



## **AYSO AREA 1 C UIO, U12, & U14 POST-SEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF RULES**

These AYSO Area 1C U10, U12 and U14 Post-Season Rules and Regulations (the “Rules”) shall apply to the following post-season programs (“Post-Season”) administered by AYSO Area 1C (the “Area”) at the conclusion of the regular soccer season:

- (1) the League Championship Playoff Tournament (the “League Championship Playoffs”) conducted by the Area to determine the Area Champion in each of the 10 through U14 divisions and to determine who shall represent the Area in the Section One League Championship Playoff Tournament;
- (2) all games and tournaments between Section and Area level All-Stars teams for BU10, GU10, BU12, GU12, BU14 & GU14 (“All-Stars”); and
- (3) all games and tournaments, if any, between Regional Stars teams for BU10, GU10, BU12, GU12, BU14 & GU14 (“Regional Stars”).

The AYSO National Rules and Regulations and the AYSO Section 1 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 Post-Season games and other activities in Area 1C.

### **I. POST-SEASON COORDINATORS**

The Area Director shall appoint an Area 1C Post-Season Coordinator (the “Area Post-Season Coordinator”) who shall coordinate the Post-Season play for the Area. The Area Post-Season Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling games, maintaining standings, scheduling any championship tournaments and all other activities related to Area 1C’s Post-Season programs, as may be determined by the Area Director. Prior to the start of the Post-Season, the Area shall conduct a mandatory Post-Season Coaches Meeting (the “Mandatory Coaches Meeting”). The Coach or Assistant Coach from each Post-Season team must be present at such meeting. Any All-Stars team which does not send a coach, assistant coach or

other authorized representative to the Mandatory Coaches Meeting shall lose one point in the standings.

Each Region shall appoint a Regional Post-Season Coordinator who shall be responsible for collecting the scores for all games played by participating teams from his/her respective Region; as well as for developing a system of maintaining all game cards for any Post-Season games played on the fields in his/her Region. The Regional Post-Season Coordinator shall, in turn, report all scores for the teams played by his/her Region to the Area Post-Season Coordinator by noon on the Monday following the playing of the game being reported; and shall deliver all collected game cards to the Area Post-Season Coordinator. The Post-Season Coordinator may develop a system of score reporting directly by coaches, such as through a web page. **(See Section III L, below for details.)**

## **II. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT**

Section II of these Rules shall apply only to the Area's League Championship Playoffs.

### **A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Each year, following the regular Fall Season, Area 1C holds a League Championship Playoff Tournament for regular season teams from each Region in the Area to determine the Area 1C Champions and Runner-ups in both the Boys and Girls Divisions of U10, U12 and U14. Each Region may enter a maximum of two regular season teams in each of the six Divisions (Boys & Girls U10, U12 & U14). Teams and players must have participated in the regular Fall Season in the division for which they are entered. Teams and Players participating in the Area 1C Youth Development Program ("YDP") are not eligible. Each Region is responsible for designating the Region Champion and Runner-Up teams which shall represent their Region in the Area League Championship Playoffs, using whatever formula the Region determines to be fair and equitable. Please refer to your Region's by-laws or policies for your Region's method of determining these teams.

The format of the Area 1C League Championship Playoffs is a single elimination tournament. Players and coaches on teams finishing among the top four (4) positions in each age group of the League Championship Playoffs will receive an award from the Area.

The Area 1C Champion in each of the six Divisions (Boys & Girls U10, U12 & U14) shall be eligible to participate in the Section One League Championship Tournament, typically held in early March of each year. In the event that Section 1 has awarded additional entries to the Area in a particular division or divisions, then the runner-up from that division(s) shall be eligible to participate in the Section One League Championship Tournament as well.

### **B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to compete in the League Championship Playoff Games, each player must have played at least one-half (1/2) of the total number of league games (including Regional playoff games) played during the regular Fall Season as a member of the team on who's Roster he or she is listed as a player in the League Championship Playoffs. The only exception to this rule is a situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness, injury, or a change of residence which causes a change from one Region to another. Players may not have been added to any roster after October 1.

**1. Responsibilities of Regional Commissioner:** Each Regional Commissioner in the Area is responsible for ensuring and affirming the eligibility of each player from his/her region on each Post-Season team from his/her region. Each Regional Commissioner is responsible for ensuring and affirming that all players on his/her Region's Post-Season teams participating in the Area League Championship Playoffs ("League Championship Teams") are properly 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.

**2. Forfeiture of Game for Using an Ineligible Player:** 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 Post-Season Coordinator as they may deem appropriate under the circumstances. An "eligible" player for purposes of the League Championship Playoffs is any player who: (1) is properly registered with AYSO, (2) is listed on the most current team roster on file with the Area, (3) played at least one-half (1/2) of the total number of league games (including Regional playoff games) played during the regular Fall Season as a member of the team on who's Roster he or she is listed as a player in the League Championship Playoffs, and (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 a Region, the Area or these Rules. An "ineligible player" is any player who does not meet the definition of an "eligible player" for any given game.

### **C. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible, teams must have participated in the regular Fall Season in the division for which they are entered. Teams and Players participating in the Area 1C YDP Program are not eligible. All U10 games in the League Championship Playoffs shall be played 7 v 7, and only teams that played a short-sided format (i.e. 7 v 7), during the regular Fall Season are eligible to compete in the Area League Championship Playoffs in the U10 Division. All U12 games in the League Championship Playoffs shall be played 9 v 9, and only teams that played a short-sided format (i.e. 9 v 9), during the regular Fall Season are eligible to compete in the Area League Championship Playoffs in the U12 Division.

## **D. ROSTERS**

All Team Rosters for League Championship Playoff teams must be eAYSO Roster Form, must be signed by the Commissioner of the Region for which the team is submitted, and must be delivered to the Area Director or the Area Post-Season Coordinator by the deadline noted in the Area Post-Season Calendar. Coaches are advised to obtain the deadline date from their Regional Commissioner or the Area 1C Website ([ayso1c.org](http://ayso1c.org)). Players may not be added to a League Championship Team roster after the deadline for submitting team rosters. A team not submitting a signed eAYSO roster by the deadline shall not be eligible to participate in the League Championship Playoffs unless approved to do so by the Area Director and Post-Season Coordinator. Teams that have not submitted a roster to the Area Post-Season 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.

## **E. PLAYING TIME**

**1. Three Quarter (3/4) Rule:** Players participating in League Championship Playoff games who are present at the start of the game shall play at least three quarters of each game. Players on these teams arriving during the first quarter shall play the second, third and fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the second quarter or at halftime shall play the third and fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the third quarter must play the fourth quarter.

## **F. GAME FORMAT**

The game length for all League Championship Playoff games for all divisions shall be as follows:

Under 14: two (2) 35 minute halves

Under 12: two (2) 30 minute halves

Under 10: two (2) 25 minute halves

No Area League Championship Playoff game may end in a tie. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, there shall be two (2) full 5-minute Overtime Periods. There shall be no "golden goal" or "sudden victory". Both Overtime Periods shall be played to their conclusion. If a team is playing short because of ejection, the team shall continue to play short during the Overtime Periods. A coach may substitute a player or players prior to the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Overtime Period, and during the break between the two Overtime Periods, but not otherwise.

If the game remains tied at the end of the second Overtime Period, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the provisions of Section IV N of these Rules, and only those players on the field at the conclusion of the second Overtime Period shall be eligible to participate.

## **III. ALL-STARS PROGRAMS**

Section III of these Rules shall apply only to the Area's All-Stars and Regional Stars Programs. Each Region is expected to supply one (1) field game slot per playing date for each two (2) teams it submits in the Area 1C All-Stars and Regional Stars programs combined. In addition, each Region is expected to supply the names of three (3) qualified referees available to referee Section and Area All-Stars games for each two (2) Section and Area All-Stars teams submitted. (Regional Stars teams will referee their own games.) The Area 1C Board of Directors retains the right to limit the number of teams submitted by those Regions who do not comply with these requirements.

#### **A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Area 1C All-Stars and Regional Stars Programs provide players with demonstrated outstanding soccer ability, enthusiasm, and good sportsmanship an opportunity to participate on a team and compete against teams composed of players with similar qualifications. The Program is carried out in January and February of each year and consists of three levels of competition:

- (1) Section All-Stars (which is designed primarily for players who are in the "older" birthday year of each division);
- (2) Area All-Stars (which is designed primarily for players who are in the "younger" birthday year of each division); and
- (3) Regional Stars (which is designed to further the development of players of both ages who have demonstrated excellent soccer skills and enthusiasm, but were not selected for a Section or Area team).

Each region may enter:

- One team in the Area's "Section All Stars" Program in each of the Boys and Girls U10, U12 & U14 Divisions;
- One team in the Area's "Area All Stars" Program in each U10, U12 & U14 Division (provided that a Region may enter an additional team if requested to do so by the Area for the purpose of rounding-out the total number of teams in a particular division); and
- One or more teams in the Area's "Regional Stars" Program in each U10, U12 & U14 Division.

If a Region submits only a single team in a given division, that team shall be deemed to be a "Section All-Star" Team. If a region does not believe that its team in a certain division will be competitive, that region may petition the Area Administrator to send an Area team and/or a Regional team if approved by a majority of Regional Commissioners. The petitioning region shall supply data supporting the petition (i.e., the competitiveness of the team) 24 hours before the November area meeting. A majority vote of Regional Commissioners present at the November area meeting is required to approve each petition.

The format for all of the Area 1C Section All-Stars, Area All-Stars and Regional Stars Programs, and any end-of season tournaments, is determined by the Area Director, subject to the approval of the Area 1C Board of Directors, and may vary among the three levels of play.

## **B. SECTION ALL-STARS**

A Region's Section All-Stars team should consist of the best players in the U10, U12, and U14 (boys and girls) divisions in that Region. It is usually composed of the older players in the applicable division but may have younger players from that division who also possess the skills and attributes required of a Section All-Star player. The Section All-Stars teams from each Region compete against one another in round-robin “pool play” which determines the seeding for the Area 1C Section All-Stars Playoff Tournament (“Tournament”) in mid to late February. Each player and coach on those teams finishing first through fourth in the Area 1C Section All-Stars Tournament will receive a medal or other award signifying their “place” of finish. Players and coaches on other teams may or may not receive a medal or other award from the Area.

The winner of the Area 1C Section All-Stars Tournament from each division (Boys & Girls U10, U12 & U14) shall be eligible to participate in the Section One All-Stars Championship Tournament, typically held in early March of each year. In the event that Section 1 has awarded additional entries to the Area in a particular division or divisions, then additional teams from that division(s), as determined by their order of finish in the Tournament, shall be eligible to participate in the Section One League Championship Tournament as well.

The winners of the Section 1 Tournament usually advance to the Tri-Section Tournament and/or State Championships to play the winners of other California AYSO Sections.

## **C. AREA ALL-STARS**

A Region's Area All-Stars Team(s) usually consists of the skilled younger players from each of the Region's U10, U12, and U14 divisions. The Area All-Stars Teams from each Region compete against one another in round-robin “pool play” which determines the seeding for the Area 1C Area All-Stars Playoff Tournament in mid to late February. Each player and coach on those teams finishing first through fourth in the Area All-Stars Playoff Tournament will receive a medal or other award signifying their “place” of finish. Players and coaches on other teams may or may not receive a medal or other award. The winners at the Area Tournament level do not advance to play at any other level.

## **D. REGIONAL STARS**

The Regional Stars Program is a developmental program designed for players who have the ability and drive to play at an advanced level but who were not selected for either

the Section or Area All-Stars teams. Teams participating in Regional Stars Program play against similar teams from other Regions within Area 1C. Regional Stars programs may or may not end with an end-of-season Playoff Tournament, depending on weather and field availability. The number of pools and number of teams per pool in a given age group may vary, and the teams may not play a full round-robin within a pool. Standings may or may not be kept and distributed awards, if any, may be based either on standings or simply upon participation. The winners at the Regional Stars level do not advance to play at any other level. The Area shall determine the format and awards, if any, for the Regional Stars Program each year.

Regions may enter more than one team in each division (boys and girls) of U10, U12 and U14, subject to field availability and fulfillment of their responsibility to provide fields for the Program's teams; provided, however, that if a Region enters more than one team in a particular division, the Region's teams in that division shall be balanced as equally as is reasonably possible. The Area Board retains the right to limit the number of teams submitted by those Regions who do not comply with this requirement.

#### **E. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to compete in the Area 1C All-Star Program, each player must have played at least one-half (1/2) of the total number of league games (including Regional playoff games) played by the team to which he or she was assigned during the regular Fall Season. The only exception to this rule is a situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness, injury, or a change of residence which causes a change from one Region to another. Players participating in the Area 1C YDP are eligible to play in Area 1C All-Stars and Regional Stars Programs.

**1. Responsibilities of Regional Commissioner:** Each Regional Commissioner in the Area is responsible for ensuring and affirming the eligibility of each player from his/her Region on each Section All-Stars team, Area All-Stars team and Regional Stars team ("Post-Season Teams") from his/her Region. Each Regional Commissioner is responsible for ensuring and affirming that all players on his/her region's Post-Season teams are properly 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.

**2. Player Participation Agreements for All Players:** Each player in the Under 14 Divisions participating in the Area 1C All-Stars Program or Regional Stars Program shall sign a Player Agreement, in the form attached hereto as Appendix "A", as a condition to his/her eligibility to play. Completion of the Player Agreement evidences that the player understands these Rules and will play in a safe, fun and fair manner consistent with AYSO philosophies. The head coach of each All-Star Team shall maintain copies of the player agreements from players on his/her team and shall provide copies to the Area Director or Post-Season Coordinator upon request.

2. **Player Picture ID Cards:** Each Player on any Post-Season All-Stars or Regional Stars 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 name, Region, date of birth, player 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.**

3 **Presentation of Player Picture ID Cards to Referees.** Prior to the start of each All-Stars or Regional Stars 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. All picture ID cards must comply with these Rules. The referee will check the players against the ID cards, and the referee shall retain possession of the picture ID cards of all players until the conclusion of the game. For Regional Stars games, each team's ID cards shall, when possible, be checked by an official supplied by the opposing team. Any player, of an All-Stars team who does not submit to the referee a picture ID card that complies with these Rules shall not participate in that game.

4. **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 player, who is sent-off.. The coach of the team(s) whose ID cards are retained shall present an envelope (supplied by the Post-season coordinator) to the referee with the address of the post-season coordinator. The referee shall place the retained picture ID card(s), along with a written Misconduct Report, in the envelope and place it into the mail. The Regional Commissioner or Regional Post-Season coordinator for the team whose ID cards were sent to the Area Post-Season Coordinator may personally retrieve the ID cards from the Area Post-Season Coordinator. Alternatively, upon request by one of such individuals, the picture ID cards may be returned by mail.

**Each region is responsible for retrieving ID cards retained by the referee. Otherwise, that player will not be permitted to play. A replacement card will only be issued if the card is lost by Area personnel or not available due to the card being placed in the mail.**

5. **Forfeiture of Game for Using an Ineligible Player:** 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 Post-Season Coordinator as they may deem appropriate under the circumstances. An "eligible" player for purposes of these Rules is any player who (1) is properly registered with AYSO, (2) is listed on the most current team roster on file with the Area, (3) has signed a Player Agreement, if the player is on an All-Stars Team, (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.

## **F. COACH ELIGIBILITY**

**1. Responsibilities of Regional Commissioner:** Each Regional Commissioner of any Region participating in the Area's All-Stars Program shall be responsible for ensuring and affirming that all participating coaches of Post-Season 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 All-Stars teams. Age-appropriate coach certification is required for U10 and U12 coaches, and Intermediate Coach certification is required for U14 coaches.

**2. All-Stars Coach Picture ID Card:** All coaches and assistant coaches of All-Stars and Regional Stars teams must have laminated picture ID cards which shall be retained by the referee during the game.. Only coaches and assistant coaches with valid ID cards will be allowed to coach the game and thus, be allowed in the coaches' box. Prior to the start of each All-Stars game, each team's coach or assistant coach shall present to the referee the ID cards of the coach and assistant coach. All picture ID cards must comply with these Rules. The referee will check the coaches and assistant coaches against the ID cards. For Regional Stars games, each team's ID cards shall, when possible, be checked by an official supplied by the opposing team. Any 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..

**4. 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 is expelled. The coach of the team(s) whose ID cards are retained shall present an envelope (supplied by the Post-season coordinator) to the referee with the address of the post-season coordinator. The referee shall place the retained picture ID card(s), along with a written Misconduct Report, in the envelope and place it into the mail. The Regional Commissioner or Regional Post-Season coordinator for the team whose ID cards were sent to the Area Post-Season Coordinator may personally retrieve the ID cards from the Area Post-Season Coordinator. Alternatively, upon request by one of such individuals, the picture ID cards may be returned by mail.

**Each region is responsible for retrieving ID cards retained by the referee. Otherwise, that player will not be permitted to play. A replacement card will only be issued if the card is lost by Area personnel or not available due to the card being placed in the mail.**

**5. Temporary Coach Authorization:** 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 Post-Season 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

a Post-Season team pursuant to a Temporary Coach Authorization must present the Temporary Coach Authorization to the Referee prior to the start of the game.

**6. Forfeiture of Game if No Authorized Coach Present:** A team playing all or part of a game without an Authorized Coach, or a coach acting pursuant to a valid Temporary Coach Authorization, shall forfeit the game. Except as set form in this Section, if there is no Authorized Coach, there is no game—NO EXCEPTIONS! If a coach is expelled and no other coach is available, the referee shall declare the game terminated and a report sent to the Area Director. The Area Director shall then declare the game a forfeit.

## **G. FORMATION OF TEAMS**

All-Stars and Regional Stars teams shall not be formed before December 1st. If it is determined that an All-Stars or Regional Stars team was formed in violation of this rule, the Area reserves the right to disqualify the coach and/or the team from further competition or participation in the Area 1C All-Stars and/or Regional Stars Program.

In the event that a region submits more than 1 team in any division in the All-Stars and/or Regional Stars Programs, then such teams shall be balanced in accordance with AYSO rules and regulations. Regional Commissioners and Regional Post-Season 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.

## **H. TEAM ROSTERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS**

**1. Rosters:** Team Rosters for All-Stars teams shall be submitted on eAYSO Roster Forms, must be signed by the Commissioner of the Region for which the team is submitted, and must be delivered to the Area Director or his/her designee by the deadline noted in the Area Post Season Calendar. Coaches are advised to obtain the deadline date from their Regional Commissioner or the Area 1C Website. Players may not be added to an All-Stars or Regional Stars team after the deadline for submitting team rosters. A team not submitting a signed Roster by the applicable deadline shall not be eligible to participate in the All-Stars or Regional Stars Program unless approved to do so by the Area Director. Teams that have not submitted a roster to the Area Post-Season 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.

**2. 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 Area Post-Season 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 later than 48 hours prior to that team's first game. If there is a case of extreme hardship such that a team will not be able to field a full team, the Area Director shall have discretion to permit such a late change.

## **I. TEAM SIZES**

### **1. Team Sizes for Section & Area All-Stars Teams:**

In the **U14 division**, each Section and Area All-Stars team may have a maximum of fifteen (15) players per team. Regions entering both Section and Area U14 All-Stars teams shall distribute a minimum of twelve (12) younger players between the two teams. Regions entering a second Area team shall distribute a minimum of eighteen (18) younger players among the three teams, and the two Area teams must be balanced.

In the **U12 division**, each Section and Area All-Stars team may have a maximum of twelve (12) players per team. Regions entering both Section and Area U12 All-Stars teams shall distribute a minimum of nine (9) younger players between the two teams. Regions entering a second Area team shall distribute a minimum of eighteen (18) younger players among the three teams, and the two Area teams must be balanced.

For teams in the **U10 division**, Section All Stars teams may have a maximum of ten (10) players and Area All Stars teams may have a maximum of nine (9) players. Regions entering both a Section and Area UI0 All-Stars team shall distribute a minimum of six (6) younger players between the two teams. Regions entering a second Area team shall distribute a minimum of twelve (12) younger players among the three teams, and the two Area teams must be balanced.

### **2. Team Sizes for Regional Stars Teams:**

In the **U14 division**, Regional Stars teams may have a maximum of fourteen (14) players per team. There shall be a minimum of five (5) younger players on each U14 Regional Stars team.

In the **U12 division**, Regional Stars teams may have a maximum of twelve (12) players per team. There shall be a minimum of five (5) younger players on each U12 Regional Stars team.

In the **U10 division**, Regional Stars teams shall have a maximum of nine (9) players, at least four (4) of which shall be younger players.

## **J. PLAYING TIME**

**1. Two Quarter (1/2) Rule for Section All-Stars Teams and for U12 & U14 Area All-Stars Teams:** All players on all Section All-Stars Team and all players on a U12 and U14 Area All-Stars Team who are present at the start of the game shall play at least two quarters of the game. Players on these teams arriving during the first quarter shall play two (2) of the second, third or fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the

second quarter or at halftime shall play the third and fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the third quarter must play the fourth quarter.

**2. Three Quarter (3/4) Rule for U10 Area All-Stars Teams and for all Regional Stars Teams:** Players on U10 Area All-Stars Teams and players on all Regional Stars Teams who are present at the start of the game shall play at least three quarters of each game. Players on these teams arriving during the first quarter shall play the second, third and fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the second quarter or at halftime shall play the third and fourth quarters. Players on these teams who arrive during the third quarter must play the fourth quarter.

#### **K. GAME FORMAT**

The game length for all All-Stars and Regional Stars games for all divisions shall be as follows:

Under 14: two (2) 35 minute halves

Under 12: two (2) 30 minute halves

Under 10: two (2) 25 minute halves

During preliminary "Pool Play," games in the All-Stars and Regional Stars Programs may end in a tie.

Games played in the Area 1C Section and Area All-Stars Playoff Tournaments may NOT end in a tie. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, there shall be two (2) full 5-minute Overtime Periods. There shall be no "golden goal" or "sudden victory". Both Overtime Periods shall be played to their conclusion. If a team is playing short because of ejection, the team shall continue to play short during the Overtime Periods. A coach may substitute a player or players prior to the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Overtime Period, and during the break between the two Overtime Periods, but not otherwise. If the game remains tied at the end of the second Overtime Period, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the provisions of Section IV N of these Rules and only those players on the field at the conclusion of the second Overtime Period shall be eligible to participate.

#### **L. GAME RESULTS REPORTING**

Each Region shall appoint a Regional Post-Season Coordinator who shall be responsible for collecting the scores for all games played by participating All-Stars and Regional Stars teams from their respective Region; as well as for collecting all game cards for All-Stars and Regional Stars games played on the fields in their Region. Each coach shall be responsible for reporting his/her team's game scores to his/her Regional Post-Season Coordinator. Each Regional Post-Season Coordinator is responsible for sending scores for any All-Stars and Regional Stars games played by the Post-Season teams from that Region to the Area Post-Season Coordinator and shall deliver all collected game cards to the Area Post-

Season Coordinator. The Post-Season Coordinator may develop a system of score reporting directly by coaches, such as through a web page.

## M. STANDINGS

During preliminary Pool Play in Section and Area All-Stars, and during the Regional Stars season, team standings will be determined on the basis of points earned by each team in the games it plays by use of the following accumulated point system:

- Three (3) points for a win;
- One (1) point for a tie; and
- Zero (0) 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.**

Ties in the Standings will be broken on the basis of the following tie-breakers, in the order listed:

- Head to head result(s) in Pool Play;
- Fewest number of goals allowed (which shall be prorated or averaged if the number of games played by each team is not equal);
- Fewest number of accumulated red and yellow cards received (with a deduction of 3 points for each red card (including coach send-offs) and 1 point for each yellow card); and
- Coin toss.

The Area shall update standings and statistics on the Area website. Coaches are responsible to report errors to the Post-Season Coordinator.

For Section and Area All-Stars teams, the four teams in each division with the highest number of cumulative points at the conclusion of pool play shall advance at the end of the season to the Area 1C All-Stars Tournament and shall be seeded for purposes of the Tournament based on each team’s total number of points during pool play. Regional Stars may or may not keep similar Standings and may or may not have an end of season Playoff Tournament. In the event that teams in a division have not played the same number of games, seedings will be determined by winning percentage; i.e., the total number of points accumulated by the team divided by the total number of points the team could have accumulated if it had won all of the games which it played.

## **IV. GAMES AND COMPETITION**

This Section of the Rules shall apply equally to both the League Championship Program and the All-Stars Program.

### **A. LAWS OF THE GAME**

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, Section One Rules and Regulations, and these Area 1C Rules. All U10 games shall be played 7 v. 7, all U12 games shall be played 9v9 and all U14 games shall be played 11 v. 11.

### **B. SCHEDULED GAMES**

All scheduled post-season games must be played, unless cancelled by the Area Director or Area Post-Season Coordinator. Failure of a team to play a scheduled game, including a “friendly” or “practice” game, shall result in a forfeit. The non-offending team shall be deemed to have won by a score of 1-0. 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/or Area Post-Season Coordinator may schedule or re-schedule games.

### **C. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

A minimum of five (5) players shall constitute a team for U10 games. A minimum of six (6) players shall constitute a team for U12 games A minimum of (7) player for U14 games. A scheduled game shall not begin or be continued if one or both teams cannot field the minimum number of eligible players.

### **D. TEN (10) MINUTE GRACE PERIOD**

The referee shall allow a grace period of ten (10) 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 able to field a team to play within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled game time, the center referee shall not start the match and shall send a report to the Area Director. The Area Director shall declare the game a forfeit by such team, and the other team shall be deemed to have won by a score of 1-0.

If the two coaches agree, the teams may play a friendly match that shall be concluded within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of the next match on that field. Otherwise the game shall count as a regular game. This agreement must be made clear to the officials prior to the start of the friendly match. The officials are permitted but not obligated to referee the friendly match.

**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, Area Post-Season Coordinator and/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 rescheduled, if practicable, by the Area Director and Area Post-Season 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. FIELDS**

The recommended field size for U10 fields is:

Minimum 40 yards x 70 yards

Maximum 50 yards x 80 yards

The recommended field size for U12 fields is:

Minimum 50 yards x 90 yards

Maximum 65 yards x 110 yards

The recommended field size for U14 fields is:

Minimum 65 yards x 90 yards

Maximum 75 yards x 110 yards

Directions to the Area 1C fields are available on the Area Website. Teams must adhere to the rules and regulations of the home field and home Region. As at all other AYSO functions, SMOKING AND DRINKING are prohibited at any game and on or near any of the fields. Please make sure that all trash is picked up and the field is left in good condition.

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 clean up 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 cleanup the sidelines and field area may result in the loss of one (1) point from the Standings for the**

**offending team, in the discretion of the Area Post-Season Coordinator and Area Director.**

#### **H. GOAL SIZE**

The recommended goal size for U10 games is 6 feet x 18 feet.

The recommended goal size for U12 & U14 games is 8 feet x 24 feet (standard size).

#### **I. HOME TEAM/GAME BALLS/SIDES OF FIELD/JERSEY CONFLICTS**

The team listed first on the schedule shall be designated the Home Team. 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 one meter behind the touchline. In no event shall any person remain behind the goal line. 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 Post-Season 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.

#### **J. 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, vest or pinnie available in case of a color conflict. In the event of a uniform conflict, the Home Team must wear alternate jerseys or vests.

#### **K. LINEUP CARDS**

Properly completed lineup cards shall be submitted to the referee prior to the game. The first and last 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.

#### **L. PLAYER REGISTRATION FORMS.**

Each Coach must have a current copy of his/her approved team roster, in the form on file with the Area, at every game. Each Coach must also have in their possession at all times, player registration forms with the *original* ("wet ink") signature of each player's parent or legal guardian. If registration forms are not present at the field, **ONLY** those players with a parent or legal guardian present at the field will be allowed to play. A referee at any game

may ask the Coach to produce his/her team roster and/or registration forms for review, and the Coach must provide a copy of the requested forms to the referee.

#### **M. REFEREES**

The Area Referee Administrator shall formulate a program to ensure that all League Championship Playoff games, Section All-Stars games and Area All-Stars gamegames are officiated by qualified referees. The program shall be subject to approval by the Area Director. .

The diagonal system of control (3-referee system) shall be used in all games without exception. If at least one scheduled referee is present at the beginning of the game, then the referee(s) may use one or two "club linesperson(s)" to officiate the game. If there are no scheduled referees present at the game, then the coaches may attempt to recruit a referee or referees and club linespersons to officiate the game, **provided** that both coaches agree to the alternate referee plan. If the coaches 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 referees pursuant to an alternate plan agreed by the coaches at the beginning of the game, then 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.

Referees for Regional Star games shall be recruited by each Regional Stars team for each of its own games. The roster of each team entered into the Regional Stars Program must list at least two certified and qualified referees in accordance with Area standards (to be determined by the Area Board) for that level of play. The referee may not be a coach or assistant coach of the team for whos games they are refereeing. Decisions of the referees are **FINAL** and shall not be grounds for any appeal or protest of the outcome of any game.

#### **N. DECISION OF GAMES BY THE TAKING OF KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK**

This method of deciding games shall only apply during League Championship Playoff Tournament matches and all tournament matches involving Section and Area all-stars and Regional Stars. This method shall not apply during "pool play" matches.

Only the players on the field at the end of the second Overtime Period shall be eligible to participate in the penalty kicks. When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players than their opponent, they shall reduce their numbers to equal that of their opponents and inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. The team captain has this responsibility.

Each team shall determine the rotation of their kickers from 1 through 5 and present their line up to the Referee. The Referee shall determine into which goal the kicks shall be taken, giving consideration to the goalies (position of the sun, or condition of the goal area). A separate "shoot out" goal may be designated.

The referee shall conduct a coin toss, with the winner electing whether to shoot first or second. Each team shall alternately take five (5) kicks from the penalty mark. A different player shall take each kick. The team scoring the most goals shall be declared the Winner at the end of the series of five kicks. If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could even if they were to complete their five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.

In case of a tie at the end of the first series of kicks, the taking of kicks shall continue with the sixth through the remainder of the kickers, on a one versus one basis, until one team scores and the other team misses the corresponding kick. In the event the score is still tied after all of the eligible players on each team have kicked, the rotation will start again from the beginning, in the same order as used previously, on a one versus one basis, until a winner is decided.

Goalkeepers, when not in the goal shall position themselves at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area line perpendicular to the goal line (or designated position if no penalty area is marked in the case of a designated shoot out goal). All other players participating in the taking of kicks shall remain within the center circle. Players not participating in the taking of kicks and/or spectators shall remain on their respective touch line "behind" the penalty mark or kicker.

Teams may change their goalkeepers at any time during the shoot out with one of the players on the field at the end of overtime. In the case of injury to the goalkeeper the coach may replace the keeper with any of the substitutes who will take the keepers place in the team kicking rotation, the original keeper may not return once they are replaced.

If the referee determines darkness to be a safety factor, he/she will utilize a coin toss to determine the winner of the game.

## V. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

### A. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT

Each Regional Commissioner shall be held responsible for the conduct of his/her coaches of Post-Season 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.** It is recommended, but not required, that the head coach substitute any player receiving a caution. The Area Director shall have the right to remove coaches and assistant coaches of Post-Season teams for violations of these Rules.

**B. CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARDS OR OFFICIAL WARNINGS TO COACHES OR SPECTATORS).**

Any player receiving a Yellow Card or coach, assistant coach or spectator receiving a verbal caution shall consider himself or herself warned. A second Yellow Card, issued during the same game, will be considered a Red Card, and the player shall be sent off. Coaches, assistant coaches and/or spectators receiving a second Caution during the same game shall be sent off.

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 spitting at an opponent, referees or officials shall be automatically suspended from further participation in the Post-Season Program in which the offenses occur, and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. A player who is sent-off two times in a single Program season for other reasons will be subject to disciplinary review by the Area and the imposition of sanctions deemed appropriate under the circumstances. Players 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, whether by word or action.

**D. COACH EXPULSIONS**

Any coach (head coach or assistant coach) who is expelled during a game 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) surrender his/her picture ID card to the referee, (2) immediately leave the vicinity of the field for the remainder of the game, (3) not coach or be present at or near the field for at least his/her team's next scheduled game, and (4) 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. ACCUMULATED TEAM SEND-OFFS**

If a team accumulates a combination of four (4) player send-offs and/or coach expulsions, during the League Championship Playoffs or during the All-Stars Season (including Playoffs), that team shall be immediately dismissed from further participation in

the post season activities and AYSO games of any kind, at the discretion of the Area Director or his or her designee(s).

#### **F. FIGHTING AND PROFANITY**

Players, coaches and spectators who engage in fighting before, during or after a game shall be sent off/expelled and shall be disqualified from further play in the League Championship Playoffs or shall be immediately suspended from further participation in the Area All-Stars Program in which they are participating (the length of such suspension subject to the discretion of the Area Director), and may be subject to additional disciplinary action including exclusion from further participation in all AYSO programs. Players who use profanity are subject to discipline under the Laws of the Game as determined by the referee.

#### **G. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS**

Area 1C 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 Area Post-Season Coordinator.

#### **H. OTHER BEHAVIOR**

Any player, coach or spectator who seeks another player, spectator, coach, referee or official for the purpose of taunting or fighting, or threatens the well-being of a player, spectator, coach, 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 Post-Season Program in which he/she is participating, including playoffs.

#### **I. INELIGIBLE PLAYER PARTICIPATION IN A GAME**

If an ineligible player (as defined in either Section II.B.3 or Section III.E.6 of these Rules) or coach participates in a game for which he/she was suspended or otherwise ineligible, then the Area Director shall declare a forfeit of that match. That player's or coach's team shall also be subject to such additional discipline as deemed appropriate by the Area Director. Coaches shall uphold their responsibility to honor and impose all sanctions and enforce them.

#### **J. 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.

## **K. RUNNING UP THE SCORE**

While there is no official sanction for winning games by lopsided margins, coaches are expected to adhere to the AYSO philosophies, especially that of good sportsmanship. Coaches whose teams win by a margin of more than six goals in any one match should expect a communication from the Area Director to explain the circumstances surrounding the match.

## **L. REFEREE MISCONDUCT REPORTS**

Referees shall submit to the Area Referee Administrator a written Misconduct Report, in the event of (a) any send-off of any player or expulsion of any coach or assistant coach; (b) conduct on the part of spectators interfering with the control of the game (including any ejections of spectators); (c) abuse of substitution rules (teams not playing all players the required time under the rules for the applicable program); and (d) other significant problems (e.g., game abandonment/termination, field unsuitability). This report shall be sent to the Area Referee Administrator, who shall forward it to the Area Director and Post-season Coordinator.

## **M. 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 Post-Season Programs. 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.

# **VI. PROTESTS**

## **A. NO PROTESTS OF ANY REFEREE DECISION(S)**

**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, or 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.

## **VII. FAIR INTERPRETATION OF RULES**

These Rules have been developed to ensure that all Post-Season games are safe, fun and fair and that the AYSO philosophies carry through the Post-Season program. 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, Area Post-Season Coordinator and any Disciplinary Review Board shall interpret these Rules in a manner that is fair and consistent with AYSO rules and regulations.