

AYSO Region 1112 Playoff Rules

June 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2023

Overview

After the huge success of the playoffs for the past sixteen years, we've decided to again have end-of-the-season playoffs at AYSO Region 1112 for 2023!

Why are we having playoffs? AYSO's goal is to provide positive experiences that help develop young children into adolescents, young adults, and beyond. This is accomplished by creating and delivering quality youth soccer programs where everyone builds positive character through participation in a fun, family environment.

Having playoffs is a natural extension to our program for the following reasons:

- Enables players to create an even stronger teamwork bond by having a higher goal
- Allows focus of the regular weekly games to be on training and knowledge development
- Expose players, coaches, and families to a soccer tournament "world cup" experience, which will enhance the understanding and enjoyment of the game
- It's a lot of fun!

Throughout the playoffs, the 6 AYSO philosophies will be embedded:

1. **Everyone Plays** – Our goal is for kids to play soccer with each other. Every player on every team must play at least half of every game.
2. **Balanced Teams** – We work at the start of each season to set up teams as evenly balanced as possible, and we also have set up the playoff schedule to ensure a mixed strength of teams.
3. **Positive Coaching** – The way to make winning kids is by building them up, not down. Coaches shall make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism.
4. **Open Registration** – All teams are automatically entered into the playoffs.
5. **Good Sportsmanship** – We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude. Our programs are designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.
6. **Player Development** – There's no better way to improve playing soccer than by playing soccer! Teams are scheduled to play a minimum of three games, so there will be plenty of playing time.

Trophies/medals will be awarded to the top winning teams in each division or subdivision. In addition, a **Good Sports Award** will be awarded to the team that stands out based on character, sportsmanship, and spirit of the team's players, coaches, and parents.

Laws of the Game

All games will be played under FIFA Laws of the Game except where amended by the AYSO National Rules & Regulations and except as noted below. These rules may be modified, in which case rules changes will be provided before the beginning of the playoffs.

Game Duration, Ball Size, Game Format

Division	Game Length	Ball Size	Format
10U	20 minute halves	4	7 v 7
12U	25 minute halves	4	9 v 9
14U	30 minute halves	5	11 v 11
15U	30 minute halves	5	11 v 11

Halftime will be five (5) minutes; there will be no quarter breaks. No stoppage time will be allowed.

Start of the Game

Teams should be ready to check-in at their designated field twenty (20) minutes prior to game time. The home team is the team listed first in all matches and will choose the side of the field they wish to defend. The away team will get the kick-off to start the game. All games must start and end on time. The home team shall provide the game ball.

Substitution

Unlimited substitution will be allowed with referee approval in the following situations:

- a) Before a throw-in in your favor.
- b) Before a goal kick by either team.
- c) After a goal has been scored by either team.
- d) At half-time.
- e) In case of an injury.

If a team is substituting during own throw-in, the opponent may also substitute.

Substitutes have to await referee's permission to enter the field at the halfway line. Substitutes are to be at the halfway line before the ball goes out of play.

Everyone Plays

All players on a team should be on the team's regular Spring 2023 season team roster as provided by the division coordinator, and have played with the team during the regular Spring 2023 season (will be verified). Each player must play at least ½ of every game.

Failure to Show - Forfeits

A minimum of five players constitutes a team for 7v7, with the minimum increasing to six players for 9v9 and seven players for 11v11, respectively. Teams with fewer than the minimum number of players will be given a ten minute grace period beyond the scheduled kickoff time before a forfeit is declared.

Any team that withdraws or fails to play a match will forfeit that match. The Playoffs Committee will make the final decision if a forfeit shall be allowed depending upon extenuating circumstances that may have prevented a team from making the game on time. If the forfeit is determined, the winning team will be awarded a score of 3-0 (not considered a shut-out) and will receive the appropriate points for that score. If a team doesn't have enough players to field a whole team, then the other team may play with the same number of players on the field, but is not required to. The decision whether to play down or not is up to the coach of the team that does have enough players to field a whole team.

Please note that this rule has not been added to the Playoff Rules to give coaches a tool to win at all cost, but to give the coach of the team that does have enough players to field a whole team the possibility to balance the game if the other team would show up for the game primarily with their more skillful players. In this context, we would like to remind everybody of our "Good Sportsmanship" philosophy.

Scoring Format

Three (3) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of ties in total point's standings at the end of preliminary pool games, the following sequence will be used to determine final standings winners and wild card teams:

1. Head to head competition between teams that are tied (only applicable if 2 teams are tied)
2. Number of shut-outs (a 0-0 tie, forfeit or abandoned game is not a shutout).
3. Fewest goals allowed
4. Best goal difference for all games (maximum 3 goals differential per game)
5. Coin Toss

Game Score Reporting

The referee will ensure that score cards are properly completed, signatures obtained, and the scores recorded at the end of each game. The team coach or team representative from both teams must sign the score card at the conclusion of each game, before leaving the field area.

It is the responsibility of the referee or the winning team to deliver the completed and signed Score Card to the Playoffs Headquarters promptly at the conclusion of each game.

Scores and standings will be published at the Playoffs Headquarters, and on the Playoffs page on our website at www.aysa-cr.org. The website will be updated at minimum Friday before midnight, Saturday before midnight and Sunday afternoon after the last preliminary pool game has been played.

Tiebreakers for Finals

Games that are tied at the end of regulation time will end as a tie in the preliminary rounds. In the event of a tie in a final game, penalty kicks will be taken as listed below to determine a winner. In the event that penalty kicks must be used to determine a winner, the format will be as follows:

- a) Each team will select five (5) players to kick. Any player of the team may be selected, including substitutes.
- b) Teams will alternate kicks - first team to kick will be determined by the referee's coin flip
- c) If the score remains tied after five (5) kicks, teams will alternate kicks one at a time until a winner is determined
- d) All eligible players must kick before any eligible player can repeat
- e) Goalkeepers may be changed after any shot

Schedule

- Teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of three games. (Unless the team was awarded a bye.)
- Divisions with more than 5 teams will be divided into two or more pools. Teams will be seeded into the pools based on their win/loss record for the Fall 2022 season. In divisions with an odd number of teams, the best seeded team will have a bye for one game. A 3-0 win will be awarded for the bye (considered a shut-out).
- Games will be played rain or shine. Only unsafe weather conditions (i.e. lightning) will cancel a game.

10U Boys

Division is divided into two subdivisions. One subdivision of 4 pools (A, B, C, D) and one subdivision of 3 pools (E, F, G).

For the first subdivision (pools A, B, C, D): The two 1st ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The other two 1st ranked teams will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals. The two 2nd ranked teams with the most points will play for the 5th place and 6th place medals.

For the second subdivision (pools E, F, G): The two 1st ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The 1st ranked team with the third most points and the 2nd ranked team with the most points will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals.

10U Girls

Division is divided into 5 pools. The two 1st ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The two 1st ranked teams with third and fourth most points will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals. The 1st ranked team with the fifth most points and the 2nd ranked team with the most points will play for the 5th place and 6th place medals.

12U Boys

Division is divided into 4 pools. The two 1st ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The other two 1st ranked teams will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals. The two 2nd ranked teams with the most points will play for the 5th place and 6th place medals.

12U Girls

Division is divided into 3 pools. The two 1st ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The 1st ranked team with the third most points and the 2nd ranked team with the most points will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals.

14U Boys

Division is divided into 2 pools. The two 1st ranked teams will play for the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The 2nd ranked teams will play for the 3rd place trophies and 4th place medals.

14U Girls

Teams will play round robin. First, second and third ranked teams will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies respectively. In the event of a tie in total points standing after the last game, then the tiebreakers

listed in the "Scoring Format" section apply. If the teams are still tied after applying the fourth tiebreaker, then penalty kicks will be taken as described in the "Tiebreakers for Finals" section to determine a winner.

15U Coed

Teams will play round robin. First and second ranked teams will be awarded 1st and 2nd place trophies respectively. In the event of a tie in total points standing after the last game, then the tiebreakers listed in the "Scoring Format" section apply. If the teams are still tied after applying the fourth tiebreaker, then penalty kicks will be taken as described in the "Tiebreakers for Finals" section to determine a winner.

Awards

Trophies and medals will be handed to the winning teams at Playoffs Headquarters immediately following the finals.

Uniforms

Team listed first ('*Home Team*') wears green jersey and green socks. Other team ('*Away Team*') wears blue jersey and black socks. This also applies to finals. So please make sure that players bring both uniforms to the playoff games.

In the 15U division, the team listed first ('*Home Team*') wears neon-yellow jersey, while the other team ('*Away Team*') wears maroon jersey

Playoffs Committee

The Playoffs Committee consists of the members Board of Directors of AYSO Region 1112. The Playoffs Committee reserves the right and authority to:

- a) Relocate and / or reschedule match times
- b) Reduce up to half the duration of matches
- c) Suspend a match without necessarily terminating it and then resuming the match.
- d) Decide pairings for finals.
- e) Decide the final tournament standings and trophy/medal winners
- f) Make any other decisions as necessary to accommodate unexpected situations and/or weather.
- g) Playoffs Committee and referee decisions and/or interpretations are final – NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED.

Player, Coach, Parent, Spectator Conduct

Players and coaches of both teams will take the same side of the field. All other people must be on the opposite side of the field. Derogatory remarks about or to opposing teams, their supporters or the referees shall be grounds for dismissal from the Tuma Soccer Complex. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players, parents, coaches and spectators at the field. If complaints regarding the conduct of any person on a team or a supporter of a team are received, the Playoffs Committee may ask any and/or all such people to leave the tournament, declare any remaining games a forfeit.

Cautions-Suspensions

There are no yellow card accumulations to the next game. A player who receives a red card will sit out the rest of that game and is suspended from participation in the next game as well. No substitution may be made for the ejected player during the game the red card was issued. Red cards must be reported at the Playoffs Headquarters immediately following the game.

Playoffs Headquarters

Playoffs Headquarters will be located in a tent directly west from the pavilion.

Playoffs Committee
AYSO Region 1112



Play-off Sportsmanship Scoring

We consider good sportsmanship to be the NORMAL behavior at all times. As such, normal AYSO good sportsmanship, while outstanding in many cases, should be considered average, or the expected norm. Center referees should talk to their AR's and club linesman prior to the game, and ask them to pay attention to these criteria. All three categories should start at a 5 score, and then be adjusted up or down based on any of the following considerations.

a. Players on the field

- i. Players played hard regardless of score
- ii. Respectful of referees, coaches, teammates, and opposition
- iii. No excessive dramatization on injuries or fouls
- iv. Quickly accepts referee calls without dissent
- v. No excessive celebration - especially if aimed at the opposing team
- vi. No stalling

b. Coach and sideline

- i. Ready to start on time and organized
- ii. Respectful of referee, players, and opposition
- iii. Follows proper substitution protocols
- iv. Maintains 50% play rule
- v. Encourages team. Positive Coaching
- vi. Congratulates opposition on good plays
- vii. Post-game formalities - handshake, thank referees

c. Spectators

- i. Cheering for players
- ii. Supportive of referees and opposition
- iii. Congratulate opposition on exceptional plays
- iv. Encouraging players
- v. Not coaching from sidelines - Do not tell players WHAT to do with the ball. Instead celebrate their decisions and reactions on the field after the fact!
- vi. Maintain proper distance from field
- vii. Stay on Spectator Sideline. Do not watch games from behind goal area, or coach sideline area

Winning or losing should not be considered in sportsmanship points, however, a winning team that does not make adjustments to keep a game close should be penalized, and a losing team that does not continue to compete hard should also be penalized. Body language should be considered, rather it be excessive celebration from a play, or an extreme negative reaction to a game getting out of reach. We want kids to celebrate and be emotional on the field. Make sure it is not done in a derogative fashion that either brings their own team down, or rubs it in to the opponent.