

FLAGLER COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



COACH HANDBOOK

COACH GUIDELINES

1. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Welcome to Flagler AYSO!! We're glad you are part of our volunteer team. Your work with our kids will determine whether or not our kids come back for another season. You are our most important volunteer in the region.

As coach, you are responsible for everything that involves your team. You are the one who sets the standard for sportsmanship and the style of team play. Don't make negative comments to the referees and you will find that your player's parents don't either. **Be positive to your players at all times.**

You will need to choose a team parent who will organize a lot of details for you. You need to find an assistant coach to help run your practices and games. We hope you can arrange for one referee to volunteer during the season in u6. We will provide training for them.

Make sure that your team appears at all scheduled games and activities. You will receive a game schedule before opening day, or they will be available on our website.

Always play each player at least one-half of every game. We ask that all players sit out one quarter before you have any player sit out a second quarter. Also, please rotate your goalkeepers so that they may play the same amount of time on the field as they do in goal.

On game day. If you have the first scheduled game of the day, fields will need to be set up. Ask that some of your parents arrive earlier, this will allow time to set corner flags. If you have the last game of the day, please be responsible enough before leaving to clean your field area. Everyone involved will appreciate your assistance.

2. EQUIPMENT:

You should pick up a few balls for practices. An efficient practice is where each child practices with a ball for almost the entire time. Ask the parents to provide balls for practice. You may want to have some additional cones to outline your practice area.

Please make sure to use the right size ball for your team.

U5-U8 size 3

U10&12 size 4

U14-U19 size 5

Uniforms: each player will be issued a jersey, shorts and socks. **Uniforms are not to be tampered with. It is prohibited to add logos, numbers or names of any fashion. Any child that shows up to a game with an altered uniform WILL NOT play.**

3. PRIORITIES FOR PARTICIPATION:

All players and coaches must recognize their commitment to the regular season program. They also must realize the priority in which further commitments to extended season teams may be made. In all cases, it will be up to the individual players and parents to determine whether or not they will participate with a team.

Priority #1: The regular season no matter which spring or fall shall be considered first. If a player has expressed interest in extended play and is chosen for a team, the player must practice separately on both. Extended play teams will in no way take the place of regular season practices, or be allowed to participate in tournaments during the regularly scheduled season. It is called **extended play** because it extends play **after** the season. There may be opportunities to do so, which would have to be cleared by the regional commissioner. The core league should Not be disrupted in any fashion.

4. SPRING TOURNAMENT TEAM COACHES:

AYSO seeks to place highly qualified coaches into all of its supported programs. Training is made available so that all coaches can advance. The region places great emphasis on age appropriate coaching certification during the season. Therefore, it is reasonable that coaches considered for extended season play teams meet the minimum standard. All **extended season coaches MUST meet the following criteria:**

1. All candidates must have been registered coaches or assistants during the regular season.
2. All candidates must have exhibited their desire to portray the positive aspects of AYSO during the regular season. They must demonstrate willingness to teach and build on basic soccer skills. All candidates must be able to observe and correct negative behavior and reinforce positivity.
3. Candidates must recognize the positive reputation Flagler AYSO is seeking to maintain and help preserve that reputation at all times.
4. In addition to the above, extended season team coaches must have attained certification required for the age group.
 - a. Divisions U5,6,8,10-----Basic
 - b. Divisions U12, 14 -----Interm.
 - c. Divisions U16,19-----Advan.

All coaching appointments are subject to Regional Board review and approval and can be determined null and void if necessary.

5. TEAM FORMATION:

The Regional Board has adopted the following policy of open registration and balanced teams. Therefore, while efforts will be made to honor requests to play with specific coaches or players due to transport needs, these requests are not guaranteed. Requests will be honored in situations where a coach's child plays for the parent or where brothers and sisters play together on the same team. Requests will be considered if received prior to team formation. No requests will be considered for placement after teams have been formed for the season.

6. SPRING TOURNAMENT TEAMS:

No player may be approached by a coach directly or indirectly to play on these teams until after regular season play has ended. A coach who violates this policy will not be considered for a spring tournament team or any other post-season team. Any team specifically formed to play in tournaments can only do so with the RC's approval and written permission on the application for same.

7. INJURIES:

- a. Try to prevent injuries. Never let players play with cold muscles. Always warm the team up.
- b. Proper fitting shin guards must be used at all games and practices.
- c. Ensure the safety of the player. Never move a seriously injured player from the field.
- d. If injury is serious and the parents are not in attendance, call the person on the registration form listed as the one to notify for emergency.
- e. A call should be made to paramedics if necessary by the divisional manager or a board member.
The registration form does give permission to treat in case of emergency.
- f. Notify the Safety Director to complete proper paperwork.
- g. Make sure plenty of water is provided at all times for all players. Never prevent a player from drinking water.

8. DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

Flagler AYSO adheres to the zero tolerance policy as demonstrated by KIDS ZONE. Negative or abusive comments by players, coaches and spectators will not be tolerated.

Pursuant to current national by-laws and regional guidelines, the Regional Board has adopted the following policy regarding disciplinary action and dispute resolution:

1. There shall be **NO PROTESTS ALLOWED**.
 - a. Judgement calls by the referee will not be reviewed.
 - b. Coaches are encouraged to make a formal written report of a misapplication of the law by a referee to the Referee Administrator within 24 hours of the game in question.
 - c. The Referee Administrator will review the report and instruct the referee in proper application of the law to prevent reoccurrence of same. A written statement of action will be sent to all parties involved.

2. In all games, discipline for infractions of the law shall be the duty of the center referee assigned to the game. The proper sequence is as follows: for players and coaches- verbal warning, yellow card or ejection (red card).
For spectators-verbal warning, then game suspension pending removal of offending party and then game termination if party refuses to leave premises.
 - a. the center ref shall have full authority to caution or eject any player, coach or spectator should their behavior warrant such discipline.
 - b. In addition, the referee may file a misconduct report detailing the infraction and action taken.
 - c. **ALL misconduct reports** will be reviewed by the Regional Commissioner or his designee for possible additional disciplinary action.

If there is a serious violation of AYSO spirit or philosophy or misconduct involving a coach, then that coach is **ineligible** for all post-season coaching.
 - d. Any adult who is subject to a MR must be notified in writing of specific violations by the RC or his designee as soon as possible after the incident.

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3. Coaches are expected to set the proper Example for their players and spectators. They will be held responsible for conduct. Improper behavior on the field **cannot** be tolerated and will be dealt with in the following manner:
 - a. Dissent requires verbal warning. If it persistent, it will require temporary suspension. The coach or offender will be asked to leave the field for the duration of the game and incur one game suspension.
 - b. Violent or abusive language to anyone requires temporary suspension. The coach or offender will be asked to leave for the duration of the game and barred from any participation with the next scheduled game (2 game suspension).
Withdrawal of a team from the field by a coach requires temporary suspension. The coach will be asked to leave the field and be barred from the next game (2 games suspension). This will also result in a hearing by the DRB to determine if further action is warranted.
 - c. Violent or physical misconduct will be treated as above and the coach will be given a 3 game suspension. This will also result in DRB hearing.
 - d. Disciplinary actions of coaches will be tracked and accumulated on an annual basis, from Aug 1 of season to July 31.
 1. First disciplinary action: 2 game suspension and removal from consideration of post-season play.
 2. Second in same year: Removal from team totally.
 3. Third in same year- Permanent removal from Flagler AYSO.
 4. Failure by any coach to leave the Field upon red card receipt will be a 3 game suspension and DRB hearing to determine what further action is warranted
4. Notwithstanding, the above, in addition to or in lieu of any of the above actions, the disruptive actions of coaches and spectators will be handled as follows:
 - a. verbal warning to a coach or offender detailing the disruption and possible suspension or termination of the game if behavior continued.
 - b. Suspension of game to allow removal of the disruptive party. Suspended games may restart by the center referee.

c. Game termination where disruption cannot be removed. Terminated games will not be restarted. The outcome of game must be decided by the Regional Board. Regardless of score, the non-offending team will become the winner.

9. ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

Additional disciplinary action may become necessary. The RC and/ or Regional Board has the right to suspend or terminate a member's further participation either temporarily or permanently under any of the following conditions:

- a. Violent misconduct or threatened misconduct is observed.
- b. Foul or abusive language.
- c. any activity or conduct, criminal or otherwise, which would put the region at risk or which the RC or Board considers disruptive to the region or AYSO program.
- d. Anything listed in the all previous areas.

10. PLAYER RATINGS

Player ratings from coaches in all divisions are mandatory. Your division will be scheduled to rate all players at a specific time of year. Trophies will not be distributed at seasons end until ratings for your team have been turned in to the league.

Player ratings are vital to the continuation of our program. These ratings are used for team formation by balancing the following season. They could also be used to help select extended team players, if deemed necessary to do so fairly. The better the rating system, the better our teams season formation.

11. ID CARDS

Player ID cards will be used for extended team players which will be provided for signature to the RC prior to the extended play season.

The wearing of coach ID badges may or may not be enforced depending upon decision of the RC for that particular season.

12. ANYTHING ELSE?

All coaches and assistants must stay on the same side of the field during games in the designated Coach's area. All parents and spectators must remain on the opposite of the field at all times. No spectator may sit or stand near goal area.

We hope you have found this handbook to provide helpful guidelines with regards to AYSO
. Have a great season!!!!