



AYSO Section 8 EXPO 2024 Workshop Descriptions

Coaching and Player Programs

Updated! AYSO Continuing Coach Education – Destination...or Journey.

Introduction to the importance of a structured mentoring program and how to implement it in your Region.

Alternative Play Models – “Just What the Dr. Ordered?”

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Has the game become too mechanistic? Too organized? Too structured? And at the expense of the players? This session presents a foundation and suggestions for a more organic playing environment. For all volunteers who are interested in the “big picture” of youth soccer. Are we adding players? Improving their talents or genuinely improving the game in the USA? Is there an alternative? Let’s discuss!

New! Annual Coach Update

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

From updates to the National Coaching Program to valuable resources and protocols this workshop includes general 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

New! Program Overview for Kickstart Soccer: the combined Playground/Schoolyard Option

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

A programmatic overview of the newly designed program which combines Playground and Schoolyard into one easy innovative and to launch program. Includes Fundamental Motor Skill development, Game-like Activities and Social and Emotional Learning skills. Each session progresses into 3v3 games.

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.

Chicago Fire FC presents – Social and Emotional Learning and how to close the “Gap” in Youth Soccer

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? Learn how Chicago Fire FC integrates Social and Emotional Learning into its soccer curriculum and helps youth learn to become their best SELf.

New! Chicago Fire presents – Beyond the X's and O's SEL and Soccer – How to practically implement SEL into practice and games.

A practical workshop on how to effectively implement Social and Emotional Learning into soccer practices and games. This interactive session will use real life situations where presenters and attendees will discuss and collaborate on incorporating best practices on implementation.

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACT CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

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 Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

Evidence-based practices for creating an inclusive team environment where every youth feels welcome and supported. A sports-based mentoring framework designed to instill mentorship in coaching



pedagogy. A step-by-step approach to create lasting, positive connections, and to positively impact the physical, social, and emotional health of the youth we serve.

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.

Coach & Referee Roundtable

Coaches and referees are often tied into a love-hate relationship. This roundtable will allow you to discuss ways in which coaches and referees can better work together utilizing the AYSO Team model and PIE to help further good sportsmanship and player development.

EPIC – Everyone Plays In our Communities

Welcome to EPIC!

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

Marketing & Development

Updated! Advanced Social Media

Understand the basics but want to know how to implement multi-channel and multi- platform campaign strategy? In this session, we 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! Introducing 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 giving through your program.

Updated! Tips for Enhancing Your AYSO Website

You spend a lot of time and energy making sure your Region website is set up to take volunteer & player registrations, properly display your programs, show your 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.





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 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.

New! 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!

New! Microsoft Teams For Communities – Simplify Region Management & Communications

Microsoft Teams for Communities is a no-cost-to-you solution that can connect your entire Region Board and volunteer bases to engage in conversations, video calls, file and photo sharing, membership management and more. Whether you are looking to manage meetings, information flow or documents, Microsoft Teams provides a secure space with management tools that centralize operations. Put an end to searching through emails and local folders for files and notes -- come see how this powerful product can make running your Region more efficient.

Officiating

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 2023/24.

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.

How to Be a Lead Referee Instructor

This workshop shows why Lead Instructors are important in the AYSO Referee Instructor program and discusses the administrative and leadership roles that Lead Instructors play in AYSO courses and other instructional activities.

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.

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.

Recruiting & Retaining Referees directed Q & A

The workshop focuses on methods/techniques for recruiting and retaining referees, an essential but challenging aspect of our soccer program. This workshop covers proven approaches to recruiting, developing, and retaining referees across the country, and mentoring is emphasized as a retention and development technique. Attendees exchange ideas and effective methodologies and best practices in recruiting and retaining referees. Workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area and Region experiences in recruiting and retaining referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (This integrates the round table workshop to make this session more effective.)

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.

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.



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.

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.

**** NEW ** Monitored Substitution**

AYSO has approved " Monitored Substitution at 14U, this course is for AD's, RC's Coaches, and Referees, to give them the rules, guidelines, and proper procedures to properly implement Monitored Substitution in a Core Program

Regional Management & 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.

New! Annual Management Update

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

New! Auditor Guided Q&A

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Auditor Certification Course. Did 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? The answers to these and other questions will come from attendees through a guided discussion. Area/Section Auditors, Executive Members, and Treasurers will benefit from attending.

New! Avoiding Landmines

Presented by AYSO Office staff, this course will guide Regional Board Members through the minefield of policies, procedures, and guidelines, to ensure your Region is effectively compliant with AYSO and U.S. Soccer requirements, focusing on participant safety and protecting the players, volunteers, the Region, and the Organization. Learn about *the rules and tools* available, and when and how to effectively use them when reacting to incidents requiring rapid management response.



Developing a Regional Calendar

A Regional calendar is a clever and useful tool that can productively assist Regions to prioritize, stay on track, advertise, and organize events. This workshop will walk through the steps of creating and personalizing a Region calendar. These techniques address how to create a Regional calendar and cover the steps needed to plan a calendar that meets Region needs: helping with recruiting volunteers, improving communications, and creating a historical timeline of the Region. Included are various online tools to help automate processes.

Dispute Resolution

This course is designed for Region and Area Board Members and will cover recommended approaches for dealing with conflict and resolving difficult issues. It will 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.

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.

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 volunteer (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 the first timers navigate the complexity of discipline tracks, courses, and events available to all EXPO attendees.



Getting to Yes! Improving Volunteer Recruitment

Recruiting volunteers can be a challenge. In today's atmosphere of every changing reasons for volunteerism, volunteers want to make a meaningful impact within their communities. With the wide use of technology, traditional recruiting is more challenging. In this course, volunteers will review methods and develop skills that will help them be more successful in their recruitment.

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.

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.

New! Safety First: Playing It Safe!

This interactive workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss best practices for building a Region's Safety Plan to fulfill the role of the Safety Director and to ensure 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.

GROWING COACHES

Discussing ways to leverage our programs and tools at our youngest age groups to grow parents from sideline cheering into the next generation of coaches

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

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.

AYSO's Safe Haven Addendum

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. The workshop facilitates discussions about common issues and concerns.

Stewards of the Game

Learn about the role of coaches, referees, and administrators in managing a safe, fair, fun, family-friendly experience on game days. Discussion of on-field collaboration and how on-field confrontation may be managed.

Systems

Divvy/QuickBooks Directed Q&A

This workshop is for anyone working with Section/Area/Regional finances, especially treasurers, Regional Commissioners, and Auditors that need support using Divvy-Bill Spend and QuickBooks. Divvy-Bill Spend helps your regional volunteers have the ability to make purchases for the S/A/R with ease. QuickBooks is used for creating and using budgets as well as recording all transactions to make your end of year reporting to the AYSO office seamless and automatic. View the Divvy-Bill Spend and QuickBooks presentations and videos before this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This workshop will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

Sports Connect Directed Q&A

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using Sports Connect to run reports, create programs, manage orders, manage teams, update settings, and more. Please view the slides and videos for 'Getting Started with Sports Connect' prior to this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

Association Platform Directed Q&A

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using the Association Platform to manage volunteer compliance, verify birth certificates, activate teams, print medical release forms, and more. Please view the slides and videos for 'Association Platform' and 'CVPA Process' prior to this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.



AYSOU/eTrainu Directed Q&A

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using AYSOU to create courses, register for courses, take online courses, complete courses, and more. Please view the slides and videos for “AYSOU” in the AYSOU Document Library prior to this session. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

RC and CVPA How to systems Class

This workshop is for RCs and CVPAs to learn how to use Sports Connect website and Association Platform to make sure all volunteers have a cleared background checks and training requirements.

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!

Instructor Certification Courses

Introduction to Instruction – 4 hours in-person with 1-hour pre-course online work (**this course must be rostered prior to EXPO**)

Coach Instructor – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (**Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO, already be 12U certified and completed Introduction to Instruction**)

New! 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, and already be a Coach Instructor**)

Regional Referee Instructor - 7.5 hours (**Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO, already be Intermediate Referee certified, and completed Introduction to Instruction**)