

# AYSO Region 1112 Playoff Rules

## June 4 - 6, 2010

### Overview

After the huge success of the play-offs in the past three years, we've decided to again have end-of-the-season play-offs at AYSO Region 1112 for 2010. This is a fantastic event that is supported and implemented nationwide across all AYSO regions, and can be outdone only by a full multi league Tournament, which is something we may endeavor to establish in the future.

Why are we having play-offs? 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 play-offs 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 play-offs, 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 play off 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 play-offs.
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 or Medals will be awarded to the top four winning teams in every division. 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
U10	20 minute halves	4	7 v 7
U12	25 minute halves	4	9 v 9
U14	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 have played with the team during the regular Spring 2010 season (will be verified). Coaches are required to have their AYSO Player Registration Forms at all games. 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.

## **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.ayso-cr.org](http://www.ayso-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.
- 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 2009 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.
- Games will be played rain or shine. Only unsafe weather conditions (i.e. lightning) will cancel a game.

## **U10 Boys**

Division is divided into 3 pools. The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team of each pool will advance to the finals. The two 1<sup>st</sup> ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies. The other 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 4<sup>th</sup> place medals against the wildcard team with the most points.

## **U10 Girls**

Division is divided into 4 pools. The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team of each pool will advance to the finals. The two 1<sup>st</sup> ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies. The other two 1<sup>st</sup> ranked teams will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 4<sup>th</sup> place medals.

## **U12 Boys**

Division is divided into 3 pools. The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team of each pool will advance to the finals. The two 1<sup>st</sup> ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies. The other 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 4<sup>th</sup> place medals against the wildcard team with the most points.

## **U12 Girls**

Division is divided into 3 pools. The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team of each pool will advance to the finals. The two 1<sup>st</sup> ranked teams with the most points will play for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies. The other 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team will play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 4<sup>th</sup> place medals against the wildcard team with the most points.

## **U14 Boys**

Teams will play round robin. First and second ranked team will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies respectively. Third and fourth ranked team will be awarded the 3rd place and 4th place medals respectively.

## **U14 Girls**

Teams will play round robin. First and second ranked team will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies respectively. Third and fourth ranked team will be awarded the 3rd place and 4th place medals respectively.

## **Uniforms**

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

### **Awards**

All players on teams placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive trophies. All players on teams placing 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> will receive medals. Trophies and medals will be handed to the winning teams at the pavilion immediately following the finals.

### **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 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 that 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 at the pavilion.

Playoffs Committee  
AYSO Region 1112