



Workshop Descriptions

Not all workshops will be offered at all EXPOs. Please check your Section agenda. All workshops are designed to run 1 hour and 15 minutes unless otherwise noted.

Where stated “*AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an Instructor*” refers to courses with new material, updated content, SME requirements, or courses presented by partners or sponsors. The office will work with the Section Instructor to review the course and delivery.

Coaching and Player Programs

4v4 Training for 6U & 8U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 4v4 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

7v7 Training for 10U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 7v7 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

9v9 Training for 12U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 9v9 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

11v11 Strategy: Coaching the Modern Defender

No other position has changed more in recent years than that of the defender. From playing out of the back to the role of the wingback, this workshop brings the demands of defenders in the modern game to the forefront. Attendees should preferably have the Intermediate Coach Certification.

11 v 11 Tactical Formations and Systems of Play

Different tactical formations and how to use them in a match. In this session, Systems of Play are broken down into tactical areas explaining, for example, when to defensively use a flat back four versus a diamond formation, and the best tactical formation to counter with based on what system your opponent is using. This would highlight why it might be time to switch formations in the middle of the match. This session will also explain the difference between a 3-line system and a 4-band formation.

Age-Appropriate Training: Environments and Expectations

Children learn in ways that differ from adults, especially when learning involves both intellectual and physical activity. This session focuses on creating a healthy and stimulating learning and training environment to meet the needs of the children. Fun and excellence, responsibility and freedom, worth and recognition, giving and receiving are all addressed as we look at optimal environments for youth development.



Updated! Alternative Play Models – “What Makes Soccer Soccer?”

Too often, we get caught up in the limitations and structure of “traditional” soccer—rigid schedules, fixed formats, uniform deadlines, and one-size-fits-all solutions. The result? Fewer opportunities for players to actually get on the pitch. This workshop explores creative alternatives that help eliminate waitlists and open the game to more kids. From modified small-sided games and futsal to jamborees and pick-up play, discover flexible models that expand access, spark creativity, and keep the joy of soccer at the center of the experience.

New! Annual Coach Update

From updates to the National Coaching Program to valuable resources and protocols, this workshop includes updates from the AYSO coaching world, partners (and beyond). A must for all AYSO coaches.

Attacking Technically and Tactically

This session will expose any coach to the theory of possession, from the standpoint of clean first touch, receiving the ball away from pressure, and what that means. We will introduce them to the phases of play dependent on thirds of the field from goal to goal (build up from the back with using goalkeeper, moving through midfield looking for final pass through, and attacking the goal) that will help them understand how to use first touch and receiving away from pressure to attack properly.

Updated! AYSO + MOJO with white-glove onboarding

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Take your practices from routine to game-changing with MOJO. This workshop dives into how to get the most out of MOJO’s award-winning application. You’ll learn how to plan smarter using your age group animated practice plans; communicate with your families using the integrated Chat feature and keep all your AYSO soccer right in the palm of your hand.

Coach Administrator Training – CERTIFICATION

A must-attend session for Regional Coach Administrators, covering the AYSO National Coaching Program, NCACE accreditation, U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiatives, managing courses and budgets, building a coaching calendar, and fostering an environment that supports coaches and players. Experienced administrators are also invited to contribute.

Coaching Female Players

Building upon our commitment to further support women coaches and athletes, this workshop identifies fundamental differences, methodology, and approaches to coaching, supporting and developing female players in AYSO.

Competitive Programs

An overview of EXTRA, Alliance and United and how we maximize the experience for our players, volunteers and families while stepping into the “competitive cauldron” of club soccer.



Continuing Coach Education – Destination...or Journey.

Introduction to the importance of a structured mentoring program for your Region.

Effective Session Planning and Implementation

Become a better coach now! Coaches will learn how to plan and conduct a successful training session.

This includes efficient time management, what a complete training session should look like and how to develop and progress the session to fit the needs of both the individuals and the entire team.

Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

Created by United Soccer Coaches, an interactive workshop that introduces six key principles of effective youth coaching. Through discussion, first-time and novice coaches will be introduced to helpful ideas to make a training session more purposeful and enjoyable for coach and player alike. Each principle will be explained using training games that can immediately be applied at the coach's next session.

Favorite Drills I Learned in Elementary School

From tag to capture the flag, most of the drills we will ever need as coaches, derived from schoolyard games. Learn how to identify, adapt, and modify drills based on simple games to fit the needs of all teams. There's a reason these games are timeless...they are FUN!

Foundations of Futsal 1 – CERTIFICATION

Certification class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format. Learn about origins, culture, rules, coaching methodology and how to start a futsal program in your Region.

Foundations of Futsal 2 – CERTIFICATION

Part 2 of 2 Certification classes that focuses on the specific techniques and skills required to coach Futsal. The workshop will introduce training plans to help better support the development of future players and look at key areas relating to the Futsal Laws of the Game. Prerequisite: Foundations of Futsal part 1.

Get to Know Their Mindset

To really develop the player, you must get to know the person. How well do you know your players? This workshop introduces growth and fixed mindsets as well as the traits and points for discussion as they relate to players reaching their potential. Based on the research by Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck.

Goalkeeping 1 – CERTIFICATION (requires 2 ½ hours, 2 time slots)

For 10U and 12U coaches. Certification class that provides an introduction to the practical and theoretical aspects of training 10U and 12U goalkeepers. The class will cover the three principles of being a successful goalkeeper: positional play, handling, and distribution. The class will also focus on: the build-out line for 10U goalkeepers, integrating the goalkeeper into your weekly practice, and providing structure to your pre- game warm up.



New! Kickstart - the Redesigned Option for Ages 3–6

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an Instructor.

Welcome to a fresh take on early soccer development. Imagine soccer made simple, fun and meaningful for kids and parents alike. Kickstart is a brand-new, jamboree-style program designed to spark joy in 3–6-year-olds while engaging parents to join their child’s adventure. Discover how Fundamental Motor Skills, modified gameplay and Social-Emotional Learning can turn every session into a soccer adventure. Kickstart is easy to set up, simple to run and guaranteed to get kids (and parents) smiling, learning and wanting more.

Match Analysis using Principles of Play and the 5 W’s

Learn how to easily read the game and transfer your match observations into clear training objectives through functional use of the principles of play and the “5Ws.” For 12U coaches and up.

Playground Soccer 101 – Classroom Introduction

Playground Soccer, the exciting program for introducing three-year-old children and their parents to the wonderful world of AYSO. Learn about the importance of fundamental motor skill development, the integration of prop-based activities and how this program can boost your entire Region.

Playground Soccer – Field Demonstration

An EXPO favorite, the ‘live’ field demonstration of a typical AYSO Playground Soccer session. Complete with three-year-olds and their moms, dads, or grandparents. We’ll run through best practices learned, exciting new games (what do you do with that parachute?), and even introduce some new fun and exciting sessions. You’ll walk away pumped for the upcoming season!

Note: Workshop requires field space (indoor or out); at least 6-8 three-year-olds with their guardian; a Playground equipment pack and a certified Playground Program Leader.

Playground Soccer and Schoolyard Soccer Program Leader—CERTIFICATION

A certification class for AYSO Playground and Schoolyard Program Leaders. We will discuss what the AYSO Playground, and AYSO Schoolyard programs are; who should be the lead volunteer; how the programs are run; and why the programs are so important to AYSO.

Periodization 101

Insight into the game’s current “hot topic” and what it means to the AYSO coach. A summary of periodization elements dripped throughout the AYSO coaching program; insight to current global trends; and some practical applications for everyday use. For 12U coaches and up.

Play. Practice. Play. Easy as 1. 2. 3.

Gain insight into this grassroots-developed methodology designed around a player-centered approach to coaching. This training session structure supports young players to experience the game and game-like situations as much as possible and is sure to maximize fun and learning.



Social and Emotional Learning – “The Missing Link”

Want to really make a difference with your sessions? Maximize your time with your players? Create holistic playing environments and learn to teach social and emotional lessons making AYSO the most holistic youth sports program in the US. For All forward- thinking coaches who want to maximize their own development while truly enriching their players’ lives.

Social and Emotional Learning and how to close the “Gap” in Youth Soccer

Learn how Chicago Fire FC integrates Social and Emotional Learning into its soccer curriculum and helps youth learn to become their best SELF. Only 37% of American youth play team sports regularly, while youth soccer experiences a 25% drop in participation once players turn 12 years old. What can we as coaches do differently to help children stay in the game?

US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACT - CERTIFICATION for Individuals (2 hours)

Course presented by USC-MHS representative

Learn the signs and symptoms of a mental health challenge and/or crisis, how to de-escalate a situation to avoid harm to oneself or others, and what pathways are available for additional professional support. Certifications include a segment on mental health resources that can be found in your local Region.

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport - ACCELERATE CERTIFICATION for Groups (2 hours)

Course presented by USC-MHS representative

The workshop aims to support positive mental health in your team, Region, Area or Section by identifying risk and protective factors and aligning mental health policies with a validated model of a mentally healthy environment. Workshop adjusts activities, behaviors and policies to the specific needs of your community to develop an effective action plan.

US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

Course presented by US Soccer Foundation representative.

Practices for creating an inclusive team environment where every youth feels welcome and supported, within a sports-based mentoring framework designed to instill mentorship in coaching pedagogy, forming positive connections that can impact the overall health, well-being of the youth we serve.

Women Coach Recruitment and Retention – “You Can Be it if You Can See it”

From recruitment to developing and retention, this workshop aims to reenergize our commitment to encouraging and supporting women coaches at all levels of AYSO.

AYSO Development

AYSO Adult Soccer 2.0

How can hosting an Adult Soccer program benefit your Region? Learn how easy it is to give your parents and volunteers the opportunity to play soccer in a safe, fair, fun, and family-friendly environment. Currently hosting Friday friendlies? Support the youth program and formalize an insured adult program.



New! Leveraging AYSO PLAY!

AYSO PLAY! Team Members will be at each EXPO to deliver this workshop.

Come learn all about AYSO PLAY! – the AYSO program designed to bring more soccer to more kids in more communities. Hear about how we’re expanding AYSO’s footprint nationally, bringing the AYSO experience directly into schools, and how Regions are leveraging AYSO PLAY! as their winter clinic or summer camps provider. Attendees will also learn how the principles of AYSO PLAY! can be leveraged to move players off of wait lists, deepen relationships with local schools and spark program growth through alternative play models.

Updated! AYSO + SOCi: Amplify your Search, Listings and Social Media Efforts

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Online presence is one of the most important assets in creating a strong and vibrant image in the local community. Managing an entire digital footprint can be a daunting task but it’s crucial to ensuring that families looking to sign kids up for soccer can easily find you...that’s where SOCi comes in! Learn how SOCi’s marketing services can impact your program and that they are available to Regions at no additional cost.

EPIC – Everyone Plays In our Communities

New! Autism in Soccer by TACA (The Autism Community in Action)

Designed for coaches, referees and volunteers, this session offers a practical introduction to autism spectrum disorder. Learn how to recognize common traits, foster inclusion and support players with autism on and off the field. Empower your team with understanding.

Updated! EPIC Program Administrator Training (2½ hours) – CERTIFICATION

This course covers the founding principles of the EPIC program, marketing, sponsorships, volunteer recruiting/training and the care/development of players and Buddies.

New! EPIC Q&A

This workshop follows a roundtable-style format to provide an opportunity to discuss and discover best practices for setting up and administering the EPIC program at the Region level.

Updated! EPIC Volunteer Training – CERTIFICATION

This course helps coaches, referees, administrators and adult volunteers understand some of the support EPIC parents/players may need to participate in the program.

Welcome to EPIC!

Latest updates to the EPIC Program, including identity/branding, methodology and guidelines. A must for all EPIC administrators, coaches, buddies, and volunteers.



Officiating

Advanced Mechanics and Communication

The Advanced Mechanics & Communication workshop focuses on building practical skills for referees who are officiating upper level (14U-19U) matches. In this workshop, your instructors will focus on proper mechanics, non-standard mechanics that can help manage a match and/or situations, as well as multiple ways to communicate effectively throughout the match.

Advantage - When and Where?

Designed for the more experienced referee, this workshop reviews the proper use of advantage and how to signal it properly in different situations. Using scenario training, this workshop provides guidance to help the referee decide when to apply advantage based on the age and skills of the players, the location on the field, the nature of the match and other relevant factors.

New! Annual Referee Update

Attendance is essential for all AYSO volunteers in the referee program including referees, instructors, assessors, mentors, schedulers/assignors, and administrators. This workshop covers the latest changes in the Laws of the Game, review of program changes, points of emphasis for 2025/26.

Avoiding Trouble

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage younger players' games. Designed for the less experienced referee, this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know well in order to be a good referee.

Be a Great Mentor

Learn, understand, and effectively use the mentoring process. Interactive session to present, discuss and use the Elements of Mentoring which referee leaders can use to influence the referees' ability to learn, retain information and modify behavior.

Building Referee Confidence

Ever feel like you're in a bit over your head? We all do. That's part of the learning process. As an official you will be presented with a series of life lessons, disguised as game time decisions. If we learn to make better decisions, our confidence will grow - both on and off the pitch. This class will share some techniques to help build your confidence as a referee. We'll also show referee administrators and referee mentors how they can support their referees to help grow the number of volunteers and improve retention rates as referees progress through the ranks to higher levels of competition.



Establishing a Mentoring Program

The workshop is designed for Referee Administrators as well as Intermediate and above referees with at least two years of refereeing experience interested in developing and maintaining a successful mentoring program in the Region. The workshop helps the referee program administrators understand the importance of mentoring and how to set up and run a Region Mentoring Program. It also defines the attributes of a quality mentor. The workshop describes ways that Areas and Sections can enhance the Region Mentoring Programs or help when Regions lack the staff to run such a program.

Fouls and Misconduct Review for 14U Games & Above

This workshop will provide a review of Law 12; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 14U games and above to facilitate a discussion based on the video clips presented. The correct decision for each video clip presented will be provided along with tips and recommendations on how to manage fouls and misconduct.

Fouls and Misconduct Review for 12U Games & Below

Workshop will provide a review of Law 12 with an emphasis on the Direct and Indirect Free Kicks; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 12U games and below to facilitate a discussion/decision based on the video clips presented.

Free Kicks & Restarts

Restarts matter; statistics indicate that more than 60% of goals result from restarts in the attacking third of the field. This session focuses on how to manage free kicks and other restarts and provides recommended (and alternate) referee positioning. It also addresses the role of the referee team in directing restarts.

Foundations of Officiating Futsal

Introductory class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal officiating, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format.

Updated! Game Reports

This is a workshop to teach participants the components of a game report and how to prepare one. It will include an interactive exercise where every participant will complete a report with a focus on preparing correct game reports. Administrators have a consistent challenge with reports that are submitted before they are reviewed and correctly completed. 90% of referees around the world don't like to do paperwork so this workshop provides a creative, fun way to get participants to practice and learn how to develop good reports.

Introduction to Referee Communication Systems

Introducing the expectations and appropriate use of electronic communication (comms) systems to augment the standard IFAB signals; not to replace them. Discuss best practices for what and when to communicate over comms.



Newer Ideas in Referee Positioning

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage older players' games. Designed for the more experienced referee; this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know well in order to be a good referee.

Nurturing and Retaining Youth Referees

With an emphasis on the development and retention of youth referees, this workshop explores techniques for establishing and running a successful youth referee program. Intended primarily for referee administrators, this workshop explores the who, what, when, where, why and how of a youth referee program. Participants share their experiences and ideas, learning best practices that are known to make such programs effective. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area, and Region experiences in growing and retaining youth referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (Integrates round table workshop for a more effective experience).

New! Observing the Intermediate Referee Candidate

This workshop focuses on the observation process used for the Intermediate Referee certification. It discusses the observation criteria and provides practical guidance in conducting the observation. This workshop is primarily aimed at Mentors and Referee Administrators.

Officiating as a Team

Refereeing as a team begins with the pregame conference and goes on to include clear delegation and execution of duties, proper positioning by the referee and assistant referees, eye contact between officials, and signaling per the USSF Guide to Procedures. More experienced referees will learn skills to enhance their performance and communication both as the referee and as an AR. The workshop emphasizes the communication subtlety required when refereeing older players. Attendees should bring assistant referee flags.

Offside – Don't Blink, You'll Miss It!

This workshop is great for referees who believe they have a sound understanding of Law 11. Dig into criteria for becoming involved in active play to explore some of the dynamic aspects of offside. Participants will view and discuss clips from AYSO and professional matches so they can exercise their application of the criteria.

Offside Review

A review of Law 11: Offside basic components. This is a simple Law per the text content but very challenging because of the physical and mental requirements. In this session, we'll review the basic concepts; provide tips and advice to help the assistant referees and referees evaluate offside incidents; and review diagrams and video clips with simpler offside scenarios.



Pregame – Oops, What Did We Forget?

Referee teams conduct a pregame meeting before each match. But how should this differ in different situations? What if you are an established, experienced team who have worked together before? What if one (or all!) of you are relatively inexperienced? What if it's a 10U match? A 19U match? The first match of the season? A tournament final? In this workshop, we will use scenarios to explore how referees might effectively carry out their pregame interactions under these conditions, and more.

Proactive Refereeing - Reading the Game and Taking Action

This workshop focuses on techniques that help referees anticipate game-control challenges they will face when refereeing older players. Referees learn that anticipation comes from "reading the game" – that is, understanding specific keys to the players' objectives revealed in their actions and behaviors. Referees also learn techniques to adjust the balance of flow and control in response to their reading of the game, especially in high-risk situations.

Recruiting & Retaining Referees

The workshop focuses on methods and techniques for recruiting and retaining referees, an essential but challenging aspect of any soccer program. Attendees exchange ideas, effective methodologies and best practices, with an emphasis on mentoring. (Integrates the round table workshop for a more effective session).

Refereeing is Thinking

Intended for experienced referees, this workshop emphasizes the importance of avoiding "book refereeing" in older players' games. It uses scenario training to explore real game situations in which rigid application of the Laws is not the best remedy. Referees learn practical techniques and specific referee behaviors – rooted in the Spirit of the Laws, mostly unwritten – to maximize player enjoyment with flexible game management.

Refereeing with Fewer Than Three

The workshop addresses the all-too-common problem of officiating a game with fewer than three trained referees. The mechanics of the diagonal system of control (DSC) are reviewed with an emphasis on the responsibilities of the three officials. The workshop focuses on how to redistribute those responsibilities when there are fewer than three trained officials. Compromises and variations are examined to deal with the loss of field coverage. The workshop emphasizes the application of these techniques in younger division matches, but it also addresses referee positioning for older players' matches when fewer than three officials are available.

Regional Referee Administrator – CERTIFICATION

We will review the responsibilities of a Regional Referee Administrator focusing on the activities that are key to managing a Regional Referee Program. Topics include Referee: Budget, Recruitment and Retention. Resources, methods, and recommendations will be shared with the students to help you be successful in carrying out the RRA duties.



Updated! Managing Touchline Behavior

This workshop focuses on managing sideline behavior through proactive strategies, clear communication, and consistent enforcement. Participants will explore real-life scenarios, learn what to say and when to say it and discuss how to maintain a positive, respectful environment for referees, players and spectators alike.

Women's Referee and Coach Forum

Experienced women referees and coaches answer questions and lead discussions on the challenges and opportunities for women in this male-dominated arena. Attendees at this session will discuss their secrets of success by sharing questions, suggestions, and ideas for dealing with difficult situations in order to feel more comfortable on the field. All are welcome.

You Make the Call I You make the call in this workshop that presents scenarios that may occur in 12U games and below. Newer and younger division referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or not. You're the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.

You Make the Call II

You make the call in this workshop that presents difficult scenarios that may occur in older players' games. Experienced referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or apply advantage, determine how to handle gamesmanship and misconduct and more. You're the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.

Regional Administration & Operations

It is highly recommended that all required board member job certification courses be taken online prior to taking the job specific roundtables and Q&As listed below. Roundtables will be focused on sharing information, best practices, scenarios and Q & A's.

Updated! Advanced Social Media

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session

Understand the basics but want to know how to implement multi-channel and multi-platform campaign strategy? In this session, attendees will learn how to advertise on social media, strategize your content and the best platforms to use through the building of a campaign. We will also further explore how social media can play a pivotal role in your Region's branding.

New! AED Update

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

This workshop provides an update on new state legislation that requires youth sports organizations provide access to properly maintained Automated External Defibrillators, accompanied by AED/CPR trained volunteers during AYSO activities.



New! Annual Management Update

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Updates to the National Management Program including any Bylaw, Rules & Regulations, Policy and Program updates.

Auditor – CERTIFICATION

This workshop provides basic training for Fiduciaries and the Section and Area Auditor to independently ensure fiscal transparency and integrity at all levels of AYSO. Learn how to spot a “red flag” and what to do if improprieties are uncovered. Learn about AYSO’s audit procedures and about AYSO’s audit checklist. No financial background is required for this course and it’s a good way to get started.

Auditor Guided Q&A

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees, especially Area/Section Auditors, Executive Members, and Treasurers, to discuss best practices after taking the Auditor Certification Course. Do you know how to get access to the data you need for doing an audit? Do you know where to find and how to use the Auditor Checklist? Answers to these and other questions from the attendees will be discussed.

Avoiding Landmines

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an Instructor.

Presented by AYSO Office staff, this course will guide Regional Board Members through the minefield of policies, procedures, and guidelines to ensure compliance with AYSO, U.S. Soccer and state legislation, focusing on participant safety and protecting players, volunteers, the Region and the Organization. Learn about *the rules and tools* available, and when and how to effectively use them.

Updated! Best Practices for Sponsorship and Fundraising

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Sponsorships and fundraising can seem like a lot of work, but the truth is there are local businesses and community groups that would love to support what you do if only they were asked! In this session, we will discuss how you can target local sponsors for your Region, how to think about delivering value in exchange for their support, and how you can benefit from national sponsors on a local level. We will also discuss fundraising best practices and examples of how to build a campaign.

Creating an AYSO Culture of Volunteerism

At the heart of AYSO are the volunteers, who hold the Vision of providing world class youth soccer programs that enrich children’s lives, in their hearts, devoting countless hours to help run an AYSO program in their communities. This workshop will explore opportunities to encourage volunteer participation and to keep volunteers engaged in the program.

Dispute Resolution

This course is designed for board members and will cover recommended approaches for dealing with conflict and resolving difficult issues. Approaches include applying mentoring techniques to help volunteers work through challenging situations before they escalate to the point of needing Due Process.



Dispute Resolution Review

After taking the Dispute Resolution Course, this workshop allows attendees to review scenarios dealing with difficult people and common difficult situations which if left to smolder, can turn “sunny Saturdays” into “manic Mondays.” Attendees practice recognizing potentially explosive situations and how to deal with them before they flare up.

Division Coordinator – CERTIFICATION

The Division Coordinator is a vital member of the leadership team in any size Region. All the basics of the Division Coordinator position are covered including roles and responsibilities and the importance of functioning as an intermediary between the Region Board, Coaches, Referees, and parents. See how a Division Coordinator can be effective in different scenarios and learn how to have a real impact on the success of the Region.

Due Process

This workshop covers the required steps and procedures for Board Members and Disciplinary Review Panel members to follow in order to ensure participants are afforded due process when it becomes necessary to limit, suspend or remove/terminate a Non- Executive Member from their participation in AYSO. This workshop will review the importance of diligent fact finding, proper notice of violations of policy and the steps necessary to ensure participants are extended the opportunity to be heard on the issues as well as the right to appeal.

Due Process Review

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees, after taking the Due Process Course, to discuss real-life scenarios and apply the process to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a participating member (Non-Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO.

Financial Transparency

In the new world of digital banking options there are new ways to ensure Regions are being fiscally responsible and financially transparent. Attendees will learn best practices to remain transparent with the new AYSO banking tools, understand the red flags that come with digital banking, and how to stay fiscally responsible. While this course is for Regional Commissioners, Area Directors, Treasurers and Auditors, all board members are welcome. This course will not provide hands-on training of our financial management systems.

First Time EXPO Attendee Orientation

Is this your first EXPO? Do you have questions about AYSO basics? This course is designed for the new volunteer or first-time attendee to learn more about AYSO’s structure and foundation. It will also help any first-timers navigate the discipline tracks, courses, and events available to EXPO attendees.



New! Get The “RAPP” Straight

As we zigzag our way through the new Referee Abuse Prevention Policy this course will help straighten out some of the confusion and help you better understand what to do if abuse occurs. Using interactive situations, we will walk through creating a map to help direct the path of how to start from the abuse, get on top of incident reporting, go through dispute resolution, and finish it up with due process. Avoid the trap – Know the RAPP.

Guide to Better Communications

Effective communication is key to the success of a Region, fostering good will and happy participants. Communication issues cause some of the most difficult problems that Regions face. This course offers over 20 strategies for better written, electronic, verbal, and non-verbal communication, including what’s best in different situations--and how to avoid missteps. This training is important for all Regional Board members, especially Regional Commissioners, Coach and Referee Administrators, CVPAs, Safety Directors, and Registrars.

Leadership Forum with NBOD Members and Section Directors (Required)

An open session on National Updates to discuss AYSO with senior leadership.

Planning Effective Board Meetings

This session discusses the things that contribute to more effective meetings and the things that frustrate people most about ineffective meetings. Attendees will discuss ideas for having more constructive meetings and suggestions for increasing interest and attendance. The session focuses on length of time, agenda creation, who should be there, and what should be reported on a monthly basis. Take away 10 ideas to make Board Members look forward to each meeting. Recommended for SDs, ADs, RCs and Board Members at all levels.

New! Planning for a Successful Season

Help your Region plan, prioritize, organize and stay on track to meet all the requirements for providing a world class youth soccer program. The workshop will walk through the steps of creating a plan, developing a calendar (including various online tools to help automate reminders and progress tracking), improving accountability, communications, volunteer transitions, and creating an evergreen timeline for the Region.

Regional Board Member Training – CERTIFICATION

Calling all volunteers; this workshop is for you! This course provides all board members with a general understanding of their role in the administration of the Regional Board and where to find information about their specific role. Learn about AYSO’s Standard Regional Policies and Protocols and using AYSO’s Six Philosophies. Volunteers will understand the common responsibilities all volunteers share in the areas of Kid Zone, budgeting, time management, communications, and recruitment necessary to make a Region successful.



Registrar – CERTIFICATION

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that the Region registers all players and volunteers participating in the Region, including opening the proper player/volunteer registration programs in AYSO's approved registration system. Registrars are asked to provide status updates to the Regional Commissioner, Region Coach and Referee Administrators, Division Coordinators, Treasurer and all board members, and manage player wait lists so that any player that wants to play, can play as stated in AYSO's Open Registration philosophy.

Registrar Guided Q&As

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Registrar Certification Course. Did you volunteer for this job but now feel overwhelmed? Are you confused or need help getting started, or worried about what to do next? Ever wonder why AYSO does things in certain ways? The answers will come from attendees through a guided discussion. All Region Board Members will benefit from attending. Please note that issues with Sports Connect and other systems won't be addressed.

Registration Events in the Digital Age

This workshop is not just for Registrars! E-signature technology has simplified the registration process and moved it online, saving time for both the participants and the Region staff. But is there still value in having in-person, face-to-face events? What are the benefits of personal interaction with your potential volunteers and players? Come and explore the pros and cons with your fellow Registrars and other Board Members.

Safety Director – CERTIFICATION

The Safety Director plays a critical role in the risk management of the Region while helping to fulfill the promise for a safe, fair, fun, family-friendly environment or "safe haven" for kids to enjoy the game of soccer. Learn about the key responsibilities, Incident Reporting, Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, the importance of Soccer Accident Insurance and safety planning to our participants.

Safety First: Playing It Safe

This interactive workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss best practices for building a Region's Safety Plan and fulfilling the role of the Safety Director, ensuring the safety and risk management of the Region's soccer program. This is an opportunity to create the "safe, fair, fun environment" or safe haven that all AYSO participants can enjoy.

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Social and digital marketing is a vital part of promoting your Region, but how do you go about it? How do you choose the right mix? Where can you go to find assets and resources to help you? In this session, we will discuss the pros and cons of various platforms, some often-overlooked foundational best practices, and work through the important process of designing a communications plan that shines a spotlight on your program for all your community to see.



Updated! Sports Connect Website Workshop

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Region websites are set up to take volunteer & player registrations, properly display programs, display schedules, etc. But your Region's website is so much more than that – it is the digital face of your Region in your community. How do we think about creating a powerful, motivating, and useful place for parents and families shopping around for soccer for their kids? This workshop will explore the types of content you want to include, how to create it, what's great for search engine optimization and how to use the Sports Connect platform features to customize the templates to your liking. Create the Region website of your dreams! Familiarity with your Region website is useful, but technical knowledge is not necessary.

Treasurer – CERTIFICATION

Treasurers manage the accounting of Region revenue, expenses and assets according to AYSO's Finance Policy and authorized financial systems, general accounting practices, and internal controls procedures to protect AYSO's financial viability and non-profit status. The course covers the who, what, when and where of financial transparency and non-profit requirements.

Treasurer Guided Q&As

This roundtable style workshop is a guided question and answer session to provide an opportunity to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Treasurer Certification Course. This workshop allows any volunteer to give their input and share ideas and to explore best practices to ensure financial responsibility within your Region, Area, or Section Boards.

What is a Budget Really For?

Ever wondered what the budget is really for or what its purpose is? Budgeting is a useful tool to assist Regions in setting goals, ensuring expenditures are funded, preparing for emergencies, and providing transparency to the Region. This session features hands-on experience using each attendee's own Regional budget to see why a budget is an important tool. Attendees will look at each section of the budget to help determine spending habits and determine if fees are appropriate to keep the Region financially sound. Please be sure to bring a copy of your Region's budget to get the most out of this experience!

Working with Field Owners

Regions are challenged with a variety of field owners, requirements, and usage agreements. This course will help Regional Commissioners and their boards better understand the challenges they face when working with City, School, and Private owners work when it comes to using fields. Attendees will learn what to do to secure field permits, negotiate field fees, and watch for red flags that could put field use in jeopardy. Come learn how to secure your fields and protect your Region.



Safe Haven

AYSO's Safe Haven Addendum – CERTIFICATION

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Designed for Section, Area and Region board members, this workshop covers challenges in providing a “safe haven,” additional protocols for dealing with these challenges, and program updates including U.S. Soccer’s requirement for SafeSport training.

Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate – CERTIFICATION

The Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) is a required board position put in place to help protect our two vital resources: the players and volunteers. This training class leads you through an understanding of the position, AYSO’s Criminal History Background Check Policy, and volunteer screening protocols.

New! The AYSO Team - Creating Positive Sideline Behavior

Are we modeling the sideline behavior we want our players to follow?

This interactive session explores how every member of the AYSO Team—coaches, referees, parents, board members, and team parents—can help shape a sideline culture that supports players and protects the game. Through real scenarios, practical strategies, and group reflection, we’ll dig into how we can move beyond reacting and start leading with calm, consistency, and care. Because when the sideline is positive, the pitch becomes a place where kids truly thrive.

Systems

Systems Tools Workshops will be facilitated by the Section Systems Administrators. Attendees should bring a computer to the workshop in order to follow along with the class.

Updated! Systems Tools for Regional Commissioners (RCs)

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for RCs. Learn how to use the Sports Connect website to assign roles and what roles to assign volunteers. Learn how to use the Association Platform to run reports, set up your board in the security tab and the AYSOU common tasks like assigning courses to volunteers and other administrative tasks. Bring your computer so you can follow along.

Updated! Systems Tools for Coach Administrators & Division Coordinators

In this workshop, a Division Coordinator, Coach Administrator or RC will learn how to use the tools available to conduct and enter division evaluation results, to form and balance teams, assign coaches and other team volunteers, schedule their division games, print rosters and schedules for teams, and more. We will work within the Sports Connect and Association platforms.



Updated! Systems Tools for Verifying Volunteer Compliance

In this workshop, CVPAs or Executive Members will learn how to use the tools available to verify that their volunteers have completed their training requirements and cleared background checks. We'll explore a Region's Sports Connect website and the Association Platform's reports.

Updated! Systems Tools for Registrars

The Registrar or RC will learn how to set up player registration programs, wait lists, try-out programs. We'll explore a Region's Sports Connect website and the Association Platform's reports. If internet access is available bring your laptop to follow along.

Updated! Systems Tools for Treasurers/Auditors/Fiduciaries

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

The Treasurer or Executive Member will learn how to use the AYSO financial system tools including AYSO specific terminology, processes, reviews of weekly/monthly checklists, Divvy/Bill Spend and Expenses, and best practices for preventing fraud. Bring a laptop to follow along!

New! AYSO Systems On-Site Support

During EXPO hours, the AYSO Office team will be on-site to troubleshoot and resolve issues with all AYSO systems including Sports Connect, Association Platform, Background Check statuses, AYSOU, Divvy/Bill.com, QuickBooks, and Financial Services. Whether you're missing certifications, locked out of AYSOU, struggling with registration systems, or need financial systems assistance, our Member Relations and Finance teams are here to help. Bring your laptop and leave with your questions answered and problems solved.

Instruction

Facilitation and the Teaching Process

Gone are the days of reading PowerPoints to engage and educate our volunteers! As our Introduction to Instruction, Education Philosophy and Instructor Profile outline, we must use researched adult learning methodology (andragogy), interactions and interventions and facilitate learning through various experiences, contexts, and situations. This workshop introduces foundations of facilitation in the teaching process...and why it works!

Introduction to Instruction – CERTIFICATION

This essential starting point for all new instructors establishes the core principles of adult learning. The course provides a solid educational foundation, covering proven engagement techniques, facilitation strategies, and practical processes designed to enhance learner uptake and retention. Participants will gain the tools and confidence needed to create dynamic, impactful learning experiences. Must be an adult.



Coach Instructor 2022 – CERTIFICATION

4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees should be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Designed to teach Instructor candidates how to conduct training courses at the 6U, 8U, 10U & 12U levels using AYSO education philosophy and teaching methods.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Instruction 2021, 12 Coach. Must be an Adult.

Intermediate Coach Instructor 2023 – CERTIFICATION

4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Designed to prepare Intermediate Coach Instructors to teach the Intermediate Coach Course using AYSO education philosophy and teaching methods.

Prerequisites: Coach Instructor, Intermediate Coach. Must be an Adult.

Advanced Coach Instructor 2023 – CERTIFICATION

4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Designed to prepare Advanced Coach Instructors to teach the Advanced Coach Courses using AYSO education philosophy and teaching methods.

Prerequisites: Coach Instructor, Intermediate Coach Instructor, Advanced Coach. Must be an Adult.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Intermediate Course

A more detailed look into teaching the new Intermediate Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content and grading. NOT a certification class.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Advanced Course

An overview of the new Advanced Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content, and grading. This is not a certification class.

Referee Instructor - 7.5 hours

This entry-level training teaches Instructor candidates how to conduct Regional and Intermediate Referee training courses using AYSO teaching plans.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Instruction 2021, Intermediate Referee. Must be an Adult.

Advanced Referee Instructor – 6.5 hours

Training prepares Intermediate Referee Instructors to conduct Advanced Referee Courses.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Instruction 2021, Intermediate Referee Instructor and Advanced Referee. Must be an Adult.



Intermediate Referee Instructor Evaluator – 5.5 hours

This Intermediate Referee Instructor course is completed in a full face-to-face format and includes two parts: part 1 is your training and part 2 includes your 2 x practice evaluations, each of which will be evaluated by another certified Intermediate Referee Instructor Evaluator/Referee Instructor Evaluator.

Prerequisites:

Must be an adult, Intermediate Referee Instructor.

Referee Instructor Evaluator – 5.5 hours

The Referee Instructor Evaluator certification consists of one practice evaluation, which will be evaluated by another Referee Instructor Evaluator, conducted on an Advanced Referee Instructor candidate teaching a 60-minute module of the Advanced Referee Course.

Prerequisites:

Must be an adult, Advanced Referee Instructor.

Management Instructor 2022 – 4.5 hours

This training is designed to teach instructor candidates how to use AYSO directed teaching plans to teach Regional Board Member, Registrar, Safety Director, Division Coordinator.

Prerequisites:

Must be an adult, current Introduction to Instruction or previous version and the Online Introduction to Instruction precourse, Regional Board Member, Registrar, Safety Director and Division Coordinator training.

Advanced Management Instructor 2022 – 6 hours

This training is designed to prepare management instructors to use AYSO directed teaching plans to teach all management workshops including Dispute Resolution, Due Process, CVPA, Treasurer and Auditor courses. Instructors learn advanced presentation skills and techniques to address the needs of all class sizes and longer sessions.

Prerequisites:

Must be an adult, current Management Instructor; Dispute Resolution, Due Process, CVPA and Treasurer training.

EPIC Instructor – 3 hours

Training is designed to prepare any Discipline Instructor or candidate for EPIC Instructor with current Introduction to Instruction certification, to instruct the EPIC Volunteer, Administrator or Buddy courses.