



ANSWERS TO PARENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

AYSO Region 121 is not only a sporting organization but more importantly a family organization and every family depends on help and volunteering

Be a parent who cares and believes in family volunteer and not just sit in a chair and cheer

What's included? Your registration fees include a uniform (socks, shorts, and jersey), secondary insurance and the standard picture package. The rest of your registration fees help to pay for park usage fees, utilities, field upkeep, maintenance, etc. Your fees do NOT pay salaries – we are all volunteers who are here for the kids. The cost of running the program exceeds the low registration fee; therefore each team is encouraged to recruit a sponsor to donate \$100 to \$200 per team to help offset the expenses of the program. Currently there is no other “fundraiser”.

I want to join in the fun – how can I help out? There are many ways. AYSO Region 121 in Simi Valley is a total volunteer organization. We need people like you! Volunteer to coach, and you get to pick the practice days/times that best fit your schedule! There are great coaching clinics to help you get started. Be a referee – the kids can't play without referees! You start out with the younger kids - we provide referee training. Help stripe fields on Saturdays. Be the team parent and help the coach. Be an assistant coach. Help set up nets in the mornings, or take them down at the end of the day. Help monitor our fields during games. The possibilities are almost endless!

What do I need to get? Shin guards are required for both practice and games. Shoes can either be tennis shoes or soccer shoes. Note that soccer cleats do NOT have a toe cleat. Baseball shoes/cleats cannot be worn unless the toe cleat is removed. Your child will need a soccer ball for practices – the coach will let you know the proper size to purchase. Water is needed for both practice and games.

When does practice start? Practices cannot start before August 1, 2009, by AYSO insurance coverage rules. You'll be notified by the coach of your team's practice schedule sometime in late July or early August.

How often/what days and times will practices be? The Under 6 division does not have weekday practices. Their practice is part of their game times on Saturdays. For the other divisions, Practices will be 1-1 1/2 hours, 1-2 times a week. Practice schedules are selected by the coach. Do you want to pick the time & place? Sign up to help out as a coach! The coaches will call sometime after July 29th for a parent meeting and to share specific information for your team.

When does the season start? Opening Day for U6, U10, U12 & U14 Divisions is Saturday, September 12, 2009. Due to the fields at Berylwood being closed for the Simi Valley Parade on September 12, 2009 the Opening Day for the U8 Division is Saturday, September 19, 2009. All Divisions receive ten regular games during the season. If rain occurs on a scheduled game day the Simi Valley Park District determines if a cancellation is necessary to protect the fields. There are no makeup days for rain cancellation this year.

How much time does my child get to play? Coaches are required to play each player $\frac{3}{4}$ of each game. Soccer is a team sport. The other children on the team need to be able to count on your child. Please have your child attend each scheduled practice and game. Please have the courtesy to notify your coach in advance if your child will be absent. A coach has the right to play players $\frac{1}{2}$ of a game, if players are continually late or fail to show up to practices and games, or who choose to attend other sports instead of the AYSO soccer games, or who are disrespectful or disruptive at practices or games, with the approval of the Regional Commissioner.

What time are the games? Games can start anywhere from 8:00 to 4:30 on Saturdays. Exact game schedules are not known until the team formation is finalized.

How long does the season last? The season runs from September through November. The top teams in the U10, U12, & U14 Divisions have the privilege of moving on to the Area Play-offs in December and All-star teams compete in January. There are also other opportunities to join tournament teams for continued fun and exercise.

Do we keep score? The U6 and U8 Divisions are non-competitive and no scores are kept. The U10 Division's first three games are non-competitive and the last seven games are competitive and scores are kept. The U12 and U14 Divisions are competitive and scores are kept.

Where do we play? We play games at the Foundation Fields, also known as Rancho Santa Susana, and Berylwood School Park. Region 121 must adhere to certain conditions, which include the prohibiting of parking on residential streets in the adjacent housing tract. Upper divisions (U-16, U-19) play off-site and on Sundays and weekdays.

When and where are pictures? Picture day is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2009 from 10am to 5pm at the Foundation Fields, Rancho Santa Susana. Plan now to be there for your child's team. Special requests for a time is not allowed and there is a makeup day later in the season for individual pictures and does not include team pictures.

Who will be the coach? Coaches are those special individuals who want to make a difference in their own child's life and the lives of other children. Coaches are ones who care and give more than others to show, by example, what teaching is all about. As stated by a proud U8 player, “My daddy's the coach”. We also have many coaches who stay on after their children have grown up because of the great rewards they receive from these young players. Volunteer to make a difference and we'll train and support you like never before. Ask us about our new training programs. Don't miss out on a special gift that you can give to children.

THERE IS MORE INFORMATION ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS SHEET

When will I hear from the coach? Coaches are given their team rosters in late-July. Most coaches contact their players soon thereafter, but some are unable to do so until August due to vacations or other commitments. If you haven't heard from your child's coach by mid August 2009, please visit our website www.aysoregion121.org for the latest information.

My child wants to be on a team with his/her friend. One of our five philosophies is Balanced Teams. These teams are balanced by age and ability. With this philosophy in mind, we cannot accommodate any special requests. The only exception is the head coach can have their child(ren) on their team as long as their child(ren) are age qualified to be on their team.

What is the refund policy? Refunds will be honored only if you follow the refund request policy. Prior to coaches receiving their teams you must contact the registrar and request a refund in writing. After the coaches receive their teams you must put your request in writing to the coach and advise the coach to send the request to the registrar. If the coach does not send the request to the registrar there will be a delay in your return. All refunds will be processed within 4 to 6 weeks. You will be entitled to a full refund if you request one in writing prior to the beginning of the season.

What if my child receives an injury? If your child receives an injury during a sanctioned AYSO practice or game and the child needs to be transported by ambulance or you have to seek professional medical services for the injury, AYSO provides secondary medical insurance coverage. Your health insurance is the primary insurance coverage but if you do not have health insurance the AYSO insurance becomes the primary coverage. Please visit our website www.aysoregion121.org and go to the insurance link for coverage, non-coverage and deductible information. Read the policy very carefully.

Where can I go to find out additional information or contact the Regional Board? Our webmaster is in the process of re-designing our website. The old website is still working and we hope within a couple of months the new one will be operating. The website address will be the same, just improved. Our website contains all the information you will need to know about all subjects - so take some time and enjoy: www.aysoregion121.org

Referees and what I should say to them. There are six very safe words to say to adult and youth referees, Good Morning, Good Afternoon and Thank You. Our referees are trained, are human, not robots, and do make mistakes but the most important element to know is all calls on the field are an interpretation of the visual sight of the referee. Sorry, they don't have eyes in the back of their head. Our policy is respect for all referees. Non compliance of this respect will land you in the parking lot. We promote youth volunteers and a zero tolerance for any adult or child to say any negative comment to a youth volunteer. **Any comment will constitute immediate removal from the regional fields and additional sanctions.**

What is Volunteer Registration? Any person who volunteers to help and interact with players under the age of 18 years must be registered with the American Youth Soccer Organization. There are no exceptions. You can register on line at the National Website, www.soccer.org, or fill out a volunteer registration form and present it to an authorized board member. (Commissioner, Registrar or Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate). The purpose of the registration is to protect our children and protect you under our insurance policy if you get hurt.

What is the VIP Program? The VIP program is designed for those players whose disabilities prevent them from participating on a typical mainstream AYSO team. The program is designed for players with both mental and physical disabilities. Players at least 4 ½ years old can participate on a VIP team and as long as a player remains on a VIP team, there is no upper age limit.

What is a SAYSO? A SAYSO is a printed weekly newsletter available at each of the field information tents for the team parent to pick up and distribute to each parent on the team. It contains very important information on all aspects of our region. Please pick one up each week.

What is a VITP? A Very Important Team Parent. Each team and coach needs a Team Parent. This person is vital to the operation of the team and helps the coach communicate important information to all the parents on the team. This person also schedules the snacks and refreshments for the players. The team parent makes sure their parents are at the fields for the first game of the day to set up field goals and to paint the fields. Also for their parents at the end of the final game of the day to breakdown the goals, clean up the fields of all trash and transport and empty the trash cans to the trash container. Don't forget to make a team banner.

My pet is more important than humans and they are part of the family. The foundation fields have signs that dogs must be on a leash. We lease the fields and it is the AYSO policy to not permit any type of animals at the playing fields which supersedes the park district rules. No matter if the animal is a mouse or Great Dane an alligator or snake any living element on the fields must have a full human DNA. If you bring your beloved pet you will be asked to leave. Thank you for your understanding.

Why can't I smoke by the fields? Region 121 believes in respecting individual rights but with the United States Surgeon General and proven medical reports that second hand smoke can cause cancer, there is no smoking on or near any field where children are playing. Any smoking must be beyond fifty feet of any area of the park and school playing and practice fields.

AYSO is dedicated to promoting self-respect as well as respect for others. Players, coaches, parents and spectators of Region 121 are expected to behave with the highest degree of decorum, sportsmanship, and respect for others. This means that all comments directed to your child or other children are to be made in a positive manner. Derogatory remarks, abusive language, intimidating behavior and threats will not be tolerated. Any child or adult who behaves in a manner inconsistent with this policy will be asked to leave the field and is subject to removal from the program. Any acts of physical violence directed against any official in the program **WILL** result in immediate removal from the program.

Any other questions?

Check our website, www.aysoregion121.org

Ask any of the board members.

See you at the soccer fields!

Remember

AYSO Soccer for the kids! Have fun!!!