

Tournament Soccer Program

AYSO Region 678

Tournament Program Outline

- I. Purpose of Program
- II. Tournament Coach Eligibility and Selection Process
- III. Tournament Player Guidelines
- IV. Tournament Teams
- V. Tournament Finances
- VI. Disciplinary Issues
- VII. Commitment to the Region

Introduction

Coaches interested in participating in the tournament program must fill out the coaching application included in their packet and turn it in to their Division Coordinator and Postseason Coordinator by in accordance with the Tournament Team Timeline posted on the Region's All-Star-Tournament Page at www.ayso678.org.

Coaches are strongly encouraged to read and understand all policies and procedures of the Tournament program.

I. Purpose of Program

The purpose of the Tournament Program is to create competitive teams, but balanced with the fun family atmosphere that is part of Tournament soccer. The Program is also used to develop players in our region, which will ultimately benefit our region in Area and Section playoffs.

This Program will further the development of both players and coaches in two manners. First, there is an expectation that each Extra Team will transition into a Tournament Team following the regular season. Second, Tournament Teams from the Primary Program will be formed in accordance with the guidance outlined in this Program.

Reference to the Tournament Programs purpose must be made in interpreting any of the clauses in this document.

II. Tournament Coach Eligibility and Selection Process

Tournament coaches will be selected by the Tournament Coach Selection Committee and approved by the Executive Board. The Selection Committee shall include: The Regional Commissioner, Division Coordinators, Assistant Regional Commissioner Competitive, Post-Season Director, Regional Referee Administrator, Regional Coach Administrator, Region Manager, *and Extra Program Director*. If a Committee member is up for consideration, they will be excused during voting. All Coaches that applied will be notified of the selections by the postseason coordinator.

It is the intent of Region 678 that, when possible, Tournament Coaches be different individuals than All-Star Coaches. All-Star coaches **SHALL NOT** be Tournament Coaches in the same division and gender unless the Region's Tournament Coach Selection Committee has exhausted all possibilities of selecting a coach. This is to ensure that an All-star coach does not favor tournament players in selecting their All-star Team.

Coaches from the Extra Program who wish to turn their regular season team into a Tournament team must also be approved by the Coach Selection Committee.

Specific criteria for Tournament Coach Selection are the following:

- Has achieved age-appropriate AYSO Coaching Certificate or higher prior to committee selection of Tournament Coaches
- Has the ability to properly represent Region 678 at AYSO-sanctioned tournaments
- Follows the AYSO Coaching Philosophy
- Has the ability to coach players of higher caliber
- Has suitable years of coaching experience
- Has achieved Safe Haven Certification prior to Committee selection of Tournament Coaches

Recommended Achievements:

- Has achieved a minimum of Regional Referee Certification
- Has achieved AYSO referee certificate corresponding to division
- Has provided volunteer service to the region outside of coaching
- Not affiliated with a Club team as a coach

III. Tournament Players Guidelines:

- Players and Parents are expected to give the post-season program priority above other sports or activities, such as club soccer, basketball, baseball, dance, etc.
- Players are expected to attend all practices unless illness or special circumstances prevent attendance
- Players must understand they will be playing in **Saturday and Sunday games**.
- Players may play positions different from their usual position at coach's discretion.
- Minimum playing time in tournament matches is two quarters per game.
- The Head Coach may remove players from the team due to lack of commitment in attending practices and matches or for not funding their share of tournament team fees.
- Players in the U10 – U14 divisions¹ must have participated in 70% or greater of the regional 2010 season matches, either playing or cheering
- Player must be a member of an AYSO team at the end of that Membership year's regional season and he/she must compete in their appropriate age group. However, if they are moving up an age division the immediately following season, they may request to play at the next age level. A request to play in the higher division must be approved by a majority of the Regional Commissioner, Assistant Regional Commissioner Competitive, Post Season Director and the Division Coordinator of the division being vacated.
- Region 678 requires U14 age eligible players to play in the U16 division to avoid conflicts with CIF High School soccer rules and the AYSO U14 season. These players may play in U16 or "play down" in U14 for the tournament season².

NOTE: Players on Regional teams and/or All-Star teams who are still in Area or Sectional play **MUST** make their Regional and/or All-Star teams a priority (practices and games) over any Tournament play until those seasons have concluded.

•

¹ Not applicable to upper division for various reasons (e.g. Players at this age enter the work force, matches are played on Saturdays and Sundays, et).

² This exception was approved by the Region at the January 2010 Board meeting. It is the format followed in the AYSO National games.

Players that submit an application are not guaranteed a spot on a Tournament team, but every effort will be made to include as many players in post-season play as possible.

IV. Tournament Teams:

Region 678 will have the following number of primary tournament teams in each division for each gender.

U10	Two primary teams
U12	Two primary teams
U14	Two primary teams
U16	One primary team
U19	One primary team

Team size in each division will generally be based on the number of players that are allowed to be carried by AYSO National approved tournaments.

Additional “recreation” tournament teams may be formed with the remaining players that signed up for the tournament program after the primary teams have received financial commitments from their players or January 1, whichever comes first³. The coach and players on these recreational teams will be approved following the aforementioned Coach Eligibility and Selection Process and Player Guidelines.

Tournament Coaches will be provided a list of tournament player applicants by **October 12** so they have 3 to 4 weeks to scout players; however, Tournament Coaches are strongly encouraged to scout players all season long to ensure they have seen all potential players. Tournament Coaches may select players they want on their teams, including players that participated in All-Stars.

Coaches are invited to present their own “dream team” roster of players that meet the aforementioned tournament player guidelines for approval. Extra coaches have first priority in retaining their own Extra players but otherwise are on equal footing with Core Program coaches in competing for core program players. It should be noted, however, that any Extra player who declines to play on the Tournament team comprised of the fall Extra team in which they played for, is permitted to play on a “regular” Tournament team.

In the event of a conflict between primary (including Extra) tournament coaches (Coaches wanting the same player) the Post Season Director and/or Regional Commissioner will make every effort to accommodate the player based on the players’ preference. To resolve the conflict, the Post Season Director will call the players parents, present the issue and have the parents decide on the team best for their child. If the parents are indifferent, the issue will be solved by a coin toss. If however, a player declines to play for either primary coach, the player will not be eligible for tournament season on any subsequently formed team without the approval of the Regional Commissioner.

³ The January 1 deadline is extended to February 1 for U16 – U19 teams (“Upper Divisions”). There is a long break from when the regional season ends and tournament play begins which historically has resulted in a high “drop” rate for these older players. Upper Division players finish their regional season approximately Nov 1 and move directly into High School soccer. High school soccer season ends approximately March 1. There are no AYSO tournaments that play Upper Division until after March 1.

Under **NO** circumstances will Tournament Coaches commit to or give the impression that a player has been selected to a tournament team until after the region has approved the tournament team roster, estimated to be on or after the final week of the playoffs for the fall season. Any coach not adhering to this shall be in violation of Sectional and Area 10S, as well as Region 678 guidelines and may be prohibited from coaching in the post-season.

NOTE: Players on Regional teams and/or All-Star teams who are still in Area or Sectional play **MUST** make their Regional and/or All-Star teams a priority (practices and games) over any Tournament play until those seasons have concluded.

Tournament coaches may add additional permanent players to their tournament team during the course of the season, or recruit from another region. However, the tournament coaches must get regional approval (Post-season Director and Regional Commissioner) to ensure the player is eligible and not already on another tournament team.

Any request to add a player from a different region requires the approval of both Regional Commissioners before the Area Director can approve the joining a team. Only the Area Director can facilitate the movement of a player in eayso and that must be requested by the Post-season Director or Regional Commissioner only.

V. Tournament Teams Finances:

Tournament teams are self-financed by the coach and parents of the players. The region does not provide any financial support. Additionally;

- Each Tournament team will be assessed a \$100 fee (per team) to defray the cost of running the program to be paid by Team when the final roster is approved. (Deducted from the Tournament Team account).
- Individual teams will purchase uniforms for tournament play in Region 678 colors; orange, black, and white. Region 678 will not provide tournament uniforms.
- All members of the team must fund the tournament team fees. Finances will be administered by the team and may include non-refundable deposits for leaving the team.
- **A player withdrawing from a tournament team once the teams have been formed and fees have been paid, will be subject to a 50% withdrawal penalty on any refund given.** Refunds will be calculated upon written or email notification of the player withdrawing from the team, with all tournament entry fees and related expenses incurred (uniforms, equipment, permit fees, etc) as of notification deducted from the final refund. Any tournaments where a player was at the time an official member of the team, but did not participate in the tournament, will be considered as if the player had participated, regardless of whether a substitute was used for that tournament date.
- The region will hold the tournament coach solely responsible for their team finances.

Upon approval of their rosters, Tournament Coaches are strongly encouraged to meet with their team teams, review the plan for the season and receive financial commitments from all players on the team. Finances are the responsibility of the team and with prior approval, the Region will support the individual "written" policies established by each team.

VI. Disciplinary Issues:

In the spirit of AYSO, coaches are requested to make "the game" a positive experience for all of the players and ensure that parents and invitees to do the same. 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 tournament season. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the failure to uphold the philosophies of AYSO or other miscellaneous acts that violate the spirit of the game.

In the unlikely event that a coach, player or parent is sent off from a match while at a tournament, the coach must;

1. Comply with the sanctions for the tournament.
2. Report the incident to the Post Season Director within 3 days of the incident.

The region will treat the incident in the same manner as documented in our regular season Overall Sportsmanship Program for disciplinary incidents, which includes Disciplinary Committee review as appropriate. In the event a coach, player or spectator is sent off in the final tournament of the season and, more specifically, in the final tournament game where the coach, player or spectator would be unable to fulfill their one-game suspension, then the suspension will be served the following Region 678 season, whether the individual is coaching, playing or spectating.

Failure by the Head Coach to report any coach, player or parent sent off to the Post Season Director will reflect extremely poorly in a disciplinary committee review of the incident. **Lack of knowledge of this rule will not be a valid excuse for non-compliance.** Finally, if a sanction is imposed upon the coach that is not followed, it will be grounds for removing the coach from the team,

VII. Commitment to the Region

Tournament teams will be required to provide volunteer services to the region during the course of the tournament season (generally December to July). This may consist of field painting, working at the Area 10S Santa Clarita Valley Showdown Tournament as representatives of Region 678⁴ or assisting in other functions identified by the Board. Coaches will be held accountable for their teams' volunteer requirements, but a tournament team consists of players, coaches and parents. Therefore, all members of the tournament team are responsible to provide volunteer services.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns contact postseason@ayso678.org

⁴ Refereeing in the Showdown tournament in order to receive the teams referee deposit refund IS NOT volunteer services to Region 678, but to the Tournament team itself.