Sponsored by AYSO Region 678, Newhall/Valencia, California

2026 AYSO Santa Clarita Gold Rush

Referee Plan

The following are guidelines that the AYSO Santa Clarita Gold Rush apply for referees in our tournament:

Commitment Requirements	A. Each team participating in the AYSO Santa Clarita Gold Rush must provide at least 1 crew consisting of 3 qualified referees in **FULL UNIFORM WITH APPROPRIATE AYSO BADGE**. B. The AYSO Santa Clarita Gold Rush Referee Information Form must be completed, approved by the Region Referee Administrator and returned with the Team Application. C. Each referee team will be asked to officiate a minimum of 3 matches during the tournament. These may be game assignments or standby assignments, which will be consider equal in terms of earning the referee deposit refund. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.** D. If all assignments are completed, the entire referee deposit of **$300** will be refunded within 14 days of the completion of the tournament. Partial refunds will be given based upon the number of game assignments completed. E. The deposit refund check will be returned to the address shown on the Team Application form. F. Each referee may only represent one team in the tournament for each assignment served (Center or linesman) Regions may supply dedicated referees teams not affiliated with a particular team but each assignment served will be limited to credit to one team. G. If a team submits less than a full 3-person referee crew, these referees will be assigned to games, however only a proportion of the referee deposit equal to the number of assignments these referees complete will be refunded to the team.
Qualification Requirements	A. Each referee must be an AYSO registered volunteer and Safe Haven certified. FIFA referees who are qualified AYSO referees must wear their FIFA badge; however and be prepared to certify to the tournament staff that they are properly certified AYSO volunteer referees. B. Each referee must be versed in the Laws of the Game, including current law changes and capable of applying the laws according to the spirit of the game. C. Coaches in this tournament are strongly discouraged from officiating so that optimum scheduling of referees can be accomplished. Although every effort will be made to avoid conflicts, no schedule adjustments will be made to accommodate coaches who elect to referee. D. Youth referees are allowed to referee in this tournament. Care must be taken when considering whether to allow a youth referee to officiate in the heated environment of a competitive tournament. These referees must have their Youth Volunteer Application form with them at all times and present it to any Tournament official upon request. G. Youth referees must be approved by their Regional Referee Administrator. These referees must have their Youth Volunteer Letter with Youth Volunteer Application form attached with them at all times and present it to any Tournament official upon request. H. Youth referees will only be assigned to games where they are qualified and at least two years older than the age group they are officiating.
Uniform Requirement	A. All referees must be in **Full Uniform** as defined by AYSO and USSF, including the AYSO Badge. B. **The Gold uniform will be the primary color of referee uniform for this tournament. Black shorts and referee socks are required.** The referee crew will be expected to change to an alternate color in case of conflict with a teams' uniform. C. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games, and their team's referee deposit may be subject to full or partial forfeiture based on assignments missed. D. Black rain pants or black warm-up pants will be permitted in addition to the official uniform.
Competency Requirements	A. Referees will be assigned to games as follows: 9U-10U: AYSO Regional Badge or higher 11U-12U: AYSO Intermediate/Regional Badge or higher 13U-14U: AYSO Intermediate Badge or higher Any exceptions must have the prior written approval of the Gold Rush Referee Administrator. B. Every effort will be made to assign referees to neutral games at their level of competency or below. In rare cases, referee crews may be asked to split up in order to meet these goals.

Tournament Rules	A. Referees will be expected to familiarize themselves with and uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament and will place a team's referee deposit refund in jeopardy. B. Pool play games will consist of 25- to 30- minute halves depending on the age division with a five-minute half time. (See tournament rules) There will be a running clock during the match including substitutions. There will be no time added on for injuries or time wasted in qualifying rounds. Pool play games may end in a tie. C. Games will expect to start AND end on time and may be shortened so that the next match starts as scheduled. D. Only the diagonal system of control will be used. **E.** Referees will be expected to fill out the game cards and to keep track of substitutions. **Players must play a minimum of 2 quarters (half game) per game they are present.** If a player arrives after the start of the game but before the first-half quarter break, they are required to play at least two quarters. If a player arrives after the first-half quarter break has concluded and play has already resumed, they are only required to play one quarter. F. Referees will be expected to note on the back of the game cards and to fill out misconduct reports immediately after the game in which a misconduct (caution and/or send-off) was issued to a player or coach, or if there were spectator interference problems, or any other action that merits a report. G. Referees will be expected to turn in all completed game cards and misconduct reports to the Referee Tent immediately after each game.
Referee Schedules	A. Referee schedules will be made available on the tournament website within 1 week of the tournament. Each team will be expected to ensure that the referee schedule and check-in instructions have been provided to their referee crew. **Referees should expect and prepare to have game assignments on Saturday and Sunday based on need.** No special requests can be honored to be fair to all teams.
Use of Local Referees	A. Additional referees will be provided by the host region, including from the surrounding regions and Areas to ensure all games are covered by qualified referees. These referees will be provided assignments on a stand-by or fill-in basis. Priority will be given to referee crews to ensure an opportunity to earn their deposit refund.
Referee Check-In	A. All referees will be expected to check in at the Referee Station upon their arrival at the tournament, to register and to collect their Referee Voucher. B. At check-in, each referee team will be provided with a summarized set of tournament rules that they will be expected to administer. C. Referees are expected to **check in at the Referee Station at least 15 minutes prior** to their assigned game, including standby games. Failure to appear on time may result in a replacement referee crew being assigned to the field. Once a replacement crew has been assigned, they will have priority and the original crew must report to the Referee station for alternative assignment. D. Upon completing each game assignment (or standby assignment), each referee will have their Voucher stamped at the Referee Station. When all of their game assignments have been completed, the referee crew must turn in their completed Voucher at the Referee Station. This completed Voucher verifies your obligation has been met and a full referee deposit refund will be issued within 14-days of the tournament.
Referee Mementos	A. Referees will be provided with a meal ticket for food and drink at the concession stand for each day that they officiate. Chilled water will also be available at the Referee Station. B. Participating referees will receive a tournament t-shirt, flipping coin and pin as mementos to thank them for their contribution.
Address:	Referee forms must be mailed with the Team Application to: Tournament Registrar AYSO Santa Clarita Gold Rush PO 220307 Newhall, California, 91322-0307
Contact Information:	Questions regarding referee requirements should be directed to: Contact: Tournament Director email Tournament@AYSO678.org Web site www.ayso678.org/gold-rush