



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the AYSO Region 300 Fall/Spring Season. My name is _____ and I will be your child's soccer Head Coach. Assisting me will be _____. Throughout past soccer seasons, many questions have arisen. I will attempt to answer many of these in this letter. Should you have any concerns that are not addressed herein, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

- Practice:** Our practices will be held on _____ at _____ from _____ to _____. The practice field is located on _____ in _____. Each player is expected to be at every practice. You are both welcome and encouraged to stay and observe. It is during these practices that we will work on the fundamentals of soccer. However, we realize that your child may have scheduling conflicts during the season. Accordingly, when he/she can not make a particular practice, please call me in advance. I have enclosed a map which includes the locations of our practice and game fields. In addition, I have included a Team Roster which may aid those interested in setting up a car pool. ***The most important thing to remember about practice is the following: Encourage your child with positive comments after each session.*** Comments like "You were really fast!" or "Your dribbling is getting even better!" will make my duties as Head Coach both easier and even more rewarding.
- Games:** Please have your son/daughter at _____ at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time. This field is located at _____. Our team number is _____. Again, if your child will be unable to attend a game, please notify me in advance. Games are usually canceled due to poor field conditions rather than prevailing weather conditions. Do not assume that if games are canceled at a different field that our games will be canceled. Should you have any questions regarding the status of our games, please call one of the coaches. ***The most important thing to remember about games is the same as above: Encourage each player with positive comments after each game.***
- Equipment:** ***Shin guards and eyeglass straps for those who wear glasses are MANDATORY*** for both practices and games. Due to AYSO rules, your child will not be able to participate in practice or games without them. Soccer shoes are highly recommended, but not mandatory. There will be times when he/she will be playing on wet grass, and the soccer cleats will improve traction. We encourage each child to have their own soccer ball for practice at home. We use a Size ____ ball in Division _____. Bring the soccer ball to practice—please have their name clearly marked on the ball. During cooler weather, ***sweat clothes/running tights can be worn at games, but must be UNDER the SOCKS AND UNIFORM.*** Your child does not need to wear the uniform to practices.
- Playing Time:** Each player will get at least two quarters of playing time, probably three, and in some games possibly four. During the year, each player will play every position.



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
everyone plays[®]

5. **Jewelry**: No jewelry of any kind should be worn at practice or during a game. This includes, but is not limited to bracelets, watches, and necklaces. Soccer is a contact sport, so we try to eliminate any potential hazard that jewelry may present. This is an AYSO rule.
6. **Linesperson**: In addition to snack duty, each family MAY be asked to act as a linesperson for a given game. A linesperson calls *when and where* the ball goes out of bounds. It generally is not too difficult, and there is no instant replay!
7. **Refreshments**: It is very important that children remain properly hydrated while participating in youth sports, particularly on hot days. Therefore, we strongly encourage that water be provided to all players at halftime. Additionally, you may want to offer a small snack such as apples, oranges, or grapes to the kids at halftime. Whether or not you choose to have after-game snacks should be left to the discretion of the parents of your team. If your team decides to provide after-game snacks, we encourage you to provide healthy alternatives.
8. **Playground Equipment**: The playground equipment in the parks where we practice and have games is fun for our players before and after practice, but we *can not permit them to play there without your presence*. AYSO insurance will NOT cover a non-soccer related accident.
9. **Insurance**: In case of injury, AYSO provides accident reimbursement coverage to all players during scheduled practices and games. Coverage does not extend to parents helping out at practices or games.
10. **First Aid**: We will bring a simple first aid kit to all practices and games. In the event of minor cuts or abrasions, a coach will administer topical antibiotics and bandages. In the event of a more serious injury, you will be immediately contacted for instructions. If, in the coaches' judgment, there can be no delay in seeking professional medical assistance, an ambulance will be called and your child will be taken to the nearest hospital. If you have any instruction or comments regarding this proposed (and typical AYSO) procedure, please speak with me at practice. In addition, please advise me in writing if your son/daughter is allergic to a medication or if he/she has some other unique medical situation, which the coaches would have to convey to medical professionals in the event of an emergency.



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
everyone plays[®]

11. **Positive Participation**: We, as coaches, place no emphasis on winning. Record of wins/losses during the season ONLY will be kept by the Division Coordinators, to make sure all the teams in each division are better matched in the following season. No scoring records are kept, and each player will receive the same trophy at the end of the season. Soccer is a team sport in which each child can share in the accomplishments and improvement of the team. At games, we encourage and require only **POSITIVE** participation from the spectators. Please cheer good plays made by BOTH teams, and never criticize what you think is a poor play. Also, AYSO requires all spectators to remain at least ten (10') feet back from the sidelines during the games.
12. **Referees**: AYSO has a fine staff of trained referees. The referees and linespeople are also volunteers. They are trying to do the best possible job. There may be time during the season when an improper call is made, but please do not scream, boo, or verbally abuse the officials. They can stop the game if such behavior occurs.
13. **Picnic**: AYSO holds an annual picnic. The Picnic will be on June..
14. **Team Picture**: Pictures will be taken in September at LTHS. Details available later.
15. **Lost & Found**: Please contact us if your child loses something at a practice or game. AYSO has set up a process to store found items.
16. **League Hotline**: For general league information, including game cancellations, please call the AYSO Region 300 Hotline: (708) 930-3034. This includes information about upcoming events and registration dates.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that may come up during this Season. I look forward to a fun soccer season with your child.

Sincerely,
