



AYSO Area 1C Rules and Regulations Under-19 and Under-16 Upper Division Play

Fall Season

- 1. Scope and Application of Rules.** These AYSO Area 1C Rules and Regulations for Under-19 and Under-16 Upper Division Play (the “Rules”) shall apply when two or more Under-19 or Under-16 teams play a combined schedule of soccer games coordinated by AYSO Area 1C (the “Area”). The AYSO National Rules and Regulations and the AYSO Section One Rules and Regulations shall also apply to all such games. Any discrepancy between or among such documents shall be subject to the interpretation and decision of the Area Director of Area 1C (the “Area Director”). The “Kids Zone” program shall be in effect for all Under-19 and Under-16 Upper Division games and other activities in the Area.
- 2. Upper Division Coordinator.** The Area Director shall appoint an Area 1C Upper Division Coordinator (the “Upper Division Coordinator”) who shall coordinate the Under-19 and Under-16 inter-region play for the Area (the “Upper Division”). The Upper Division Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling games, maintaining standings, scheduling any championship tournaments and all other activities related to the Upper Division as may be determined by the Area Director. Prior to the start of the Upper Division season, the Area shall conduct a mandatory Upper Division Coaches Meeting (the “Mandatory Coaches Meeting”). The Coach or Assistant Coach from each Under-19 and Under-16 team must be present at such meeting. Any Upper Division team which does not send a coach, assistant coach or other representative to the Mandatory Coaches Meeting shall lose one point in the standings.
- 3. Coach Eligibility.**

 - (a) RC responsibilities.** Each Regional Commissioner of any region participating in the Area’s Upper Division program shall be responsible for ensuring that all participating coaches of Under-19 and Under-16 teams from his/her region have submitted current volunteer applications to AYSO’s National office, have completed the AYSO Safe Haven training and are qualified to coach Upper Division teams. Intermediate Coach Certification is required for Under-16 coaches, and Advanced Coach certification is required for Under-19 coaches. If requirements cannot be met, approval by the Area Director and Upper Division Coordinator is required.
 - (b) Area Coach Application.** All potential coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) for any Under-19 or Under-16 team in the area must complete and sign an Area 1C Upper Division Coach Application (the “Coach Application”), the form of which is attached hereto as Appendix A, which shall be submitted to the Area Director at or prior to the Mandatory Coaches Meeting. Completion of the Coach Application evidences that the volunteer has agreed to abide by the AYSO Area 1C Coach’s Kid Zone Pledge set forth therein and these Rules. No person shall act as a coach of any Area Under-19 or Under-16 team unless a complete and accepted Coach Application is on file with the Area Director. If the Area Director approves a

Coach Application, then the coach shall be deemed an “Authorized Coach”. The Authorized Coach must have a laminated picture ID card that complies with Section 7 below. A game will not proceed without an authorized coach. If the Authorized Coach has been suspended or is absent, then the Regional Commissioner, or his/her designee authorized in writing and approved by the Area Director or Upper Division Coordinator pursuant to Section 8(b) of these Rules, may act as the coach for part or all of any such game. Except as set forth in this Section, if there is no Authorized Coach, there is no game - NO EXCEPTIONS!

4. Player Eligibility.

(a) RC responsibilities. Each Regional Commissioner in the Area is responsible for ensuring the eligibility of each player from his/her region on each Under-19 and Under-16 team from his/her region. Each Regional Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that all players on his/her region’s Under-19 and Under-16 teams are registered with AYSO before they play any games. At the request of the Area Director, a player must produce a birth certificate or other proof of age acceptable to the Area Director to verify age eligibility for a given team.

(b) Player Agreement. Each player participating in the Area’s Upper Division shall sign a Player Agreement, in the form attached hereto as Appendix B, as a condition to their eligibility to play. Completion of the Player Agreement evidences that the player understands these rules and will play in a safe, fair and fun manner consistent with AYSO philosophies. The coach of each upper division team shall maintain copies of the player agreements from players on his/her team and shall provide copies to the Area Director or Upper Division Coordinator.

(c) Players must be registered by October 1. No players will be eligible to play on any Upper Division team if they were not registered prior to October 1.

(d) Eligibility for Playoffs. Any player who has not played in at least one-half of the season’s games (excluding any games for which he or she was injured as evidenced by actual game cards submitted by referees) shall be ineligible to play in the Area 1C post-season championship tournament or the Section One post-season tournament.

(e) Forfeit of Games played with Ineligible Players. A team shall forfeit any game in which an ineligible player has participated, and such team, ineligible player or team coach may be subject to additional sanctions imposed by the Area Director or Area Upper Division Coordinator as they may deem appropriate under the circumstances. An “eligible” player for purposes of these rules is any player who (1) are registered with AYSO, (2) is listed on the most current team roster on file with the Area, (3) has signed a Player Agreement, (4) is not currently suspended from playing due to disciplinary action as a result of a send-off, accumulation of yellow cards or other sanctions imposed by the Area or these Rules, AND (5) has a laminated player ID Card at the game in question. An “ineligible player” is any player who does not meet the definition of an “eligible player” for any given game.

5. Team Formation. In the event that a region submits more than 1 team in any Under-19 or Under-16 division, then such teams shall be balanced in accordance

with AYSO rules and regulations. Regional Commissioners and Regional Upper Division Coordinators shall be responsible for ensuring that if they submit multiple teams in one division that such teams have been balanced in the team formation process. A neutral Area Staff member should be present at the team formation meeting. All regions must submit to the Upper Division Coordinator at the Mandatory Coaches Meeting the region's team formation procedure and rating system used to form its Upper Division teams.

6. Team Rosters.

(a) Roster Required prior to 1st Game. An Area 1C Upper Division Roster, in the form attached hereto as Appendix C ("Team Roster"), shall be submitted to the Upper Division Coordinator by each Under-19 and Under-16 authorized coach prior to the first game of the season. The maximum roster size for Under-16 teams shall be 18 players. The maximum roster size for Under-19 teams shall be 22 players. Teams that have not submitted a roster to the Upper Division Coordinator are NOT permitted on the field, and scheduled games not played shall result in a forfeit. The non-offending team shall be awarded a winning score of 1-0. Team rosters must include: (a) region and division designation, (b) team name and uniform colors, (c) coach name, address, phone numbers and email address, (d) assistant coach name, address, phone numbers and email address, (e) each player's name, jersey number, AYSO registration number, date of birth, address and phone number, and (f) signature of the Regional Commissioner of the region represented.

(b) Updated Roster Required for Adds and Drops. Whenever a player or players are dropped or added to a team, a new team roster must be submitted to the Upper Division Coordinator. If a team plays a new player who has not been added to the Team Roster prior to any game in which he/she played, such player shall be deemed an ineligible player for all games for which he/she was not on a team roster and any such games shall be deemed forfeited by the team. No changes or additions to team rosters may be made after October 1.

(c) Coach Must Carry a Copy of Current Roster. Each coach must have a current copy of his/her approved team roster, in the form on file with the area, at every game. A referee at any game may ask the coach to produce his/her team roster for review

7. **Picture ID Cards.** Each Coach, assistant Coach and player on any Upper Division team must have a current, AYSO-issued, laminated, picture ID card at all Area 1C scheduled games. The picture ID card shall include the player's or coach's name (as applicable), region, date of birth, registration number, year of issue, a recent and recognizable picture and the signature of the Regional Commissioner for the region that the team represents. Picture ID cards MUST be laminated.

8. Picture ID Cards and Lineup Cards at Games.

(a) Presentation of picture ID cards and lineup cards to referees. Prior to the start of each Upper Division game, each team's coach or assistant coach shall present to the referee a fully completed lineup card and the picture ID cards of all players shown on the lineup card. The coach and assistant coach shall also present

their ID cards to the referee. All picture ID cards must comply with these rules. The referee will check the players, coaches and assistant coaches against the ID cards, and the referee shall retain possession of the picture ID cards of all players and coaches until the conclusion of the game. Any player, coach or assistant coach who does not submit to the referee a picture ID card that complies with these rules shall not participate in that game---NO EXCEPTIONS.

(b) Coach and Assistant Coaches Cards. Only coaches and assistant coaches with valid ID cards will be allowed to coach the game and thus, allowed in the coaches' technical area. In the event both the coach and assistant coach of a team are suspended or absent, then only the Regional Commissioner, or his/her designee authorized in writing by the Regional Commissioner and signed by the Area Director or Upper Division Coordinator, in the form attached hereto as Appendix C (the "Temporary Coach Authorization"), shall be authorized to act as the team coach. A picture ID card is not required for the acting coach in this situation. Any person acting as a coach of an Upper Division team pursuant to a Temporary Coach Authorization must present the Temporary Coach Authorization to the Referee prior to the start of the game.

(c) Retrieval of Picture ID Cards/retention by referee. At the conclusion of each game, the coach shall retrieve the team's picture ID cards from the referee, except that the referee shall retain the ID card of any coach or assistant coach who was expelled, and of any player or substitute who was sent off. The referee shall submit the retained picture ID cards, along with a written Misconduct Report, to the Upper Division Coordinator, the referee Misconduct Report must be emailed to the Area Referee Administrator and a report of the incident must be entered in to the Arbiter software.

The Regional Commissioner or Regional Upper Division Coordinator for the team whose ID cards were sent to the Upper Division Coordinator may personally retrieve the ID cards from the Upper Division Coordinator. Upon request by one of those individuals, the picture ID cards may be returned by mail. Cards shall not be issued back to coaches or to any player.

9. **Player Registration Forms.** Coaches must have in their possession at all times, player registration forms with original parent/legal guardian signatures. If registration forms are not present at the field, ONLY those players of legal age or those with a parent or legal guardian present at the field will be allowed to play.
10. **Home Team/Game Balls/Sides of Field/Jersey Conflicts.** The team listed first on the schedule shall be designated the home team. The home team shall be responsible for supplying 2 game balls and shall change their team jerseys or wear vests in the event of a uniform color conflict. All upper division coaches are responsible for having in their possession an alternate uniform top, pinnies or vests in case of a uniform color conflict. The visiting team shall be responsible for supplying 1 game ball. Unless otherwise directed by the referee, the home team shall occupy the North or West side of the field and the away team shall occupy the South or East side of the field. All players, spectators, coaches and others associated with a team must remain on that team's designated side of the field

between the penalty area and three meters behind the touchline. In no event shall any person remain behind the goal line.

11. Uniforms. Uniforms, including goalkeeper's jerseys, must meet AYSO uniform guidelines. All players on each team must wear the same uniform as issued by the region in which they are registered. Each goalkeeper must wear colors which distinguish him/her from the other players (both teams) and referees. Each coach is responsible to have an alternate goalkeeper jersey available in case of a color conflict. In the event of a uniform conflict, the home team must wear alternate jerseys or vests.

12. Field Responsibility. Both teams shall be responsible to help set-up nets, goals and flags on a field when they have the first game of the day on that field. Both teams shall be responsible to take-down the nets, goals and flags and cleanup the field area when they have the last game of the day on that field. Each team is responsible for cleaning up its sideline area after each game. Failure to help with field setup or take-down or failure to clean-up the sidelines and field area may result in the loss of 1 point from the standings for the offending team, at the discretion of the Upper Division Coordinator and Area Director.

13. Games and Competition.

(a) Rules. All games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions by the International Football Association Board, as modified by any exception detailed in the AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

(b) Scheduled Games. All scheduled games must be played, unless cancelled by the Upper Division Coordinator. Failure of a team to play a scheduled game, including a "friendly" game, shall result in a forfeit. The offending team shall be given a point deduction. Failure to play a scheduled game may result in disciplinary action against the coach or team. Games CANNOT be rescheduled by coaches; only the Area Director and Upper Division Coordinator may schedule or re-schedule games.

(c) Minimum Number of Players. A minimum of seven players shall constitute a team; a scheduled game shall not begin or be continued if one or both teams cannot field 7 eligible players.

(d) Fifteen (15) minute Grace Period. The referee in charge of the game shall allow a grace period of 15 minutes after the scheduled game time for players to arrive if a team does not have the minimum number of players. If a team is not ready to play within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, the-referee shall not allow the match to begin. The final outcome will be determined by the UD or AD.

(e) Games starting late. Referees shall note the late start time of any game on the lineup card. Games that begin late may be shortened by the referee, at his/her discretion, to keep the remaining schedule of games for that field on time. The referee shall notify the coaches prior to the start of the game, if it will be shortened and by how long it shall be shortened.

(f) Cancellation of Games. The Area Director, Upper Division Coordinator or Regional Commissioner in charge of a particular field, shall have the authority to cancel or terminate games if the circumstances so warrant. They shall also have the authority to terminate a game early due to weather, lighting conditions, field conditions or other similar reasons not otherwise provided in these Rules. **Nothing in these rules is intended to limit the authority of a center referee to take action in accordance with the Laws of the Game applicable to AYSO games or as otherwise provided herein.** In the event a game is cancelled pursuant to this paragraph, it may be re-scheduled, if practical, by the Area Director and Upper Division Coordinator at their discretion. Games not played due to “mutual” forfeits shall be recorded as 0-0 ties, and 1 point shall be deducted from the standings of each team.

(g) Lineup Cards. Properly completed lineup cards, along with the laminated picture ID cards, shall be submitted to the referee prior to the game. In addition, the home team shall supply the referee with a stamped envelope pre-addressed to the Upper Division Coordinator. The full name of all players on a team roster must be listed on each lineup card, even if the player will not be present at that particular game, with an indication of a reason for their absence (sick, injury, suspension, etc.). Players shall be listed in jersey number order on the lineup card. After the referee checks-in a team, the referee team will retain possession of the game card and laminated picture ID cards until the conclusion of the game. After the game the referee shall return to the coaches their teams’ picture ID cards, except for any picture ID Cards of players or coaches sent-off. The referee will send lineup cards and any picture ID cards that are retained after the match due to send-offs and ejections to the Upper Division Coordinator using the envelope collected from the home team.

(h) Game Results Reporting. Each coach shall be responsible for reporting his/her team’s game scores to his/her Regional Upper Division Coordinator. Each Regional Upper Division Coordinator is responsible for sending scores for any games played by the Upper Division teams from that region to the Area Upper Division Coordinator. **Results MUST be sent by email to the Upper Division Coordinator at: ud@ayso1c.org Results must be sent within 48 hours of the scheduled game time.** Each coach shall be responsible to notify their Regional Upper Division Coordinator if there is an error in the game score or standings as posted on the website. Any such error must be reported to the Area Upper Division Coordinator within 1 week after the score for a game has been posted on the Area website. If the error is not reported within such 1 week period of time, the game score shall stand, and no adjustments will be made to the standings.

14. Substitutions.

THERE WILL BE NO FREE SUBSTITUTION IN AREA 1C UPPER DIVISION MATCHES.

(a) Every player is required to play half a game. Substitutions will be by eighths, except an injured player may be substituted at any time with the referee’s permission. The referee stops play approximately every 10 minutes for Under-16 and approximately every 11 minutes for Under-19 substitution opportunities.

(b) **Substitutions Procedure.**

1) Substitutes must be waiting at the halfway line before the referee stops the game for the substitution opportunity. Players must not enter field of play until the referee grants permission.

(2) Substitution will be monitored by the referee when playing eighths, the substitutions will be entered on the game card which was submitted to the referee prior to the commencement of the game.

15. Referees. Referees for all Under-19 and Under-16 games shall be scheduled by the Area Referee Administrator and/or his/her designee. Regional Commissioners or their Regional Referee Administrators shall provide the Area Referee Administrator with the names of referees from their respective regions who they believe are qualified to officiate Under-19 and/or Under-16 games. At the discretion of the Area Referee Administrator, those referees will be scheduled for Under-19 and Under-16 games throughout the Area. The diagonal system of control (3-referee system) shall be used in all games without exception. If at least the scheduled referee is present at the beginning of the game but one or two scheduled assistant referees are not present, then the referee may use one or two "club linesperson(s)" to officiate the game. If the scheduled referee is NOT present at the game, but at least one or two scheduled assistant referee(s) is/are present at the game, then one of the assistant referees may act as the center referee for that game using one or two "club linesperson(s)", provided that both coaches are so notified and both coaches and the assistant referee(s) agree at the beginning of the game. If the coaches and the assistant referee(s) do not agree, then the game will not be played, and the Area will attempt to reschedule the game, if possible. If the coaches agree to play the game without the scheduled referee, the score of the game shall be final. Decisions of the referees are FINAL and shall not be grounds for any appeal or protest of any game. If no referee scheduled by the Area is present, then the game will not be played, and the Area will attempt to reschedule the game, if possible.

16. Conduct and Disciplinary Action.

(a) Responsibility for Conduct. Each Regional Commissioner shall be held responsible for the conduct of his/her coaches of Under-19 and Under-16 teams from his/her region. The primary responsibility for maintaining discipline and control of the players, coaches and spectators from a team is the head coach. Players, coaches and spectators shall display positive aspects of good sportsmanship and conduct at all times, in keeping with AYSO philosophies. Coaches will be held accountable for the behavior of the players and spectators from his/her team. The Area Director shall have the right to remove coaches and assistant coaches of Upper Division teams for violations of these Rules.

(b) Cautions (Yellow Cards or Official Warnings to Coaches or Spectators).

The Area will record and keep records of the number of yellow cards received by each team and each player. If any player accumulates four (4) yellow cards during the season, then that player will be suspended from playing in the next game, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

(c) Player Send-Offs (Red Cards). A player who is sent-off (shown the red card) is disqualified from playing in the remainder of the game and is ineligible to play in at least the next scheduled game. A player who is sent-off two times in a single season for violent conduct, use of offensive, insulting or abusive language or action, serious foul play, and/or disruptive conduct toward opponents, referees or officials shall be automatically suspended from further participation in the season, and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. A player who is sent-off two times in a single season for other reasons will be subject to disciplinary review by the Area and the imposition of sanctions deemed appropriate under the circumstances. Players younger than 18 years who have been sent-off shall not be required to leave the vicinity of the field of play if there are safety or other concerns, provided that the coach shall ensure that a player who has been sent-off participates no further in the game or post game activities, either by word or action.

(d) Coach Send-Offs. If the authorized coach (meaning head coach) is sent-off during a game, even if the assistant coach is present, then the referee shall immediately terminate the game, and the other team shall win by forfeit with a score of 1-0. Any coach (head coach or assistant coach) who is sent-off may not coach and may not be present at or near the field for at least the next scheduled game, and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. Any coach who is sent-off must (1) immediately leave the vicinity of the field for the remainder of the game, (2) not coach or be present at or near the field for at least his/her team's next scheduled game, and (3) may be subject to additional sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Area Director. A coach who is sent-off for a second time during a single season is subject to additional disciplinary action, including suspension from further participation in the season.

(e) Fighting and Profanity. Players, coaches and teams who engage in fighting before, during or after a game shall be sent-off, shall be disqualified from playing in any Area or Section One playoffs, shall be immediately suspended from further participation in the season (the length of such suspension subject to Area discretion), and may be subject to additional disciplinary action including further participation in AYSO. Players who use profanity are subject to discipline under the Laws of the Game as determined by the referee.

(f) Responsibility for Enforcement of Sanctions. The Area shall maintain official records of sanctions and penalties imposed on coaches and players. Regional Commissioners shall be responsible to ensure that (i) all infractions regarding participants from their respective regions are accurately tracked; (ii) the coaches from their respective regions are administering the appropriate sanctions; and (iii) the appropriate sanctions are reported to the Area Director and Upper Division Coordinator.

(g) Other Behavior. Any player, coach or spectator who seeks another player, coach, spectator, referee or official for the purpose of taunting or fighting, or threatens the well-being of a player, coach, spectator, referee or official either before, during or after a game either on or in the vicinity of the playing fields or parking areas, including adjacent streets, will be suspended from participation in the remainder of the season, including playoffs.

(h) Ineligible Player or Coach participation in a game. If an ineligible player (as defined in Section 4(e) of these Rules) or coach participates in a game for which he/she was suspended or otherwise ineligible, then that player's or coach's team shall forfeit the match and be subject to such additional discipline as deemed appropriate by the Area. Coaches shall uphold their responsibility to honor and impose all sanctions and enforce them.

(i) Other Disciplinary Situations. The Area Director may impose appropriate disciplinary actions for any situations he/she deems warrant them, even if such situations are not specifically addressed in these rules.

17. Standings. Team standings in each division shall be based on points earned by each team. A team shall be awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss. No points shall be awarded for goal differential or shut-outs. A team shall lose one point for a forfeit, including any forfeit of scheduled "friendly" games, which shall be considered a 1-0 win for the opposing team. A team shall also lose 1 point for each red card or send-off for serious foul play or violent conduct it receives before, during or after any game. In the case of ties in the standings, the following tiebreakers will be applied: (a) Head to Head competition; (b) fewest number of goals allowed (which shall be prorated or averaged if the number of games played by each team is not equal); (c) fewest number of accumulated red and yellow cards received (with 3 points for each red card (including coach send-offs) and 1 point for each yellow card); (d) coin toss. The Area shall update standings and statistics on the Area website. Coaches are responsible to report errors to the Upper Division Coordinator.

18. Post-Season Tournament and Section One Tournament. The Area shall determine the playoff format for the Area post-season championship tournament prior to the start of each season. The format will be based on the number of teams in each division. Generally, the format will be based on seeding, depending on the number of points a team has accumulated during the regular season. In the event that teams in a division have not played the same number of games, seeding will be determined by winning percentage, i.e., the number of wins for that team divided by the total number of games the team played. Byes may be granted in early rounds for the highest seeded teams, as necessary given the total number of teams participating. The Area post-season championship tournament shall be a single elimination format. No post-season championship tournament games may end in a tie. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, the teams shall play two overtime periods consisting of 10 minutes each. If a team is playing short because of ejections, they will continue to play short during the overtime periods. In the event that the score is tied at the conclusion of the overtime periods, the winner shall be determined by taking kicks from the penalty mark consistent with FIFA rules and regulations. The winner of the tournament in each division shall be eligible to participate in the Section One Upper Division tournament. In the event that Section One has awarded additional entries to the Area in a particular division, then the runner-up from that division shall be eligible to participate in the Section One Upper Division Tournament as well. Medals or other awards shall be given to players and coaches for 1st through 4th place.

- 19. Referee Misconduct Reports.** Referees shall submit to the Area Referee Administrator a written Misconduct Report, via email substantially in the form attached as Appendix E, in the event of (a) any red card, send-off or ejection of any player, coach or assistant coach; (b) conduct on the part of spectators interfering with the control of the game (including any ejections of spectators). A written report shall also be submitted in the Arbiter system.
- 20. Weather and Field Conditions.** If there is any question about whether a field is playable due to weather, environmental or other conditions, coaches and team members should check the Area website at www.ayso1c.org.
- 21. Protests.**
- (a) No protests of any referee decisions. Referee decisions are final and are not grounds for protest.**
- (b) Allowable Protests.** Protests must be in writing and delivered to the Area Director within 48 hours after the conclusion of the protested game. The only protests that will be considered are for the suspected participation in a game by an ineligible player or coach and for violation of AYSO rules and regulations. The Area Director shall have the authority to deny the request because it is not a permitted cause for protest and shall have the authority to determine what action, if any, is warranted under the circumstances. The Area Director may assign a Disciplinary Review Board, if deemed necessary.
- 22. Disciplinary Review Board.** If deemed necessary by the Area Director, a Disciplinary Review Board (“Review Board”) may be appointed to hear a protest or take action with respect to any situation that arises with respect to the Area’s Under-19 and Under-16 program. The Review Board shall be comprised of three individuals selected by the Area Director, or selected by the Assistant Area Director, if the discipline was imposed at the discretion of the Area Director. The Review Board shall hear all appropriate protests and appeals, and shall make a recommendation to the Area Director, or the Assistant Area Director (if the appeal relates to discipline imposed by the Area Director), regarding the subject matter of the Review Board, including, for example, recommending confirmation of the action being protested, or the reduction or increase of any penalties or decisions being protested or appealed.
- 23. Fair Interpretation of Rules.** These Rules have been developed to ensure that all Upper Division games are safe, fun and fair and that the AYSO philosophies carry through the Under-19 and Under-16 divisions. The Area’s message in these Rules is that misconduct, especially violent conduct, serious foul play, or offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The Area Director, Upper Division Coordinator and any Disciplinary Review Board shall interpret these Rules in a manner that is fair and consistent with AYSO rules and regulations.