

Overall Sportsmanship Program

AYSO Region 678 – 2008 Season

(updated 8/12/08)

In order to promote good sportsmanship throughout the competitive levels of Region 678, the following is of importance. A primary focus of all of our coaches should be to instill a sense of good sportsmanship in our youth.

As adults, we are the role models for our youth. It is imperative that we support and show them the ability to win, and lose, while maintaining the highest levels of sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Points:

At the conclusion of every game, the Center Referee will award sportsmanship points to each team. Points are awarded in the 5 categories below,

1. Cooperation of Players
2. Uniform Compliance
3. Cooperation of Coaches
4. Cooperation of Spectators
5. Courtesy to Officials

A maximum of 10 Sportsmanship points will be awarded to each team, based on receiving 2 points in each of the five categories above. The criteria for losing sportsmanship points in each category are described in detail in the “Sportsmanship Scoring System” document which can be downloaded from the “Coaches” web page at www.ayso678.org/coach.php.

General Play:

All players in the region are to play a minimum of three quarters (75%) of every match.

Players arriving late to a match, or leaving the match early, are to play a minimum of 75% (rounded) of the quarters they are eligible to play at the match. Players must be present at the start of a quarter in order to be eligible as there are no substitutions during quarters with the exception of serious injuries. Specifically, a player that is present for less than the full game, at the discretion of the coach, may be subject to reduced minimum quarter play time:

- if present for three quarters of the match will play a minimum of two quarters,
- if present for two quarters of the match will play a minimum of one quarter,
- if present for one quarter of the match will play a minimum of one quarter.

A player is deemed late and ineligible for a quarter if they are not present at the official game start time or start of a given quarter. The center referee and parent must approve reduced playing time for injury or illness or in the event of a player to arrive late for a game or depart early. Such deviations from the 75% rule must be documented on the game card.

Any other reduction in playing time, including among other things, disciplinary reasons or practice attendance, requires prior Regional Commissioner approval.

Not adhering to the three quarter (75%) minimum requirement in every match may result in a forfeit.

NOTE: Region 678's ultimate goal is that all players play three-quarters of each game.

However, in the event a coach elects to apply the reduced playing time guidelines, the board asks that they do so equally for all players on a given team. If use of this guideline is repeated, you may be asked to provide ample documentation to your division coordinator.

If the roster size prohibits playing every player a minimum of three quarters, then coaches are requested to rotate the players (week to week) that play less than three quarters of the game.

Goalkeepers restrictions – Applies to the U10 & U12 division. If a player participates in three quarters of the match, the player must play two quarters in a field position (other than goalkeeper), meaning they can only play one quarter as goalkeeper. If a player participates in four quarters of the match, the player may play a maximum of two quarters per match as goalkeeper. This requirement is eliminated during regional playoffs.

Players in U14 and above are allowed to play goalkeeper for the entire match in regional play and in playoffs.

The Bottom Line:

In the spirit of AYSO, coaches are requested to make “the game” a positive experience for all of the players – his/her own players, as well as the opposing players. Coaches that demonstrate the inability to make this a positive environment for our youth may be asked not to return as a coach in upcoming seasons. Additionally, should circumstances warrant, a coach may be removed from his position during the regular season.

A Word About Coach Dismissal:

In the unlikely event that a coach is “Dismissed” from a match, the following policy shall apply.

- A) The match will cease until such a time as the coach removes himself from the boundaries of the location of the field of play (i.e. – outside the fence of the school or park). If the coach refuses to leave or causes excessive delays, the match will be terminated and submitted to the Disciplinary Committee for determination of the outcome.
- B) If a coach is dismissed, the match can not be restarted unless there is an AYSO registered volunteer present to coach the team. The volunteer must be certified by the region CVPA and have all the Medical Releases of the players,
- C) The coach shall be prohibited from coaching the next game in which the team participates (i.e. – the coach must remain outside the fence of the school or park.)
- D) The matter shall be referred to the Discipline Committee of Region 678 solely to evaluate the need for additional sanctions. The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to impose further sanctions against the coach, up to and including removing him/her from the coaching position.
- E) Carry over provision - If the coach is dismissed from the last match of the season for this team, then the coach will be prohibited from coaching their next AYSO competitive match, whether all-stars, tournament, or the following regional season.

Player Dismissals

- a. Players issued red cards will be ejected immediately and will sit out for the next game (while their team does not play short)
- b. Players who accumulate 3 yellow cards (from game-to-game over the season) will be required to sit out their next game (while their team does not play short). This accumulation policy applies when only one yellow card is earned in a game, and three are earned over the course of the season. Upon earning the third (single) yellow card, the player (and coach) will be notified that that he/she cannot play in the next match.
- c. This yellow card accumulation policy does not apply to game in which a player is shown two yellow cards, leading to a red card. This policy applies only to single issues of yellow cards.