



Sponsored by AYSO Section 2
Alaska, Northern California, Northern Nevada, Oregon & Washington



AYSO Section 2 Tournament Rules 2025

Last updated: 10/20/25

CATEGORY	RULES
1) JURISDICTION	A. Unless otherwise noted, the tournament will be administered by the AYSO Section 2 Tournament Staff in accordance with current IFAB Laws of the Game (LOTG) and AYSO National Rules & Regulations (NRR). B. The following rules are intended specifically for this tournament ONLY. C. The Tournament Committee (including Tournament Director, Assistant Director(s), Section Director, Field Director, Referee Director, and other designated staff) will have jurisdiction over all games played. Disputes will be resolved by the end of each soccer day. D. Referee judgment calls are NOT subject to dispute or protest. LOTG, Law 5: The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.
2) FEES	A. Entry fee must be a single check (or Divvy transfer) issued from either the representative Area's account or Region's account made out to "AYSO Section 2" (no personal checks). If paying by check, the entry fee must be sent to the Section Director – Duston Denver, 257 W Jadon Dr., Lebanon, OR 97355 and must arrive by Friday, November 28, 2025. No exceptions. Please make sure to mail in time. B. Fees are \$350 for each team attending.
3) ACCEPTANCE	A. Each Area in Section 2 will designate one team for participation in each division of the tournament. The criteria for designating a team will be determined by the Area Director. B. Each Area must specify by Friday, November 21, 2025, whether it will accept or not accept a spot in the tournament for each division. C. All regions sending teams must be in good standing and compliant at the Area, Section and National levels. This means P&P and Budget are all turned in and unpaid fees due to Area and National (2025 registration) are paid in full by November 21, 2025. D. If there are any remaining spots available in any division, the Section Director or tournament designee will perform a lottery to fill any open positions among the Areas interested in sending multiple teams. E. The primary forms of communication between the tournament and teams will be email and the Tournament website. Teams must designate a team contact who has email and internet access.
4) REFUNDS	If the tournament is canceled and cannot be rescheduled a full refund will be issued.
5) RAINOUT/ CANCELLATION	A. In the event of rain, expect to play. Fields are all-weather turf. B. If necessary, as dictated by the City of Foster City, we may have to move to a single elimination or Penalties (penalty shoot-out, formerly, kicks from the penalty mark). C. AYSO Foster City Rain Out Hotline: (650) 349-5425 – for coaches or team representative use only, please do not give out to players or parents. Field status may also be checked via the Foster City Region's website – fcayso.org field status.

6) PLAYERS / TEAMS	A. Only properly registered Fall 2025 AYSO Section 2 core (house) teams may participate. B. Player additions, deletions, or combining teams is not allowed. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of all games played. C. Regional Commissioners and Area Directors are responsible to ensure that all players meet eligibility requirements, and team rosters must be verified and approved by the Area Director. D. A roster signed by the Regional Commissioner must accompany the team to the tournament and be presented at the tournament booth prior to the team’s first game on Saturday. E. All rosters must list players in numerical order by jersey number, lowest to highest. F. Player ID cards will be required for the Section 2 Tournament. G. See Rule 11 for Medical Release guidelines. H. Division 14U will play 11 versus 11. Maximum roster size: 22 Division 12U will play 9 versus 9. Maximum roster size: 18 Division 10U will play 7 versus 7. Maximum roster size: 14 I. All players must play at least half of each game per NRR I.C. J. Violation of the half-game participation requirement or these player rules will result in forfeiture of game and possible disqualification from tournament at the discretion of the Section Director or designee.
7) COACHES	A. All coaches and assistant coaches—hereafter referred to as “coach” or “coaches”—must be listed on the Official Team Roster. Coaches that do not appear on the Official Team Roster will not be permitted on the team touchline during the games. Only two coaches are permitted on the team’s touchline. Coach ID cards will be required for the Section 2 Tournament. B. Each coach must complete the following: 1. AYSO Registered Volunteer for 2025-26 2. AYSO Safe Haven 3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) 4. CDC Concussion Training 5. Safe Sport 6. Be age-appropriate certified as a coach 7. California coaches – Fingerprinted C. Coaches must be age appropriate certified BEFORE attending their Area Tournament. Coaches will not be accepted who receive certification AFTER their Area Tournament. D. Coaches are expected to set the example for their teams in exhibiting proper AYSO behavior and Kid Zone behavior. E. Coaches and players will comply with all the rules, regulations and standards set forth in AYSO’s PDI implementation of the built-out line. F. Coaches shall implement CDC concussion training procedures in case of suspected concussions or head injuries. G. Coaches are expected to remain in their coaches’ technical area during games and only enter the field of play as requested by the referee. H. Coaches and players from both teams will be on the same side of the field. All others including parents, spectators, observers, and photographers will be on the opposite side of the field during all tournament matches.

	I. See Rule 11 for check-in times for Saturday and Sunday. J. Coaches must have their teams assembled and prepared for the Referee's pre-game check-in 15 minutes prior to each scheduled match.
8) REFEREES	A. Referees will be recruited and scheduled by the tournament staff. Teams are not responsible for providing Referees. B. Referee teams will consist of three Referees. Fourth officials will not be used except during consolation and championship matches. C. All officials must be certified as AYSO Referees, must be a currently registered 2025-26 AYSO volunteer, and have completed AYSO Safe Haven, SCA, Safe Sport, and CDC concussion training. D. Only the diagonal system of control will be used to referee the games. E. Referees must be certified at the level of AYSO Regional Referee or above. Referees will be assigned by tournament staff based on a combination of experience and certification. • Referees for 14U games are recommended to be certified at the Advanced level or above. • Referees for 12U games are recommended to be certified at the Intermediate level or above. • Asst. Referees are recommended to have the same level of certification as the Referee; however, it is not a requirement. F. Youth Referees are recommended to be at least two years older than the age group they are refereeing. G. All Referees must be in full uniform as defined by AYSO and USSF, including referee badge. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games. Referees are expected to wear their highest grade AYSO badge and only an AYSO badge at all games. H. Referees must record player send offs on the game card and must notify a Field Marshal. I. Referees must notify a Field Marshal if a player is suspected of having a concussion or head injury and must write "suspected concussion or head injury" on the game report. A player who is suspected by a parent, guardian, coach, referee, tournament official, or other AYSO volunteer of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not be permitted to play the remainder of the day. To return to play on a subsequent day, the player must be evaluated and cleared for return to play and full participation by an appropriately licensed medical professional who has received training in the evaluation and management of concussions. Such a clearance for return to play must be indicated by the medical professional's signature on the AYSO Concussion Release Form; in addition, a parent or guardian must sign the AYSO Participation Release Form. Both forms are available as a single document HERE. J. Coaches and players in the tournament will not be allowed to referee. K. Referees will uphold tournament rules, AYSO NRR, and IFAB Laws of the Game. At the discretion of the tournament staff, a Referee may be dismissed from the tournament for failing to uphold this requirement. L. All Area Referee Administrators will submit a list of championship referees to the tournament referee administrator, and they will be assigned on Saturday night for games on Sunday afternoon. Each Area will be allotted a certain number of championship slots; the number of nominees should not exceed the allotment provided. (Note: all referees nominated for championship/consolation matches will be assigned a match on Sunday afternoon.) M. No Referee communication equipment (i.e., radios) is to be used by any referee crew.

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. NO DOGS ALLOWED on fields except for service dogs. D. Adhere to field rules posted by the City of Foster City. Only water is allowed on the artificial turf fields. NO chairs, aside from team benches, or eating are allowed on artificial turf fields. Other items NOT allowed: • Metal cleats • Drinks other than water • Chewing gum • Food, nuts, sunflower seeds, other seeds • Smoking • BBQ or grills
10) FORMAT	A. This is a pool-play tournament involving eight teams per age division. A division may be increased to 9 or 10 teams if all Areas in Section 2 participate in the tournament. B. Each age division will be bracketed into two playing pools of four teams each. Each team will play a minimum of three preliminary play games within their respective pools. C. The 10U division tournament may limit the number of teams to just one team per Area and therefore may involve less than eight teams. A playing format suitable to the number of teams participating will be implemented with each team guaranteed a minimum of three games. D. The top team in each pool will advance to a championship game based on pool play standings points. E. The second-place team in each pool will advance to a third-place game based on pool play standings and points. F. Teams will be expected to complete pool play. Any team that does not complete all three games may result in the team's Area not being allowed to field a team in the particular division in the following year. (No forfeits allowed.)
11) CHECK-IN	A. Teams, including coaches and players, must check in on SATURDAY 60 minutes prior to their first scheduled game. Teams, including coaches and players, must check in on SUNDAY 60 minutes prior to their first scheduled game. For subsequent games each day, coaches and players must check in 40 minutes prior to each game. B. Failure to check in on time, with correctly signed player registration form (see D below). Players and Coaches will be checked in and hand-stamped eligible to play – daily. C. Team check-in for 12U and 14U will be performed at Sea Cloud Park. Team check-in for 10U will be at Catamaran Park. D. Coaches must always carry and be able to provide AYSO Player Registration forms with original ink signatures (Affinity Platform forms with eSignature will be accepted but must include the SECOND page) for verification by tournament officials. E. All Game Cards, using submitted roster game card report, will be provided by the Tournament Staff. F. Late-arriving players must be escorted to the check-in station by a team official. The players' Player Registration Form must be presented. Such players must be cleared by the Tournament Staff before participating in any games.

12) FIELD MARSHALS	A. There will be Tournament Field Marshals and Referee and Coach Administrators assigned to each field and they will be reporting to the Tournament Director. Field Marshals will check in teams prior to each game and present the verified game cards to the match Referees. B. Field Marshals must be a currently registered 2025-26 volunteer and have completed AYSO Safe Haven, CDC concussion and SCA training. They should be assigned as a Board Member, Coach, and/or Referee at a Region/Area/Section level. C. At the conclusion of each game, the match Referees must sign the game card to confirm the score and the winning team, then return the completed game cards to a Field Marshal. D. Field Marshals will be responsible to respond to any incidents or injuries and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff. Tournament participants shall report any concerns immediately to a Field Marshal or Referees and respectfully follow any instructions given by the Field Marshal or Referees.												
13) GAMES	A. Game durations are listed below. In addition, all games have a 5-minute half-time. <table><tr><td>Division</td><td>Pool Play</td><td>Champ & third place</td></tr><tr><td>10U:</td><td>20-minute half</td><td>25-minute half</td></tr><tr><td>12U:</td><td>25-minute half</td><td>30-minute half</td></tr><tr><td>14U:</td><td>25-minute half</td><td>35-minute half</td></tr></table> B. In each game, the home team will be the first team or top team listed on the game schedule and will be responsible for providing at least three game balls. The home team will change jerseys or don pinnies in the event of a color conflict with the visitor team. The Referee will determine whether this is necessary. C. All games must be played at the scheduled time and are expected to end on time. Games may be shortened if they start late. D. Referees shall not add time in any game. Time will not be added for substitutions or any other reasons. E. Tie-breaking procedures: ● Pool play games tied at the end of regulation play will end in a tie. ● All quarter-final (if applicable), semi-final, championship, and third-place matches tied at the end of regulation play will advance straight to Penalties. Only players who are on the field at the end of regulation play are eligible to participate in Penalties. F. FORFEITS: 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 forfeited match will be 1-0 for the remaining team (see Rule 15, Standings, for the points to be awarded). Minimum number of players to start or continue a match: ● 10U division: 5 players ● 12U division: 6 players ● 14U division: 7 players If a team cannot field the minimum number of players, the game will be abandoned, and a forfeit will be declared. G. ABANDONED GAMES—outcome of games: Games can be abandoned because of schedule, outside interference, irresponsible behavior, field or weather conditions, or similar reasons. The Tournament Committee will determine the outcome of any abandoned game and may distribute awards according to games played and points. H. ABANDONED GAMES—pool play standings: 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 Games 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 a late start. Only the Tournament Director or designee can declare	Division	Pool Play	Champ & third place	10U:	20-minute half	25-minute half	12U:	25-minute half	30-minute half	14U:	25-minute half	35-minute half
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	a game to be abandoned or not played. I. THUNDER & LIGHTNING: When thunder is heard, it is within striking distance; seek shelter immediately in an enclosed vehicle or building, and do not leave shelter just because thunder or lightning has stopped. Subject to instruction by the Tournament Committee, games will restart after no thunder has been heard for 30 minutes. J. Good sportsmanship requires a limit of a six-goal differential. K. Noisemakers and loud music are not allowed while in the vicinity of the soccer fields.
14) SUBSTITUTIONS	A. Substitutions shall be allowed approximately mid-way through each half for the 10U and 12U divisions only and will be recorded on the game cards by the Referee. B. As per NRR I.C: 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 all extra time (overtime) periods of medal-round matches will be at the beginning of the periods only. Playing time requirements do not apply during extra time periods. D. Substitution stoppages are intended only to be a time for the quick substitution of a few players and are not intended as mini-half-time periods or opportunities for coaching or any other purpose. The only players entitled to leave the field are those being substituted for and the only individuals entitled to enter the field are the new players. This process should be completed in less than one minute, as the game clock is running. E. Free substitutions for 14U division only. 1. In 14U divisions, substitutions can be made at any stoppage in play after the referee is informed by having the substitutes stand at the halfway line. 2. The player being substituted must receive the referee's permission to leave the field of play and must leave by the nearest point on the nearest boundary line unless the referee indicates a different location. The substitute only enters during a stoppage of play, at the halfway line, after the player being replaced has left the field, and after receiving a signal from the referee.
15) STANDINGS	A. Standings for pool play games will be determined on the "ten-point system" as follows: • WIN = 6 points • TIE = 3 points • LOSS = 0 points • GOAL = 1 point per goal scored up to a maximum of 3 per game, win or lose • SHUTOUT= 1 point for an earned shutout, including a 0-0 tie • Deduction = -1 point for any game exceeding a 6-goal differential • Sportsmanship: SEND OFF (red card) = 2-point deduction for each player, substitute; 3-point minimum deduction for each coach. • Irresponsible behavior by spectators or irresponsible behavior by coaches not addressed by a send off will result in a minimum 3-point deduction. B. Forfeits will be scored 6 points: a 1-0 win with no shutout points as it is not an "earned" shutout. C. Winners of ties in standings will be determined as follows: • Head-to-head competition • Least number of sportsmanship point deductions • Fewest goals allowed • Goal differential: goals scored to three per game less total goals allowed; highest differential advances • Penalties, per LOTG. This will be conducted immediately after all teams have completed group pool play D. Standings will be updated at the Tournament Scoreboard and on-line at AYSO Section 2 Tournament

16) ADVANCEMENTS	The first- and second-place teams in each pool will advance to the medal round. The first-place team of each pool will advance to the championship game and the second-place team will advance to the third-place game. The winner of Pool A will be the Home team and the winner of Pool B will be the Away team. If there is only one pool (possible in the 10U divisions), then the top two teams from the single pool will advance to the championship game and if there are at least four teams, the third and fourth teams will advance to the third-place game.
17) AWARDS	A. Medals will be presented to the first, second, third and fourth place teams in each age division. B. Medals will only be handed out by the Section or Area Staff assigned to the respective fields. C. A tournament pin will be presented to each player and key chains to each coach, available at check-in. D. Coaches from the Championship winning team are invited to take the scoreboards home. They can be retrieved from the Field Marshal. E. Winners may be invited by the Section 2 Director to participate in the 2026 AYSO Western States Championships, hosted by Section 10, held March 14-15, 2026, in Moorepark, CA. Winning teams are representing Section 2, therefore good sportsmanship during Area and Section Tournament play is also a qualifier. Poor sportsmanship by coaches, parents, or players may disqualify a team from advancing to the Western States Championships.
18) CONDUCT	A. Coaches will be expected to set a positive example for the team and will be held responsible for the actions of their team including spectators. All spectators must remain behind the spectator-control line and between the penalty areas. Two coaches maximum per team and they must remain in the marked coaches' technical area (within the radius of the field's center circle). B. At the conclusion of each match, the Referees will briefly document on the reverse of the game cards any misconduct or other irresponsible behavior by players, coaches, and spectators. In addition, Referees will be required to complete a formal game misconduct report with full details of any misconduct or other irresponsible behavior by players, coaches, and spectators. This formal report must be completed and submitted to the field marshals immediately following the game. C. Any coach who is sent off (red card) or spectator ejected must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field (must be out of sight and sound) and will be prohibited, at a minimum, from attending the next scheduled game. Any player or substitute sent off (red carded) must immediately leave the vicinity of the game (under supervision of their parent or Safe Haven-certified adult that is currently a 2025-26 registered volunteer) and may not return to the field of play during the current game, including for the post-game handshake, and is suspended, at a minimum, from participation in the next game. There will be sportsmanship point deductions for all send-offs (see Rule 15, Standings). D. Any violent conduct send-off (red card) of a player or of a coach or violent conduct by a spectator will result in that person being barred from the remainder of the tournament. E. Persons who verbally or physically abuse a referee will be barred from the remainder of the tournament. AYSO staff will conduct a full review to determine if additional actions will be taken. F. If it is determined that an ineligible player has participated in a game, the team will forfeit all games in which that player participated. Furthermore, if it is determined that the coach knowingly played an ineligible player, that coach will be barred from further participation in the tournament the following year. G. It is mandatory to play a scheduled game. If it is determined that a coach willfully fails to have his or her 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 Area Director. H. All conduct problems will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner and Area Director. I. All serious incidents will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner as well as Area, Section, and AYSO Office parties.

19) 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. If an injury is serious, the Field Marshal will have a mobile phone to call 911 for emergency response. C. Directions to the nearest hospital/urgent care center will be available at the Field Marshal tent.
20) UNIFORMS/ SAFETY	A. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only and all players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (except that the goalkeeper must wear colors that are distinguishable from the other players of both teams). NO NAMES ON JERSEYS. B. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card and a player may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper. C. Garments may be worn under the uniform (e.g., long sleeves) during inclement weather, however the match referee will be the judge of what should be allowed or not. D. Jewelry and hard casts of any kind are not allowed. Hair control devices, such as flat clips, and other adornments, such as beads, must be securely fastened to the head and must not present an increased risk to the player, teammates, or opponents. E. AYSO will allow the use of knee braces by players, providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, to eliminate the possibility of it causing injury to the other players on the field.
21) PROTESTS	A. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons: • An ineligible player has played. • One or more registered players, present and in uniform, has 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 only by the opposing coach to the Section Director within half an hour of the completion of the game. C. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three persons selected by the Section 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.
22) RULES INTERPRETATION	The Section Director retains the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants.
23) COVID-19	All participants, spectators, volunteers, and attendees must abide by ALL covid-19 protocols in place by local, state or national law/mandate.