



AYSO EXPO 2025

Section 7

Workshop Descriptions

Thursday, May 1, 2025

5:00pm-9:00pm

Introduction to Instruction for Coach, Referee & Management Instructors – 4 hours in-person with 1-hour pre-course online work (this course must be rostered prior to EXPO) **Bluefin 2**

Regional Commissioner Training -Full In-Person Course Part 1

AYSO offers Regional Commissioner training in a combination of delivery modes designed to provide the best learning options including standalone online modules for key "need-to-know" information, guidelines and policies, and attendee focused, facilitated discussions to create shared understanding and support.

RC Training Online Pre-Course - available on AYSOU under ONLINE COURSES/MANAGEMENT COURSES. This Pre-Course contains a review of key information and material that will be used in the Live Session. The course includes pre-work assignments for the Live Sessions which will confirm and finalize your completed RC Training certification. You may take this course at any time; however, it must be concluded prior to attending the Live Session. **Yellowtail 1**

Friday, May 2, 2025

8:30am – 12:30pm

Coach Instructor 2022 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO) **Bluefin 2**

9:00am-1:15pm

Regional Commissioner Training – Full In-Person Course Part 2

Continuation of RC Training from Thursday, May 1, 2025. **Yellowtail 2**

9:00am-5:30pm

Referee Instructor (to be continued on Sunday – Should take Intro to Instruction on 5/1) - 7.5 hours **Bluefin 1**

10:30am-1:15pm

Financial Tools for Area Directors

Open to Area Directors and other administrators: Help to keep accurate financials, banking discussion, understanding the tools available to support the AD Role. practical application and knowledge of review tools, reviewing financials and budgets. Bring Laptop/Tablet and your own internet connection to practice. (Sign up to attend the course when registering for expo to ensure adequate refreshments). **Alohilani 1 B**



Friday, May 2, 2025 (Cont.)

1:15-2:30pm

Introducing AYSO Play!

AYSO PLAY!

Come learn about AYSO's newest initiative, AYSO PLAY! designed to bring more soccer to more kids in more communities. Hear about how we're expanding AYSO's footprint nationally, learn how you can help support this initiative and how you can use the principles of AYSO PLAY! to spark growth in your player numbers while enhancing the world-class soccer training you're already providing through your program. **Yellowtail 1**

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. **Alohilani 1 A**

New! Tools for Regional Commissioners (RCs)

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 can follow along. **Alohilani 1 B**

4v4 Training for 6U & 8U

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

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 to be a good referee. **Yellowtail 2**

1:30-5:30pm

Intermediate Coach Instructor 2023 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO) **Bluefin 2**

2:45-4:00pm

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

Your online presence is one of the most important assets in ensuring your Region has a strong and vibrant image in your community. Managing your entire digital footprint can be a daunting and time-consuming task but it's crucial to making sure families looking to sign kids up for soccer can easily find you...which is where SOCi comes in! SOCi is an industry leader in local marketing services and as an AYSO Region, it is available to you at no cost. Come learn how to take advantage of this powerful and time-saving platform. **Yellowtail 1**



Friday, May 2, 2025 (Cont.)

2:45-4:00pm (cont.)

Updated! Creating an AYSO Culture of Volunteerism

At the heart of AYSO is 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 engagement.

Alohilani 1 A

New! Tools for Treasurers/Auditors/Fiduciaries

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! **Alohilani 1 B**

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. **Stingray**

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. **Yellowtail 2**

4:15-5:30pm

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. **Yellowtail 1**

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. **Alohilani 1 A**

New! Tools for Verifying Volunteer Compliance

In this workshop a CVPA 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. If internet access is available bring your laptop to follow along. **Alohilani 1 B**



Friday, May 2, 2025 (Cont.)

4:15-5:30pm (cont.)

AYSO 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, AYSO Playtime 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. **Stingray**

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. **Yellowtail 2**

Saturday, May 3, 2025

9:00am-10:15am

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. **Yellowtail 1**

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. **Alohilani 1 A**

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

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? This session is for those who've been involved in marketing and promoting your Region but who want to know how to take it to the next level with multi-channel and multi-platform marketing and communications. 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. **Alohilani 1 B**

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. **Stingray**



Saturday, May 3, 2025 (cont.)

9:00am-10:15am (cont.)

New! Why Can't We Be Friends?

This workshop explores ideas for promoting greater cooperation between coaches and referees starting with Stewards of the Game. Discuss the AYSO Team's expectations and steps for building understanding, common ground and ultimately, improved cooperation. **Yellowtail 2**

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. **Bluefin 1**

10:30am-11:45am

Tips & Tricks for Local Administrators

Uniform coordinators, Photo day coordinators, Opening/closing day ideas, Volunteer appreciation, Field painting ideas, Advertising your region. Regions come prepared 15 sec contribution (if any) to share. Sign in paper roster upon entering and facilitators will provide copies after the Expo. **Yellowtail 1**

New! Annual Management Update

Updates to the National Management Program including any Bylaw, Rules & Regulations, Policy, and Program updates. **Alohilani 1 A**

New! Tools for Division Coordinators

In this workshop, a Division Coordinator 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. Bring a laptop to follow along! **Alohilani 1 B**

New! Cedar Sinai - Kerlan-Jobe presents Female Athletes: ACL Injuries and Beyond

Injuries to young female athletes are on the rise in the U.S. The world-renowned Kerlan-Jobe Fellowship doctors, trained in orthopedic sports medicine, address some of the most common injuries to female youth soccer athletes, how to reduce them with a practical prevention plan, and the role you can play to advocate for their health and safety on the pitch. **Stingray**

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. **Bluefin 2**



Saturday, May 3, 2025 (cont.)

10:30am-11:45am (cont.)

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 2024/25. **Bluefin 1**

1:30pm-2:45pm

New! Kids in the Middle – The AYSO Team

Facilitated discussions focus on coaches, referees, and parents all working together as the AYSO Team to support what is best for the players – a safe, fair, fun environment. Participants will develop recommendations for an AYSO Team Code to establish a universal standard of behavior for all participants and in keeping with AYSO's Vision, Mission and Philosophies. **Yellowtail 1**

Regional Commissioners Roundtable

Where AYSO Regional Commissioners come together to share insights, experiences, and strategies for managing and resolving common issues. **Alohilani 1 A**

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. **Alohilani 1 B**

New! 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. **Stingray**

9v9 Training for 12U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 9v9 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities. **Bluefin 2**

New! 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.

Yellowtail 2



Saturday, May 3, 2025 (cont.)

1:30pm-2:45pm (cont.)

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. **Bluefin 1**

3:00pm-4:15pm

AYSO's Safe Haven Addendum

Designed for Section, Area and Region board members, this workshop covers important 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. The workshop facilitates discussions about common issues and concerns.

Yellowtail 1

Guide to Better Communications

Effective communication is key to the success of a Region, fostering good will and happy participants. Communication issues can create some of the biggest problems a Region can 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.

Alohilani 1 A

New! 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. **Alohilani 1 B**

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. **Stingray**

7v7 Training for 10U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 7v7 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities. **Bluefin 2**

New! 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. **Yellowtail 2**



Saturday, May 3, 2025 (cont.)

3:00pm-4:15pm (cont.)

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. **Bluefin 1**

4:30pm-5:45pm

Avoiding Landmines

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. **Yellowtail 1**

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.

Alohilani 1 A

AYSO + MOJO: The Premium Mobile App with White-Glove Onboarding

Meet MOJO – the mobile app with customized features for AYSO. It handles all your necessary team communication needs but does so much more. With MOJO, your coaches have access to AYSO session plans that they can build and customize plus scheduling and schedule change management right from the app. Parents can customize their player's profile, track progress, keep up on all team announcements and offer real-time feedback. Best of all? MOJO will do all the setup work for you at no cost. Send your team rosters, training and game schedules to MOJO and MOJO will configure it all for you so your volunteers and families can start using the tools with zero setup time! **Alohilani 1 B**

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACCELERATE CERTIFICATION (1.5 hours)

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. It tailors activities, behaviors, and policies to the specific needs of your community to develop an effective action plan. **Stingray**



Saturday, May 3, 2025 (cont.)

4:30pm-5:45pm (cont.)

Tactical Formations and Systems of Play 11 v 11

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. **Bluefin 2**

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.

Yellowtail 2

New! 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. **Bluefin 1**

Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:00am-11:45am

Referee Instructor (Results in either Regional or Intermediate Referee Instructor) – *(Continue from Friday)*

9:00am-10:15pm

Due Process

This workshop provides more detail and information for Regional Boards and Disciplinary Review Panel members when handling difficult situations with volunteers. Learn the process to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a volunteer (Non- Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO. This workshop will review the many tools available to properly deal with serious personnel problems and examine the procedures when offering the volunteer due process, the right to be heard and appeal protection. **Yellowtail 1**

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. **Alohilani 1 A**



Sunday, May 4, 2025 (cont.)

9:00am-10:15pm (cont.)

Updated! 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. **Alohilani 1 B**

New! 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! **Stingray**

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. **Bluefin 2**

Stopping Referee Abuse

Adapted with permission from presentations by Matthew Buckman, Director of Referee Development for the California-North Referee Association of USSF and National Assignor for U.S. Soccer. This workshop covers strategies and techniques for identifying and addressing abuse, what to say and when to say it, and promoting zero tolerance for referee abuse. **Bluefin 1**

10:30am-11:45am

Dispute Resolution

This course is designed for Region and Area Board Members and will cover recommended approaches for dealing with difficult people, conflict and resolving difficult issues. It will help volunteers work through challenging situations before they escalate to the point of needing Due Process. **Yellowtail 1**

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.

Alohilani 1 A



Sunday, May 4, 2025 (cont.)

10:30am-11:45am (cont.)

New! Sports Connect Website Workshop

Create the Region website parents and families dream of seeing! Attendees will explore the types of content each Region should include on their Sports Connect website, how powerful and useful their website can be, and how to use the platform features to customize pages. Attendees will receive a crash course in enhancing their bulk email templates. The volunteers that will benefit most from this workshop are those with access rights to edit their Sports Connect web pages. Bring a laptop to follow along and improve your Region website during this workshop.

Alohilani 1 B

United Soccer Coaches Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

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. **Stingray**

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. **Bluefin 2**

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.

Bluefin 1