



# **AYSO REGION 922 PARENT-PLAYER HANDBOOK**

**AYSO Region 922 Board of Directors would like to welcome you to a new and exciting season of AYSO soccer. This handbook is designed to answer most of the questions that players and parents have regarding AYSO.**

**Rev. 5/2010**

## **Message from the Commissioner and the Board**

On behalf of all the members of the board, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to our thirteenth season as AYSO Region 922. You are now all part of the largest youth sports program in the United States. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is proud to be referred to as a “Youth Development Through Soccer” organization. There are five main philosophies that all AYSO participants abide by:

1. Everyone Plays
2. Balanced Teams
3. Open Registration
4. Positive Coaching
5. Good Sportsmanship
6. Player Development

The magic of the AYSO philosophy is in the emphasis on playing by the rules, showing courtesy and respect toward your opponents and maintaining the proper perspective throughout the season. This program truly is “For the Kids”.

We are anticipating another great season of soccer with our players taking the field every Saturday of the season. We encourage and need other family members to become actively involved with their child’s team.

AYSO is a non-profit organization and this region is run completely by volunteers, from the youth official, the team parent, the coaches, the referees, all the way through to the board of directors. Each and every one of these volunteers takes time from their busy schedules to help make Region 922 the great organization that it is.

If you have any questions or comments or would like to become a volunteer, please feel free to call any Board Member.

Thank you. We are all excited and look forward to seeing you on the field. Have a great season!

The 922 Regional Board

## Board Member Contact sheet (as of 5/8/10)

Regional Commissioner

### Open Position

Regional Coaching Administrator

Patrick Breland 219-5358

Regional Referee Administrator

Eric Weiduwilt 855-3242

Registrar

Michele Breland 888-1377

Treasurer

Anita Degnan 297-9437

Auditor

Adrienne Ledford

Secretary

Lori Weirman (925)915-1356

Safety Director

Karen Montaño 797-0876

Child Volunteer Protection Advocate

**Open Position**

Fields Director

Jaime Avila 225-8839

Fundraising & Sponsorship Coordinator

**Open Position**

Equipment Director & Purchasing

Lawrence Brady 231-8839

Web Master

region922webmistress@gmail.com

Team Parent Coordinator

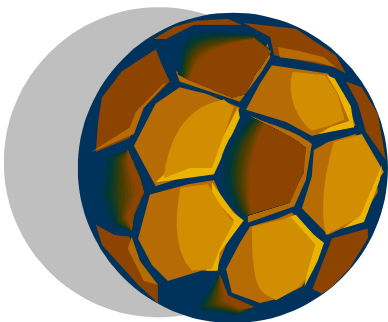
**Open Position**

Publicity Coordinator

**Open Position**

## WEB Sites of Importance

AYSO National website: [www.soccer.org](http://www.soccer.org)  
AYSO Area website: [www.ayso12a.org](http://www.ayso12a.org)  
AYSO Registration website: [www.eayso.org](http://www.eayso.org)  
AYSO Region 922: [www.ayso922.org](http://www.ayso922.org)  
AYSO Volunteer Training [www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org)



## **Vision Statement**

To provide world class youth soccer programs that enriches children's lives.

## **Mission Statement**

To develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs, which promote a fun, family environment based on our philosophies:

**1. Everyone Plays:** Our goal for every player is to play three quarters of each game, whenever mathematically possible, regardless of his or her level of skill or aptitude, if the child...

- Attends scheduled practice sessions regularly.
- Arrives at the playing field prepared to play in proper uniform and equipment.
- Is not under disciplinary suspension.
- Is not physically incapacitated due to illness, injury or other impairment.

No player should play 4 quarters until all have played 3 quarters.

**2. Balanced Teams:** Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible – because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play.

**3. Open Registration:** Our program is open to all children between 4 and 18 years of age who want to register and play soccer.

**4. Positive Coaching:** Kids win when they are built up, not when they are torn down! We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism. They will also follow Safe Haven policies and the Kids Zone program.

**5. Good Sportsmanship:** We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

**6. Player Development:** AYSO works on developing each player to their personal best.

## **AYSO Facts**

The entire region is run by volunteers. They put in their time for the benefit of our children. The parent support we give our children is very important to them as well as to each individual team. So when you see that referee, coach, team parent or board member out during the season putting in their time, remember you too can help in many ways. Do not be afraid to ask if you can help in any way. It will be greatly appreciated. The regional board is always looking for new and excited board members, if there is any interest to get involved, contact any member on the board.

## **Sponsors/Fundraising**

The region is operating on money that is paid by parents, grand parents, aunts or uncles, or friends of the players who wish to participate in our soccer fundraising. This year we are offering a fundraiser for teams to sell cards that provide a substantial discount at local businesses. Please take some and sell them to your neighbors, co-workers, and friends!

In Addition, we are asking each team to look for a sponsor. This could be your work place, your local yogurt shop, or your own personal business. We offer businesses this opportunity for inexpensive advertising on our team banners, as well as community goodwill.

## **Banner requirements**

A very detailed explanation will be handed out at the Team Parent Meeting.

Banner Requirements are as follows

1. Minimum size is 3 feet by 5 feet
2. Sponsor name should be on top centered for the recognition
3. Team name
4. Coaches names
5. Players' names – **Do not put the player's name and their jersey number together on the banner for the safety sake of the player.**

## **AYSO Positions in the Region**

The following are all volunteer positions, be sure to remember that when you are on the field this season.

**Referees:** This position is to be respected and commended. The time these volunteers take to get trained and certified by AYSO is a challenge to meet. Anyone who is 12 years old or older can be trained to become a U10 Assistant Referee or Regional Referee. Each U10 team must have a parent or volunteer who has completed the Regional Referee or the Assistant Referee clinic. During the regular season, your team will be required to supply an Assistant Referee at game time. At the older age groups, certified referees are provided by the region for all games.

The region does not provide referees for the U6 and U8 teams. We encourage a parent other than the coach to take the Basic U6/U8 Referee Clinic. We do not keep the scores and the rules are very simplified for these age groups. Referees at the U6/U8 level must be certified to meet AYSO insurance and liability requirements.

**Coaches and Assistant Coaches:** These positions are very important to our philosophy of AYSO. Each coach is trained by AYSO for the age bracket that he or she is coaching. They are also required to take a one-time Safe Haven class. We encourage every coach in continuing education to help provide great and new exciting ideas for their practices and to obtain a better understanding of the laws and rules of the game. Remember, the coaches volunteer their time to help your child and they need your cooperation and help. They especially need your support in applying the AYSO philosophy of positive coaching.

- **All coaches need to be certified to the level they are coaching. Region #922 holds U6 up to U12 training clinics.**
- **All U14/U16 coaches that are coaching a team this Fall, must take, at a minimum, the Intermediate Coach Clinic.**
- **U19 coaches need to be Advanced Coaches. Intermediate and Advanced Clinics are held by area 12a.**
- **All coaches who want to Coach a Travel Team must be at least Intermediate certified.**

**Team parents:** Each team needs a team parent to facilitate communications between the coaches, parents and players. They are a vital part of the team to help keep things running smoothly throughout the season. Coaches are there to coach and the other responsibilities of the team should be divided up among the parents. Each team may decide to handle this a little differently, but the coach should not be worrying about who is providing the snack each week. Other responsibilities are Snack Scheduling, Banner making,

Communications, End of the Season Party, Picture Day, Fundraising, and maybe just assisting the coach at practices.

## Player Information

As a player in AYSO you join an organization that is specifically for the fun and learning of the game of soccer. We take pride in our region and hope that your experience in Region 922 is a great one.

You will receive a uniform which is yours to keep after the season ends. This uniform is for wearing on game days only. The uniform will consist of a jersey, shorts and a pair of soccer socks. You can not add anything to the jersey such as a name, patches or extra numbers. No advertising on the uniform is allowed. Every player is required to wear shin guards at all practices and games. The socks are to cover the entire shin guard.

Although soccer shoes are not required, we recommend that players above the U6 Division wear soccer shoes which have rubber or plastic molded cleats. There are many stores that sell inexpensive soccer shoes. Your little ones will out grow the shoes before they get a chance to wear them out. Metal cleats are allowed, provided they have no sharp edges or burrs, and no toe cleat on any shoe is allowed. The older players may want to look into a leather shoe for best comfort and mobility on the field.

**No jewelry** is allowed at all. **No casts** of any sort are allowed on a player at practice or during a game. If there is any injury to a player in which the player will need to be seen by a physician, then the coach will need a **doctor's release** for the player to return to practices and games.

Shirts and pants may not be worn over the uniform while a player is participating in a game. Sweatshirts and sweatpants may be worn under the uniform in cold or wet weather. Goalkeepers may wear warm-up pants when the weather is cold or when the goal area is not covered with grass. Goalkeepers and other players may also wear soft knee or elbow pads. Hard-billed hats are not allowed. Soft knit hats are allowed on cold days.

Parents, please communicate to the player's coach any medical conditions that the coach should be made aware of (ex: asthma, nose bleeds, etc.). If a player is in need of taking medicine while at a practice or game, we ask that only the parent be responsible for this.

## Age Divisions:

|     |                |      |               |            |
|-----|----------------|------|---------------|------------|
| U19 | August 1, 1991 | thru | July 31, 1994 | Ages 17-18 |
| U16 | August 1, 1994 | thru | July 31, 1996 | Ages 15-16 |
| U14 | August 1, 1996 | thru | July 31, 1998 | Ages 12-13 |
| U12 | August 1, 1998 | thru | July 31, 2000 | Ages 10-11 |
| U10 | August 1, 2000 | thru | July 31, 2002 | Ages 8-9   |
| U8  | August 1, 2002 | thru | July 31, 2004 | Ages 6-7   |
| U6  | August 1, 2004 | thru | July 31, 2005 | Ages 5     |
| U5  | August 1, 2005 | thru | July 31, 2006 | Ages 4     |

## Team size and Participation:

| <u>Div.</u> | <u>Roster Size</u> | <u># of Players on Field</u> | <u>Ball Size</u> | <u>Game Length</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| U5          | Jamboree           | 3 (no goalkeeper)            | 3                | 10 min halves      |
| U6          | 5                  | 3 (no goalkeeper)            | 3                | 10 min halves      |
| U8          | 7                  | 5 (no goalkeeper)            | 3                | 20 min halves      |

|     |    |    |   |               |
|-----|----|----|---|---------------|
| U10 | 9  | 7  | 4 | 24 min halves |
| U12 | 11 | 9  | 4 | 30 min halves |
| U14 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 35 min halves |
| U17 | 18 | 11 | 5 | 40 min halves |
| U19 | 18 | 11 | 5 | 45 min halves |

## **Soccer Ball information**

The soccer ball is an item that every player should have. The player should bring it to every practice and games for warm ups. The region provides one game ball to each coach at the beginning of each season. Please mark your name and phone number on each ball so it can be returned to you if it is left behind or lost.

## **Game Times**

All games will consist of 2 halves with a halftime of 5 minutes. A stoppage for substitutions is made approximately halfway through each half.

## **Spectator Conduct**

It cannot be overstressed that the AYSO program is for the players. The emphasis is placed on good sportsmanship by exhibiting the qualities of fairness and self-control and having a good time. Parents, referees and coaches are role models for our children, therefore, over zealous behavior is totally inappropriate. Cheering positively and encouraging teams is encouraged. Never put down the other team or a player on the other team.

Sideline coaching is not very effective because of the size of a soccer field and the continuous nature of the game. Often in our spectator enthusiasm we are prone to yell several instructions at the players and frequently they are contrary to those of the coach. This only confuses the players, so please allow them to play the game to the best of their ability. Please leave the coaching to the coaches.

Negative comments and complaints about refereeing shall not be allowed. Referees shall at all times put great emphasis on the welfare of the players and officiate the game in a manner including clean competition and good sportsmanship. While the decisions of the referees may not always be agreeable to all percipients and spectators, their decisions are final. No useful purpose is served by shouting disagreement or derogatory remarks. Foul language is not allowed under any circumstances. Such action could be cause to terminating the game. Abusive words and disrespect on the part of the spectators are grounds for the referee cautioning (yellow card) or ejecting (red card) the coach. Coaches are responsible for spectators on their side of the field, so please give them all the support you can.

All spectators are required to stand at least one yard away from the touch-line (side of the field) and only between the penalty areas. Neither coaches, players, nor spectators may enter the field of play without the permission of the referee.

## **Sportsmanship Program**

The program defines the conduct of players, coaches and even parents. It shows what is considered to be good behavior both on and off the field.

The purpose of the sportsmanship program is to build character through soccer. The principles of safety, fair play, and enjoyment are the keys to the program. The key idea is RESPECT! Respect for the participants, officials and spectators and for the game of soccer. This is the spirit of the game of soccer.

We figure that if players understand what is expected of them when it comes to good sportsmanship, then that's probably how they will act. That goes for coaches and parents too.

Referees will be scoring the sportsmanship of the players, coaches and spectators on the back of the game card after each game for all U10 through U14 teams. The team with the highest score in each division, both girls and boys, will receive sportsmanship medals at Closing Ceremonies.

## **Field preparation**

The home team picks up the game bag for the first game of the day. Both teams are responsible for setting up the nets, goals, corner flags and the Kids Zone A-frames. The last game of the day, both teams will take everything down and the visiting team will drop off the equipment back to its destination. All coaches will receive a map as to where the equipment is to be picked up and returned.

The home team (the team listed first on the schedule) will have north or west side of the field.

**All teams are responsible for cleaning up after each game.**

## **Field usage of parks and school facilities**

AYSO renews its field contracts with Pima County, Oro Valley and Amphitheater School District every year. Every coach has a copy and should always keep it with them at all practices and games. Every contract has the rules we must abide by and the times that we are allowed on the fields. We are responsible for proper usage of these facilities. If we abuse them in any way we are liable for the damage and could lose the opportunity to use the fields the following season.

Along with this reminder, there is **no smoking or drinking any alcoholic beverage** on any Amphitheater School District property. This includes the parking lot! Also, there are signs posted that **do not permit animals on the fields**. Even though dogs are allowed on a leash at the Pima County and Oro Valley parks, we encourage you to leave them at home. They can become a great distraction both on and off the field. We did have an incident last season, when a child was bit in the face by a dog on the side lines. If you see any problems with the fields, please contact a Board Member regarding any concerns and they will in turn contact the right authorities to have it checked out and fixed.

## **Weather**

The general soccer game policy is that the game will be played rain or shine. The game is not necessarily cancelled because of rain, wind, wet, or muddy fields. The only persons authorized to cancel a game on the field is the Field Referee, Regional Referee Administrator or the Commissioner. Also, Oro Valley, Pima County and Amphitheater can close the fields at any time if they get too wet from the rains. If we are contacted to close a field, then we will email all the coaches and try to call those first affected by the closure. The regular season games, if cancelled, will not be made up. If a team's practice night gets rained out, they may hold a practice on another night if there is room to share with the other teams who are assigned that night for practice.

Our policy for lightning is if you hear thunder or see lightning, then leave the field immediately. We do not want any unexpected injuries. Better to be safe than sorry.

## **Injuries**

Soccer is generally a safe sport. If an accident occurs during a game let the referee take care of the situation and let him or her call the coach on to the field, if needed. Remember, no one is allowed onto the field without

the permission of the referees and that includes parents of injured players. Nine out of ten times the player who is hurt will get up and want to play on. The smaller children especially, are continually tripping and falling down, so please do not get upset if the referee does not stop the game every time a player is down on the field. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

If an injury appears to be serious enough to require a doctor, medical care should be sought immediately. In case of a player injury, the coach must fill out a Standard Injury Report and submit it to the Safety Director, Karen Montañó. All reports must be submitted within 3 months of the accident to be covered by AYSO insurance. If an injury has been treated by a doctor, the player must have given the coach a doctor's release before he or she can participate in practices and/or games after the injury.

## Insurance Coverage

AYSO carries insurance on all players and volunteers. It is a reimbursement program and used as a secondary insurance. If an accident occurs and you wish to file a claim contact **Karen Montañó, our Safety Director @ 797-0876**. The coach should contact Karen within 24 hours of any injury to a player and notify the parents of the required steps to make a claim.

## Kids Zone

Kids Zone is a program targeted to eliminate negative sideline behavior. It is designed to produce a thoroughly positive impact on everyone involved in AYSO soccer. Kids Zone Signs are posted at all fields on Saturdays to remind us of our responsibilities. Also at registration, all parents signed a Kids Zone pledge that holds them to the Kids Zone standards. Remember we are all here to be safe and have fun with our children. As parents let's be a positive role model for our kids.

## Discipline

If a player does not participate in scheduled practices, the coach may suspend that player from playing a portion of that week's game; exceptions for illness, emergencies or other approved absences. **The coach must contact the parents, the Regional Coach Administrator and/or the Regional Commissioner prior to suspending the player.** If a player has missed practices and games, please coaches, contact the parents and find out what is happening. If the player is not going to play, we may choose to drop the player from the team and add a player from the waiting list who wants to play soccer. Remember, we are here to make this a great experience for our kids.

If the player is red carded or receives two yellow cards in a game, the referee will file a report with the Regional Referee Administrator, Regional Coach Administrator and the Regional Commissioner. The player is suspended from playing the following game. However, the board urges parents to bring the player to the following game to demonstrate team support but the suspended player shall not wear their uniform to the field.

If a coach is red carded during the game, he or she shall immediately leave the field of play and its immediate vicinity. If he refuses to vacate the sideline, the referee shall suspend the game at that point. The game will then resume once the coach has left the area but not to exceed the time to prevent the next game from starting on time. The coach will be allowed to hold practices with the team but will not be allowed to perform their coaching duties at the next scheduled game.

## Skills Day

Skills day is the season finale for all the U6 and U8 players to demonstrate their abilities they have learned over the season. The players will go through the following stations to show family and coaches their abilities.

1. Dribbling
2. Passing
3. Trapping
4. Throw In
5. Goal Kick
6. Kick on Goal

Each team will come in their uniforms. After the skills have been demonstrated, each team will proceed to an area to receive their trophies. Each player will receive a participation trophy from the Regional Commissioner. Sponsors plaques are handed out and the team's pictures if they have not been handed out prior to the Skills Day event. Parents please bring your cameras as you will be able to follow along with your child's team.

## **Closing ceremonies**

This event brings closure to our regular season. We encourage all U10 through U17 teams to be present. It is important to attend because of the follow items: The kids! Every team is recognized and gets to show off their banners. All players receive a participation medal. We announce the winners of the Sportsmanship Award for each division. We hand out our sponsor plaques and thank all the volunteers who helped out this season. We also announce the winners of the Round Robin Play Offs for the U10, U12 and 14 divisions.

## **Area Playoffs**

This tournament will be held in January 2011, after all the regions in southern Arizona have completed their seasons. This is a two day event, in which all the winning teams in the U12 and U14 divisions from each region get to compete against each other.

## **Laws of the Game**

Please go to our web site [www.ayso922.org](http://www.ayso922.org) and click on Referees (on the left side of the home page) and it will take you to the Referee Page. Scroll down to **FIFA**. Click on (WEB) and it will take you to the home page for FIFA. You can find the **Laws of the Game 2007** and an **Interactive Guide to Offside Law 11**. Also in pdf. format are questions and answers to the laws of the game to help you better understand the game of soccer.

## **TRAVEL TEAM POLICY 2010-2011 POST SEASON TEAMS U10, U12, U14, U16, U19**

The travel team program is an extension of the regular season offering participants the opportunity to play in a tournament environment, continue to develop their skills, play with others from various teams, and have fun. The travel team experience raises the overall level of play in the Region as it allows for player and coach development.

## **Player Selection**

Any U10, U12, U14, U16, U19 player who participates in at least one-half of the regular season may be considered for selection. Players and parents should indicate interest to their regular season coach. As soon as the all-star coaches are assigned, they will begin evaluating all interested players during regular season activities. Regular season coaches will provide player assessments to help guide the selection process. Individual skill, along with player attitude and behavior, sportsmanship, player and family commitment, and age

are all important criteria. These season evaluations, plus a skills trial to be scheduled near the end of the season and an organized scrimmage will all enable the selection of highly skilled team players to represent the region in post season tournaments.

The number of travel teams formed will depend on the pool of players who wish to be considered and available qualified coaches. A committee, including the all-star coaches, Regional Coach Administrator and Regional Commissioner, will make decisions regarding the number of teams and roster size for each group. The travel team coaches will select the players and form rosters only after consultation with the committee. Teams will be re-formed each year. The committee will consider returning coaches' requests to have first pick of returning players as long as the process enables the selection of the most qualified players in an age group and if it is appropriate for the development of more than one competitive roster in that age group.

Guest players, to temporarily replace unavailable players, may be invited to participate during the all-star season. The guest player must have played at least one half of the AYSO regular season. The player may be borrowed, with coach consent, from another team.

If a player decides not to participate after being named on a roster, a replacement player must be selected from those who originally participated in tryouts.

If a player is allowed to play up a division during the regular season, August thru December 2007, on a U10, U12, U14, U16 or U19 team, then they are considered a player in that division. The player will then be able to try out for a regional travel team in the division they played during the regular AYSO season.

## **Commitment and Conduct**

Parents of players under consideration for travel teams need to be aware of the related time and expense of practice and travel commitments. Players will be expected to attend two practices (1 ½ hours each) per week from December typically through March or April, with the exception of the December holidays. Teams typically participate in 4 -7 weekend tournaments. The CDO, Ft. Lowell, Jacobs/Randolph, and OPI are in Tucson. Most teams participate in additional tournaments which require travel to other cities in Arizona and usually necessitate overnight expenses. Occasionally teams may opt to participate in tournaments held in CA and NM. Teams may potentially participate in tournaments through the summer, although most of the travel activity ends in April.

Players who accept an invitation to participate on a travel team are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and respectful conduct at all team activities. Players should be prepared to make their participation in team functions a priority. During the all-star season, players are guaranteed to play one half of each game. Additional playing time is often awarded for hard work, skill development and leadership.

If a player's conduct and/or lack of participation is detracting from the success of the team, the coach will consult with the parent and player to seek a remedy. If improvement is not evident within a specified time frame, the coach will consult with the Regional Coach Administrator and Regional Commissioner to gain permission to reduce playing time, or, it necessary, remove the player from the team. Every attempt to encourage a positive solution that will enable the player to continue and correct any discipline issues.

The travel team philosophy and accompanying time demands may not be compatible with all players and families. Parents and players should take time to discuss the commitment.

## **Finances**

AYSO regulations require that the expense of travel team programs be borne by the parents and players who participate. Fund raising activities need to be approved in advance by the Regional Commissioner. The seeking of sponsorship is permitted and recommended. It is imperative that all who participate understand that money raised in the name of AYSO cannot be returned to the individual regardless of how much effort that individual put into raising the funds. Any funds raised from a source outside the team members families cannot be distributed to the families if there is a balance remaining at the end of the season. Any funds remaining

after the season's finale shall be deposited into the Region's general account. If a team should "go club" their funds do not go with them. **Coaches must not be paid for services. Coaches must not receive gifts paid for by team sponsorships.**

Each team will designate a volunteer team treasurer to facilitate the team's account with the Regional Treasurer. All tournament applications fees should be paid with AYSO checks. Teams should calculate the anticipated tournament fees and divide the expenses by the number of players on the roster. A deposit will be required at the start of the travel team season to enable the timely submission of entry fees. Each player will be responsible for providing the remaining balance during the season unless adequate funds are supplied by team sponsorships. If a player cannot participate in a tournament, they will still be responsible for their portion of the tournament fees. Usually, sponsorships cover a large portion, if not all, of the tournament fees. If sponsorship funds are available, teams may opt to use them to purchase equipment, apparel, etc. for the team.

The following is an example of tournament costs for a team participating in the Ft. Lowell, Randolph/Jacobs, OPI, Cactus Classic, Red Mountain, and Mile High. The registration fees total \$2100 +. Divide that by the number of players on the roster, ranging from 12 – 15 depending on the age group. Also consider personal expenses like hotel, fuel, and meals. Participants should be aware that a portion of AYSO tournament fees usually includes a referee deposit (approximately \$100 - \$150) that is only returned when a team supplies a 3-person team of referees to work the tournament.

Travel Team uniforms must be purchased through the region. An optional jacket and other gear will be available for purchase through the region.

## **Coach Selection**

The travel team head coaches will be selected by the end of October by the AYSO board based on the following criteria:

- Completion of an application submitted by **October 17, 2010** to Region 922's Coach Administrator or Regional Commissioner
- Current coaching assignment. Applicant must be a coach of a regular season team in the same age division
- Current coaching certification. Applicant must hold an Intermediate Coach Certificate or higher.
- Rapport with current team. Applicant must not have valid written complaints filed against them in the Region or Area 12A.
- Administrative ability necessary to manage team communication and the details involved with the tournament participation.
- Years of AYSO coaching experience.

The Board of Region 922, taking into consideration the criteria above, will select the coaches they feel best represent the principles of AYSO and that have the ability and leadership to provide a quality experience for the participating players. It is recommended that the assistant coach have the same qualifications. The head coach may select their own assistant coach pending approval of the board.

Since the number of teams will not be certain at the time of coach selection, those selected will be notified of their assignment order. If a coach volunteers later in the season, they may be considered for assignment if needed.

Once the board has appointed a coach for the all-star season, only a board majority vote can remove them from their position.

This policy has been developed to guide a successful travel team season. If adjustments or corrections are necessary, changes to this policy will be made only after consultation with the Board.

## **FIELD DESCRIPTION AND PLAYER POSITIONS**

The field is divided into halves. A center circle is used for kickoffs. A goal area and a penalty area are located at each end of the field. The four corners of the field are marked with flags and three-foot arcs (used for corner kicks).

### **Goalkeeper (Keeper):**

Responsible for guarding their team's goal, starting the attack and preventing the other team from scoring, the goalkeeper is the only player allowed to use hands, and only within the penalty area.

### **Defenders (Fullbacks):**

Primary duty is to prevent the opposing team from having a good shot at the goal, as well as work to gain possession of the ball and pass it to a teammate to start an offensive attack. Some defensive formations include a sweeper, the last defensive player playing in the center, and a stopper, a defensive player in the center of the field in front of the sweeper.

### **Midfielders (Halfbacks):**

Play a "transitional" game from defense to offense and vice versa; because they back up both the defense and offense, they are the most active players on the field.

### **Forwards (Strikers):**

Primary responsibility is to score, also assist the midfielders in shifting play from defense to offense. Forwards playing in the center of the field are known as strikers; those on the outside are wings or wingers.

It's important to remember that any player on a team may score a goal regardless of position. Also, physical size is not an important factor in becoming a skilled and successful player. Because of the game's pace, every child participates in the action.