vicinity of the soccer fields.

9. **Check-In**

Each team must be ready to check-in one hour prior to their first match. Each team should be lined up in uniform number order at the designated check-in area, on time, dressed, and ready for play. Players must check-in at the check-in tent and must have their hand stamped in order to participate.

10. **Lineup Cards**

- a. Line-up cards will be prepared by the tournament for all teams that submit the completed rosters including jersey numbers.
- b. Those teams that do not provide the jersey numbers will be responsible for their own line-up cards as follows:
 - i. It is the responsibility of each coach to present two (2) properly completed official AYSO lineup cards to the check-in official during check-in.
 - ii. Game cards must include all players on the official team roster in number order with both last and first names.
 - iii. Game cards must be filled out in jersey number order.

11. **Number of Players, Grace Period and Rescheduling**

- a. For League and All Star teams, U14 divisions will play 11 v 11, U12 divisions will play 9 v 9, and U10 divisions will play 7 v 7. The maximum number of players per team roster will be based on each Section's rules, all of which are in accordance with AYSO Rules and Regulations.
- b. For EXTRA teams, U13 and U14 divisions will play 11 v 11, U11 and U12 divisions will play 9 v 9, and U9 and U10 divisions will play 7 v 7. The maximum number of players per team roster will be based on each Section's rules, all of which are in accordance with AYSO Rules and Regulations.
- c. A minimum number of players shall constitute a team: seven (7) for 11 v 11, six (6) for 9 v 9 and five (5) for 7 v 7.
- d. A scheduled match shall not begin, nor be continued, if one or both teams cannot field a team.
- e. If a player must be taken from the field as a result of an injury, thus leaving his team with fewer than the minimum amount of players, the game must be suspended. If the injured player is able to return, the match will be resumed. If the injured player is unable to return, the match shall be terminated.
- f. All matches shall start on time, except in the case of field unavailability due to a prior game delay. There will be no grace period. If necessary, matches may be shortened within the discretion of the hosting Section Director or designee due to schedule concerns or constraints.
- g. Matches canceled due to weather or other natural causes will **not** be rescheduled. Unfortunately, we have no backup dates available. Accordingly, matches will be played, providing the safety of the players is not compromised and until the playing conditions are deemed unsafe (either by tournament officials or by the facility staff).

12. **Uniforms**

- a. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only, and all players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (goalkeeper is exempt).

- b. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently-affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card, and may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper.
- c. Garments may be worn under the uniform (i.e. long sleeves, etc.) during inclement weather, however the match referee will be the judge of what may or may not be allowed.
- d. Jewelry, casts or splints of any kind or hard metal or plastic clips on clothing or hair will not be allowed.
- e. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field.

13. **Coaching Limitations**

- a. Coaches are expected to set examples of good sportsmanship and shall be responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and spectators. Sideline participation shall be limited to two coaches from each team who shall remain in the designated coaches' area which is equal to the diameter of the center circle and is one yard behind the touchline.
- b. Coaching shall be limited to positive instruction and encouragement only. Negative comments about referees or players, abusive language or behavior directed at players as judged by the referee or tournament officials will not be tolerated and may subject the coach to discipline or expulsion at the discretion of the hosting Section Director or designee.
- c. Coaches and spectators shall not enter the field of play at any time unless requested by the referee. If called onto the field, coaches must refrain from providing coaching instruction to the team, except for player replacement for the injury, and shall not engage in comment to or in criticism of the referee.

14. **Substitution**

- a. Except as noted below, all registered players in attendance at the start of a match shall play at least one-half of the game, excluding overtime, unless injured or ill.
- b. Regular substitution opportunities will be provided approximately halfway through each half and at half-time. The assistant referee will make note of the substitution on the line-up card.
- c. If a player is injured, the team may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until the next substitution opportunity. The team also may elect not to substitute for the injured player, in which case the injured player may reenter the field of play at any time with the permission of the referee.
- d. During overtime play, substitution is at the sole discretion of the coach and can take place only at the break in the overtime period.

15. **Disciplinary Action**

- a. Violent, abusive, negative, and/or disruptive conduct toward players, referees or officials will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of each coach to counsel his or her players and spectators regarding positive and sporting behavior at all times. Any violation of these conduct guidelines may result in discipline, including expulsion from the tournament, at the discretion of the hosting Section Director or designee.
- b. Players and substitutes who are sent off from a match and coaches who are asked by any official to leave a game will be suspended from the remainder of the match and from the entire next match in which they are eligible to play, including League and All Stars.
- c. Any player sent off for any reason must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing fields accompanied by a parent or Safe Haven certified adult, and that player's team must play short-handed for the remainder of the match.

16. **Referee Reports**

Referees shall submit a written report in the event of: 1) all cautions (yellow cards) and sendoffs (red cards); 2) any conduct of coaches or spectators interfering with the control of the match; 3) abuse of AYSO minimum play rules which may come to the attention of the referee; 4) injuries, and, 5) any other action which the referee may determine merits a report.

17. **Protests**

- a. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons:
 - i. An ineligible player has played.
 - ii. One or more registered player(s), present and in uniform, has not played the required one half of the game (except for illness or injury as recorded by the game referee).
- b. All protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 1/2 hour of the completion of the game.
- c. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three persons selected by the Tournament Director, or his designee. In all cases, the members of the Protest Committee will be unrelated to either team involved in the protest. ALL PROTEST DECISIONS ARE FINAL!
- d. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are not subject to protest or dispute!

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH THE LETTER AND
SPIRIT OF THESE GUIDELINES AND HAVE A GREAT
TOURNAMENT!***

The Section 1 Tournament Staff

***Frances Stronks, Hosting Section Director
Larry Caplinger, Tournament Director
Larry Berquist, Hosting Area Director***