



# **SPRING 2011 - GUIDELINES**

(Effective February 19, 2011)



## **PROGRAM**

The Spring 2011 program is offered for participation to all Regions within Area 11-L. This program is designed to provide an Area based gaming circuit for players in U8 – U19 during the Spring season.

## **JURISDICTION**

As is the case with all Inter-Regional programs (Interplay), the Spring 2011 program falls under the jurisdiction of the Area Director. The Area Director and Area Staff administer the program.

The Area Director is responsible for overseeing/verifying that the Spring 2011 program requirements are met as pertain to player eligibility, coach eligibility, team formation, field support and referee support by those Regions that participate in the Spring 2011 program.

Any issues requiring special jurisdiction will be brought before the participating Regional Commissioners with resolution determined by a majority vote by same. Any inability of the Regional Commissioners to come to an agreement will be adjudicated by the Area Director of Area 11-L.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Each Regional Commissioner of a Region electing to participate in the Spring 2011 program is responsible for his/her Region's compliance with player eligibility requirements. Player eligibility, as pertains to age requirements to participate in a specific gender/age bracket, shall be as defined by the AYSO National Support and Training Center.

Per AYSO's national governing documents, a player can play on one team ONLY and must be listed on the roster for ONLY that one team. The official roster for a team is the latest roster submitted by the team's region to the Area Director for that season's competition.

The AYSO National Support and Training Center player database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the players' current registration status.

Eligible players must have registered with AYSO for the current season.

Gender/age bracket placement of players shall be based on their age as of July 31 of the current registration year.

In addition, the following factors shall be taken into consideration as relates to player placement/eligibility:

- Players placed on spring teams must have participated in at least 50% of the previous fall season.
- Children of Regional volunteers during the previous fall season shall be given placement preference.
- Regions shall attempt to fill all spring teams from players within their Region.
- If vacancies (still) exist, Regions shall attempt to fill such from AYSO players from neighboring Regions who have played in the preceding fall season and are currently not placed on a spring team in their home Region. The Area shall facilitate this process and the RCs of the applicable Regions shall concur to any player move.
- If all of the above have failed to fill vacancies on a spring team(s), the applicable Region may seek/add players who did not play in AYSO during the preceding Fall season.

Failure by a coach to prove eligibility of a player placed/playing on a team and/or placing/playing an age ineligible player on a team may result in the expulsion of the player, coach, and/or the entire team from the Spring 2011 program, or such other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by a Disciplinary Review Board, who shall convened by the Area Director. This Disciplinary Review Board also shall determine if any culpability on part of the applicable coach, Regional Administrator and/or Regional Commissioner existed in such instances, with the possibility of sanctions being administered as well.

### **COACH ELIGIBILITY**

All Spring 2011 coaches (head coaches & assistant coaches) need to have completed the applicable age appropriate coach training as well as Coach Safe Haven certification prior to being assigned to a team. In addition, all Spring 2011 coaches must have a current year volunteer application on file. The deadline for completion of these requirements is January 19, 2011.. Each Region is to attest to compliance and submit their list of coaches to the Area Director by January 19, 2011. In the case of training/certification deficiency, the applicable volunteer will not be given coach (head coach or assistant coach) status.

The AYSO National Support and Training Center player database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the coach's current training/certification and volunteer status.

**AREA 11-L WILL ISSUE A COACH ID CARD TO ALL COACHES (MAXIMUM OF 2 PER TEAM) WHO HAVE BEEN VALIDATED AS MEETING ALL REQUIREMENTS.**

Coaches must wear their ID card visibly on their person during all games. Neck lanyards will be provided.

Only coaches wearing ID cards may check in a team and/or perform the duties of a coach during the game.

If there is no coach with an ID card, the referee shall terminate the match.

## **REGIONAL SUPPORT**

**Officiating** – Regions must provide an adequate number of referees who are capable of supporting the various age/gender brackets of teams entered into the gaming circuit. age/gender bracket. Hosting Regions are responsible for providing referee coverage for Area Play games.

- All U19 and BU16 games require an Advanced or higher level (center) Referee
- All GU16 games require an Intermediate or higher level (center) Referee

All Referees involved in Spring 2011 games must have a current volunteer application on file.

The AYSO National Support and Training Center player database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the referee's current badge level and volunteer status.

The Area Referee Staff will create a database of referees validated to officiate Spring 2011 games.

The Area Referee Staff will advise the validated referees as to the protocol to enable sign up access to the Spring 2011 referee schedule posted on the Area website, [www.ayso11L.org](http://www.ayso11L.org).

**IF A (CENTER) REFEREE HAS NOT SIGNED UP FOR A GAME BY THURSDAY AT 9:00 PM PRIOR TO ANY SAID WEEKEND, THAT GAME MAY BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION BY THE AREA DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE(S).** No other standard may be substituted as cause for cancellation nor shall any other person, besides those designated above, have the authority to cancel a game(s), without the prior written consent of the Area Director.

(See additional notes under “**GAMES**”)

All Area Play games shall be officiated using the Diagonal System of Control, i.e. one referee and two assistant referees.

The use of “club linesmen” is encouraged when an insufficient number of assistant referees are available. The Dual (two-man) System of Control is **not** permitted.

**Fields** - Regions must provide an adequate number of fields, based on a formula of .75 game slots per team entered. There is a requirement for Saturday and Sunday play. Fields and equipment must be age appropriate. In cases where fields supplied are not adequate to support the total number of teams, schedule pairings may reflect a TBD in place of field location and game time. For those games to be played, the Regions involved will have to make arrangements to provide a site, if possible, as well as referee support. Participating regions are responsible for properly preparing all fields used. Field set-up and take down is the responsibility of the hosting region. Regional Commissioners are to attest to compliance.

## **TEAM FORMAT**

Participating Regions are allowed to enter teams in the U8 through U19 gender/age brackets.

**At no time is inter-regional recruitment of players permitted without the prior approval of the Area Director.** Recruitment without prior approval may result in sanctions levied by a Disciplinary Review Board which shall be convened by the Area Director.

Regions ARE encouraged to work together to seek placements for any player(s) on a wait list in any given Region. The Area Director is to be kept apprised of such activity.

The roster sizes are as follows:

- U8 = 11 players
- U10 = 12 players
- U12 & U14 players = 15 players
- U16 & U19 = 18 players.
- Regions may increase the size of these team rosters to accommodate registrations and reduce wait lists. In such cases, notification to the Area Director is required.
- Coaches are required to accept all player additions per the direction of their Regional Commissioner.

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

Team rosters are to be submitted to the Area Director by the date of the first day of spring play. If subsequent change(s) occur to any team roster, the Region is to submit the revised roster to the Area Director.

## **UNIFORMS**

All uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

The Referee is the final authority on the safety of any player's uniform and equipment.

All players must wear shin guards of an acceptable size and quality during games, practices and scrimmages, covering half of the leg from the knee down as a minimum, and worn completely under the socks.

Braces meeting the requirements of AYSO National Rules and Regulations may be worn during games, if deemed safe and allowed by the Referee. Casts and splints are not allowed, even if covered by soft foam wraps.

The goalkeeper on each team must wear colors (jersey or scrimmage vest) that clearly distinguish him from other players on both teams to the satisfaction of the Referee.

The Home team in a match is responsible for wearing uniform jerseys (or scrimmage vests) that clearly distinguish them from the other team. In case of color conflicts, the Home team is required to change uniform colors.

## **PRACTICE/TRAINING**

Teams are **NOT** permitted to begin practice or engage in any other training activity prior approval by their Regional Commissioner. Only players on the official roster of the team are permitted to participate in team practice/training. A 1 to 8 ratio (adults to players) must be maintained and gender guidelines adhered to per AYSO Safe Haven Guidelines (i.e. – girls' teams coached by a male need to have a female adult present at all team activities and vice versa).

Inter gender practice/training activity is not permitted.

## **GAMES**

The gaming schedule/standings for the Area Play season will be posted on the Area 11-L website, [www.ayso11L.org](http://www.ayso11L.org).

**All games shall be played as scheduled (date, time and venue).** Games not played, for whatever reason, will NOT be rescheduled by the Spring 2011 program, with the only exception being a re-schedule of games involving teams in a position to win an award.

In the case of games not played as the result of inclement weather and/or any other field closure by the permitting authority, coaches involved shall work with their Regions to endeavor to reach consensus on an alternate time, date and venue, as well as ensuring referee support. The rescheduled game needs to take place during the time frames related to either the seeding round, (2/19/11 - 3/13/11), or medal round, (3/26/11 - 5/15/11), whichever is applicable and may not result in a double-header for either team on the day the game is played. Information as to the reschedule should be provided (ASAP), by the hosting region Spring Coordinator, to the Area Scheduler at [admin@ayso11L.org](mailto:admin@ayso11L.org) and the website based schedule will be updated.

The mudline posted at <http://www.ayso11L.org/> shall be the only source of determining field status. Fields posted as closed in the morning shall remain closed for the remainder of the day.

The final standings (in both the seeding round and medal round) will be determined based upon average points per game for each team during the applicable portion of the Spring 2011 season (total points divided by number of games played) to account for any inequities in number of games played. Example: team A plays 10 games and has 61 points and team B plays 11 games and has 66 points. Team A wins because their point average is 6.1 (61/10) vs. 6.0 (66/11) for team B.

No team will be allowed to secure a place in positions 1 – 4 in the season standings (seeding or medal round) as a result of not playing a scheduled game due the conditions described above. In such case(s), the Area Director will have the authority to reschedule the match.

If a team does not show for a scheduled game, their opponent will be awarded a 1- 0 victory by forfeit, i.e. 8 points to the winning team. The Area Director may impose other sanctions if the forfeiting team gains an advantage by the forfeit.

If either of the teams is not ready to play at the scheduled kick-off time, the Referee may allow a grace period of up to ten (10) minutes before canceling the game. A team not ready to play at the scheduled time shall forfeit that game and the team shall lose by a score of 1-0, i.e. 8 points to the winning team.

The coaches, substitutes, and spectators of the two teams will watch the match from opposite sides of the field of play unless the Referee gives permission for them to be on the same side, in which case they will remain at separate ends of the field. Home teams shall have the choice as to side of field. Teams and spectators will only be allowed in areas approved by the Referee.

Coaches are responsible for reporting game scores to the Area 11-L website, [www.ayso11L.org](http://www.ayso11L.org). Scores should be reported expeditiously and no later than 12:00 noon on the Monday following any given weekend. The Referee is responsible for reporting all misconduct, including the cautions or send-off of players, coaches, or spectators or any other area of concern including unsafe conditions etc. to the Misconduct Reporting email address within twenty-four (24) hours of the game. The Misconduct Reporting System will make appropriate distribution of the Misconduct Report. If the Referee terminates a game before completion because of actions by players, coaches and/ or spectators, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by the offending team and shall be recorded as 1-0, i.e. 8 points for the winner.

If the game termination is due to actions by both teams, or if it is undetermined, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by both teams and no points shall not be recorded in the standings. However, the game itself will be recorded as such and count in the computation of average points/game in determining standings.

If a game is suspended prior to completion due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, the game score will stand as recorded by the Referee, provided one half or more of the regulation game time had been played at the time of suspension.

If less than one-half of the regulation game time had been played at the time of the game suspension, the game shall stand as a NOT-PLAYED game, irrespective of the score at the time of game suspension. Adjudication of a situation of this shall be determined by the Area Director or his designee.

### **GAME SCORING/STANDINGS/FORMAT OF PLAY**

The format of play and determination of standings shall be based on the number of teams participating in a specific gender/age bracket and may include average points per game as a method of determining standings for brackets with an uneven number of teams and/or games played.

For standings in Spring 2011 games, points shall be awarded as follows:

- a. Win           6 points
- b. Tie            3 points
- c. Loss          0 points
- d. Shut Out    1 point
- e. Goals For   1 point per goal (3 point maximum)

A maximum of ten (10) points may be awarded to a team in any one game.

**THREE POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH SEND-OFF (EJECTION) RECEIVED BY A PLAYER, COACH OR SPECTATOR.**

A tie is an acceptable result in games and shall be recorded as such.

No team shall be allowed to benefit themselves in the seeding or medal round scoring by their own forfeit, such as assuring their final standing above another team over which they have a 9 point lead prior to the forfeit. If necessary, scores shall be adjusted to avoid such benefit.

Final seeding and standings shall be determined by rankings based on average points per game earned by each team during said portion of the Spring 2011 season.

Tie breakers for standings at the conclusion of pool play shall be as follows:

- a. Head to Head Play (outcome of the game involving the tied teams).
- b. Team with the lowest number of goals against.
- c. Goal Differential: goals scored, less goals allowed, maximum differential of three (3) goals per game.
- d. Team with highest number of goals scored, maximum of three (3) goals per game (counting no more than three goals more than their opponents in any game).
- e. Lowest point deductions for misconducts and send-offs.
- f. Coin toss.

**PLAYER SUBSTITUTION**

U8 – U14 games shall have a substitution opportunity midway through each half, at half time and in the event of injury. The half time break will be five (5) minutes.

U16 & U19 teams will employ the “free substitution” methodology.

In U16 & U19, substitutions may be requested at any dead ball situation, free kicks, ball out of play, etc. Substitutions must be approved by the referee, and may only be conducted after the referee has granted permission. To speed the process, coaches should have their substitutes stand at the half-way line prior to the substitution and let the assistant referee know in advance that they wish to substitute at the next opportunity. The referee may deny the substitution in the interest of maintaining game flow or lack of remaining time.

U16 & U19 coaches are responsible to monitor play time to ensure compliance with the 50% playtime requirement.

**MISCONDUCT**

It is the responsibility of the Referee in Spring 2011 games to submit a written Misconduct Report to the Area 11-L MISCONDUCT reporting system within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game at which the offence occurred.

There is **no** mandatory “cooling off” period for cautioned players. It is recommended that, at the coach’s request and with the Referee’s permission, a cautioned player, or any player having difficulty controlling his emotions, may be substituted at the earliest opportunity.

The Referee must also report any behavior by coaches and/or spectators on or off the field that seriously interferes with the game and/or proper standards of conduct.

The penalty for a player, coach and/or spectator sent-off (Red Card/Expulsion) from the field for any reason in an Spring 2011 game shall be a **minimum** one (1) game suspension. Such suspension shall be served in the first game (not scrimmage) that is played following the game of the incident. The suspension for violent conduct or serious foul play may be a minimum of two (2) games and the length of any suspension may be increased and other disciplinary measures applied if deemed warranted by the Area Director in conjunction with the applicable members of the Disciplinary Review Board conducting the applicable hearing.

If the player sent off is a minor (under 18 years of age), he/she must leave the field in the company of his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). Otherwise, the player must leave being accompanied by a Safe Haven certified adult. If no parent/guardian or Safe Haven certified adult is available, the player may remain in the proximity of the field, under adult supervision.

Should violators of the penalties set forth in this section refuse to immediately leave the field when requested to do so by the Referee, the game shall be suspended until the situation has been resolved. If it is not resolved, in what the Referee considers a reasonable amount of time, the game shall be terminated and the incident reported to the Spring 2011 Misconduct reporting system.

A player serving a suspension and not in uniform may attend the team’s next scheduled game as a spectator, but may not participate in any manner.

An adult serving a suspension may not be present at the game (including pre and post game activities) or participate in any manner.

In the event a suspended player or coach participates in a match for which he has been suspended, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 forfeit in favor of the opposing team. For each such event, the original suspension must be served at the next game played by the team, an additional 1 game suspension must be served at the following game, and the coach of such team must serve a 1 game suspension.

Send-Off’s (Red Cards/Expulsions) and/or Cautions (Yellow Cards) given in Area Play games **are not subject to appeal.**

Each send-off carries a three (3) point deduction as detailed in GAME SCORING (above).

The Spring 2011 program will publish a weekly Misconduct Report Summary – distribution to the Area Director, Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator and the applicable Regional Commissioner and Regional Referee Administrator. This report will list all cautions, send offs and also shall list those suspensions that are to be served (by gender/age bracket, player name, coach name, date and location).