



Sponsored by AYSO Area B
2nd Annual AYSO Area B Tournament
AYSO Invitational
March 6-8 2026
Tournament Rules



CATEGORY	RULES
1) JURISDICTION	A. Unless otherwise noted, the current AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Section 1 and FIFA Laws of the Game will be used for this tournament. The following rules are intended specifically for this tournament ONLY! B. The Tournament Committee (incl. Tournament Director, Assistant Director(s), Field Director, Referee Director and other designated staff) will have jurisdiction over all games played. Disputes will be resolved by the end of the soccer day. Referee judgment calls are NOT subject to dispute or protest!
2) FEES	A. Entire entry fee and referee deposit must accompany tournament application and will be returned if application is not accepted. Fee and deposit must be a single check issued from the Region's account (no personal checks, money orders, credit cards, etc.). Fees are: U-10 \$800 (\$500 entry fee plus \$300 referee deposit), U-12 \$850 (\$550 entry fee plus \$300 referee deposit), U-14 \$900 (\$600 entry fee plus \$300 referee deposit), U-16/U-19 \$950 (650 entry fee plus \$300 referee deposit).
3) ACCEPTANCE	A. Applications are due on Feb 10, 2026 B. Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis, based on completed application, completed referee roster with certified referees, and payment will be accepted first. Teams will be notified by email within 48 hours of the receipt of their applications. C. Teams not immediately accepted into the tournament will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. If a team chooses not to be on a waiting list, the application and entry fee will be returned within 48 hours of notification. D. The primary form of communication between the Tournament and applying teams will be email and the Tournament website. Teams must designate a Team Contact on their application who has email and Internet access.
4) REFUNDS	A. Teams withdrawing 30 days or more before the tournament will be issued a full refund. B. Teams withdrawing less than 30 days before the start of the tournament will only be issued a refund if a replacement team can be found, and will be made within 14 days of replacement team being found. C. If the tournament is canceled and cannot be rescheduled a full refund will be issued. D. For teams that are eligible, referee deposit refunds will be mailed no later than 14 days after the end of the tournament. Referee deposit refunds will be on a prorated basis, comparing the number of assignments actually completed versus the number that were assigned.
5) RAINOUT/ CANCELLATION	A. Should the tournament be rained out on the original date, it will be rescheduled to the weekend March 20-22. All teams will be expected to return on that date to resume the tournament. Any team not able to return will only receive a refund if a replacement team can be found.. B. If the tournament is cancelled due to weather after partially completing and it cannot be rescheduled to be completed, refunds will be made to teams on a prorated basis, based on the number of actual games played. C. If the tournament cannot be held due to weather or other conditions beyond the control of the tournament hosts, then a full refund will be sent to all teams.
6) PLAYERS/TEAMS	Players on participating teams must be properly registered to play in AYSO, and have played in the Fall 2025 season in a minimum of one-half of the games for which they were eligible. Coaches are responsible to ensure that all players meet eligibility requirements. Any player found to not be qualified to participate will be removed for the remainder of tournament, and teams may forfeit any games the player participated in. B. The team roster, (Sports connect only), must be verified and approved by each player's Regional Commissioner. Roster changes may be submitted (with the written approval of the Regional Commissioner); however, these changes must be received by the Tournament Registrar prior to the tournament. There will be no roster changes allowed on tournament day, unless pre-approved by the tournament registrars. C. 3 Guest Players (players from a different Region ((Within the same Area)) will be allowed for each team. However, the Guest Player will be required to have the approval of both the Guest Player's Regional Commissioner and the Host Team Regional Commissioner (see Guest Player Form), and must also meet qualifications listed above.. D. Divisions U-16 and U-19 will play 11-v-11, and there will be a roster limit of 20 players per team. Division U-14 will play 11-v-11, and there will be a roster limit of 15 players per team. Division U-12 will play 9-v-9, and there will be a roster limit of 12 players per team. Division U-10 will play 7-v-7, and there will be a roster limit of 10 players per team. E. All players must play at least half of each game. Violation of these player rules exposes a team to protest and renders them subject to forfeiture of game and possible disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

7) COACHES	A. Each team is limited to two coaches but must have two – one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach. These coaches must be the ones listed on the Official Team Roster. If only a head coach is listed, no one will be able to fill in in their absence. B. Each Coach must be a current registered, Age Appropriate, Safe Haven, SAFE SPORT certified volunteer meeting all requirements of AYSO. C. Coaches are expected to set the example for their team in exhibiting proper AYSO behavior and Kids Zone behavior. Coaches are expected to remain in the technical area during games and only enter the field of play as requested by the referee.
8) REFEREES	A. Each team in the tournament will provide a crew of 3 referees. These referees will be assigned up to 3 Games based on their qualifications, not the division they are playing in. B. All referees must be a current registered, Age Appropriate, Safe Haven, SAFE SPORT certified volunteer. C. Only the referees listed on the Referee Roster will be allowed to referee. Any team that checks in Referees other than those listed may be subject to forfeiting their referee deposit. D. Only the diagonal system of control will be used to referee the games. E. Center Referees for U-16/19 games must be Advanced level or above. Center Referees for U-14 games must be Intermediate level or above. Center Referees for U-12 games must be Regional or above. F. Youth referees (center referees) must be at least 2 years older than the age group they are refereeing. G. All referees must be in full uniform as defined by AYSO, including the Referee Badge. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games, and their team's referee deposit may be subject to forfeiture. H. If all assignments are successfully completed, the Referee Deposit will be refunded, and no points will be deducted (see REFEREE PLAN for more details). I. Referees are expected to check in at the Referee Station at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned game. 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 and risk having their referee deposit forfeited. J. Players in the tournament will not be allowed to referee. K. Referees will be expected to uphold the tournament rules, AYSO Rules and Regulations 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.
9) FIELDS	A. All fields will be set up and taken down by the tournament staff. B. Trash cans will be provided at each field. Teams will be expected to clean up all trash in their area before leaving. C. Please observe the following Facility Use Rules while attending the tournament
10) FORMAT	A. Each age division will be bracketed into playing pools. Each team will play a minimum of 3 preliminary play games within their respective pools. Where there are sufficient teams, divisions will also be separated into multiple competition flights. B. Teams will advance from qualifying pools based on pool play standings points. Number of teams advancing per pool will be determined by the number of pools in the division. C. In Divisions where 4 or 8 teams are registered, teams will play in pools of 4 teams playing each team once. In Divisions with 6 Teams, Each will cross pool, playing the other 3 teams for points and overall top points will advance. In divisions with 5 teams, each will play each other once with final standings based on overall points earned. Other formats may apply based on the number of teams in a division.
11) CHECK-IN	A. Teams must check in 60 minutes prior to their first game, and must present Game Cards for as many games as the team will play in the tournament (including medal-round games). The Game Cards must be properly completed with the players listed by first name-last name in jersey number order. The players listed on the game cards must match the approved roster submitted with the team's application. All players listed on the roster must appear on each game card, even if there is an expectation that one (or more) might miss a scheduled game this goes for time sheets as well. B. Each coach or team representative must provide AYSO Player Registration Forms with original ink signatures for verification by tournament officials. C. Coaches must always have these Player Registration Forms with them and ready for presentation to Tournament Officials. D. Late arriving players must be escorted to the check-in station by a team official along with their Player Registration Form and be cleared by the Tournament Staff before participating in any games. E. Each player will be required to have a Player ID Card, which will include the player's name, AYSO ID# and a picture. The Player ID Card must be signed by the Regional Commissioner. These cards must be presented to the tournament official at Team Check-in, and be available for inspection prior to each game by the tournament Field Monitor.

12) FIELD MONITORS	A. Field Monitors will be assigned to each field and will collect game cards, verify players, make sure spectators are in their specific areas, and will stamp a blank time sheet (in upper divisions). B. Field Monitors will be the first to respond to any incidents or injuries and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff by radio. Tournament participants are encouraged to report any concerns immediately to the Field Monitor, and to respectfully follow any instructions given by the Field Monitor.																		
	A. Pool play games will consist of 20-to-30-minute halves depending on the age division (see chart below) with a five minute half time. 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. Games will expect to end on time, and may be shortened if they started late. Pool play games may end in a tie. B. Semi/Finals games duration will vary by division (see chart below). Championship/Consolation games will be played until there is a winner (see Medal Round rules below). C. Game duration shall be as follows: <table><tr><th>Division</th><th>Pool Play</th><th>Semi, Final Rounds</th></tr><tr><td>U-10:</td><td>20 minute half</td><td>25 minute half</td></tr><tr><td>U-12:</td><td>25 minute half</td><td>30 minute half</td></tr><tr><td>U-14:</td><td>30 minute half</td><td>35 minute half</td></tr><tr><td>U-16:</td><td>30 minute half</td><td>40 minute half</td></tr><tr><td>U-19:</td><td>30 minute half</td><td>40 minute half</td></tr></table> D. The "home" team will be the first team or top team listed on the game schedule and will be responsible for providing the game ball. The home team will be situated on the North or East side of the field, and the visitor will be situated on the South or West side. Spectators must remain on the side of the field designated for their team. The home team will change jerseys or wear pinnies in the event of a color conflict with the visitor team, this includes goalkeepers. If any questions, the referee will determine whether this is necessary. E. There will be no warming up on the field. Teams must warm up prior to taking the field. As soon as the previous game has ended, teams must clear the field and the teams for the next game must take their places. F. FORFEITS: Teams must check in at the designated Field 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. There will be a five-minute grace period at the start of the game for a team to take the field before a forfeit is declared. The score for a forfeit match will be 1-0 for the remaining team (See STANDINGS for the points to be awarded). For U-10 division teams, there is a minimum of 5 players on the field to continue a game. For U-12 the minimum number is 6 players. For all other divisions, there must be a minimum of 7 players to continue a game. If a team cannot field the minimum number of players, the game will be abandoned, and a forfeit will be declared. G. SUSPENDED GAMES: The Tournament Committee may determine to end matches early if field schedule is behind due to game delays, interference, or if weather conditions provide unsafe conditions; and may distribute awards according to games played and points. The Tournament Committee will determine the outcome of any single game which is terminated prematurely (due to inclement weather, participant injury, or interference by outside party, etc.) and final scores will stand without protest. H. ABANDONED GAMES: if any pool play games cannot be played due to circumstances beyond the control of the tournament, the final standings of the pool will be determined by applying the Winning Percentage formula (Total Points Earned in all Game Played divided by Total Points Possible for the Number of Games Played) to each team in the pool. Note. This does not apply to games which were shortened due to late start. Only the Tournament Director or designee can declare a game to be abandoned or not played.	Division	Pool Play	Semi, Final Rounds	U-10:	20 minute half	25 minute half	U-12:	25 minute half	30 minute half	U-14:	30 minute half	35 minute half	U-16:	30 minute half	40 minute half	U-19:	30 minute half	40 minute half
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14) SUBSTITUTIONS	A. Substitutions shall be allowed approximately mid-way through each half for ALL divisions U-10 through U-14, and will be recorded on the game cards by the referee. U-16/19 Will be monitored substitution and timecards must be filled out by each coach and turned into the center referee following each match. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point deduction for that team. B. All substitutions must be approved and recognized by the referee. Substitutions may be made for injured players. however, they may not return until the beginning of the next quarter and will be considered as having played the current quarter (exception: an injured player not replaced may return to play at any time with the referee's permission). C. Substitutions in overtime periods of medal round matches will be at the beginning of each period only.																		
15) STANDINGS	A. Standings for pool play games will be determined on the "ten-point system" as follows: <table><tr><td>WIN</td><td>= 6 points</td></tr><tr><td>TIE</td><td>= 3 points</td></tr><tr><td>LOSS</td><td>= 0 points</td></tr><tr><td>GOAL</td><td>= 1 point per goal up to 3 in each match</td></tr><tr><td>SHUTOUT</td><td>= 1 point for a shutout, including a 0-0 tie</td></tr><tr><td>FORFEIT</td><td>= 8 points (scored as a 1-0 win)</td></tr><tr><td>RED CARD</td><td>= - 2 points deduction for team (includes 2 points for each player, spectator, or coach)</td></tr><tr><td>DISREGARDED REF ASSIGNMENT</td><td>= - 1 Point per missed assignment, up 3 points per match</td></tr></table> B. Winners of ties in standings will be determined as follows: Head-to-head competition	WIN	= 6 points	TIE	= 3 points	LOSS	= 0 points	GOAL	= 1 point per goal up to 3 in each match	SHUTOUT	= 1 point for a shutout, including a 0-0 tie	FORFEIT	= 8 points (scored as a 1-0 win)	RED CARD	= - 2 points deduction for team (includes 2 points for each player, spectator, or coach)	DISREGARDED REF ASSIGNMENT	= - 1 Point per missed assignment, up 3 points per match		
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	Goals allowed (Up to 3 per game) Goal differential (goals scored to three per game, less total goals allowed, highest differential advances) Goals Scored (Up to 3 game) Coin toss at the end of pool play. C. Wildcard teams will be the team(s) with the highest standings points from all teams in the division who are not automatically advancing. D. Standings will be updated hourly at the Tournament Scoreboard, and online at the end of each day. The deadline to challenge the posted results will be at the conclusion of Pool Play.
16) ADVANCEMENTS	A. Winners of pool play standings and 2nd place (and in some cases wildcard teams) will advance to medal round play. See Format table for description. B. Teams may play in a semi-final and then championship/consolation games or advance straight to championship/consolation final matches based on pool standings, depending on the number of teams in each pool and the format of play for that flight in accordance with field space and time.
17) MEDAL-ROUNDS	A. All medal round matches ending in a tie will have two full overtime periods of five minutes in length for all divisions, with teams changing field direction after the first period. In these matches, if still tied after overtime play, the game shall be decided by FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
18) AWARDS	A. Medals will be presented to players from the first through the fourth-place teams in each division, as well as a coach's trophy for First and Second Place teams in each Flight. B. A tournament pin will be presented to each player and t-shirt will be presented to each player and coach.
19) CONDUCT	A. Coaches will be expected to set the positive example for the team, and will be held responsible for the actions of their teams including spectators. All spectators must remain behind the touch line and be to the left of the coach's box. Two coaches maximum per team, and they must remain in the marked coaching area (within ten yards either way from halfway line). B. At the conclusion of each match, the referees will indicate on the reverse of the game cards any point deductions for poor sportsmanship. Point deductions will be used as tie-breakers should that become necessary. Referees will be required to complete a game misconduct report for all misconducts during the game, as well as any incidents of interference by spectators. C. Any spectator ejected must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field (out of sight and sound) and will be prohibited from attending any further games for the duration of the tournament. Any coach or player sent off (red carded, not violent conduct) must immediately leave the vicinity of the game (under supervision of his/her parent or Safe Haven-certified adult) and may not return to the field of play during the current game, including for the post-game handshake, and may not be substituted for, and is suspended from participation in the next game. Before any Coach or Player returns to participate, they must meet with the Tournament Director, and Referee Administrator. This must be done more than 30 Minutes prior to the next game. Failure to do so may result in removal from the tournament. There will be penalty point deductions for all send-offs (see Standings rules). D. Any violent conduct red card or ejection will result in that player/coach/spectator being barred from the remainder of the tournament without protest and must leave the field vicinity immediately. This includes returning to the fields as a spectator. E. If it is determined that an ineligible player has participated in a game, the team will forfeit all games in which that player participated illegally. Furthermore, if it is determined that the coach knowingly played a player illegally, that coach will be barred from further participation in the tournament. F. It is mandatory to play a scheduled game. If it is determined that a coach willfully fails to have his team participate in a scheduled game, the coach will be dismissed from the tournament and the incident will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner, and will forfeit all refunds and awards. G. All conduct problems will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner. H. All Serious Incidents will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner as well as Area, Section and AYSO National Office parties.
20) MEDICAL/FIRST AID	A. There will be a First Aid station at the main tent where participants may receive ice, etc. for minor injuries. B. Field Monitors will communicate via radio to call for further assistance. C. If an injury is serious, the first aid staff or Safety Director will call 911 for emergency response. D. Directions to the nearest hospital/urgent care center will be available at the main tent.

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21) UNIFORMS/SAFETY	A. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only according to the National Rules & Regulations, and all players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (goalkeeper excepted – may have a different jersey, AYSO logo is recommended but not required). B. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card, and may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper. C. Garments may be worn under the uniform (i.e. long sleeves, etc.) during inclement weather, however the match referee will be the judge of what should be allowed or not. D. Not allowed: jewelry, hard metal or plastic clips on clothing or hair. No player will be allowed to participate with any type of cast or hard splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding are in order to participate shall deem the player ineligible and disqualify that team member from participation.
	E. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field.
22) PROTESTS	A. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons: • An ineligible player has played. • One or more registered player(s), present and in uniform, have not played the required one half of the game (except for illness or injury as recorded by the game referee). B. All protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 1 hour of the completion of the game. C. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three people selected by the Tournament Director. In all cases, the members of the Protest Committee will be unrelated to either team involved in the protest. ALL PROTEST DECISIONS ARE FINAL! D. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are not grounds for, nor subject to protest or dispute!
23) RULES INTERPRETATION	The Tournament Director retains the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules, and any possible changes to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants, and may not be disputed in any way, and will be made available at the main tent, and will be noted on whichever form it may apply to.

