



# **Area 1H Playoffs 2025-2026**

**Hosted by  
Cathedral City**

**Playoff Committee:**

**Manny Del Rio – Area Director  
Erick Bennett-Interim Area Director  
RCs for 80, 443, 588, 813, and 1200**

## Area Playoffs 10U-14U 25-26

Welcome to the 25-26 Area Playoffs. This event brings together AYSO teams from Area 1H. We hope you will have a safe and enjoyable playoff event this year.

These Guidelines have been established to set a standard for all teams to compete in these playoffs. Your understanding of these Guidelines could be the difference between an enjoyable experience and a disappointing one for you, your team, or your child. Therefore, all coaches and spectators are urged to read carefully and follow these Guidelines with a positive, sportsmanlike spirit to benefit all young people who participate in and play soccer in our respective Regions, teammates, and opponents alike.

These Guidelines do not supersede AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Policy Statements, or Area 1H Rules and Regulations, but are intended to address situations not addressed by those documents. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact us.

***No dogs or pets of any kind are allowed at the fields, and the use of tobacco or alcohol products is strictly prohibited.***

**Team Check-in:** The Coach and their entire team must report to the registration area **1 hour** before the start of your first game. Complete team rosters are established in accordance with the AYSO Area 1H Guidelines.

**Field Setup and Takedown:** Teams playing the first game on their field are responsible for field setup and takedown. Teams playing the last game of the day are responsible for field takedown and cleanup. ***Please check the schedule*** for the last game of the day. This is not just the responsibility of Cathedral City, but of all participating teams.

**Uniforms:** Every player shall wear a matching team uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts, and socks, as provided by the Region in accordance with AYSO Rules and Regulations. Casts, splints, hats, scarves, and jewelry of any kind are prohibited. Commercially manufactured shin guards of the appropriate size are mandatory and worn under the socks. Sweatshirts may be worn under the uniform jersey if they are the same color and general style as those worn by all teammates who choose to wear them; metal is allowed. In the event of conflicting colors, the home team will wear colored vests.

**Awards:** Medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place teams. The winner of each age group will continue to the Section 1 Playoffs on February 21-22, 2026, in Redlands.

**Spectators and Sideline Behavior:** Spectators will occupy the same sideline as their team and must stay at least three (3) feet back from the touchline and between the 18-yard lines marking the penalty areas. Spectators shall only make positive comments directed at their players. Spectators shall make **no** comments to the referees or the opposing team. They will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a member of an AYSO Team. **A violation of this policy will face the sternest discipline. Remember, you are in a Kids Zone.** Please clean up your sideline area and pick up trash after each game.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions will be made by quarters. All regions shall use the three-quarter play rule for all teams as per area guidelines for the area playoffs.

**Grace Period:** A minimum of 7 players shall constitute a team in Divisions 12U-14U, with five players constituting a team for Division 10U. A game will not commence or continue if one or both teams cannot field 7 or 5 eligible players. Starting from the scheduled kickoff time, the referee shall allow a grace period of 15 minutes; after that, the referee will refer the game to the Playoff Committee for disposition, up to and including declaring a forfeit.



### **Competition Format:**

Durations for pool play matches are as follows:

- 14U - Two 30-minute halves
- 12U - Two 25-minute halves
- 10U - Two 20-minute halves
- Halftime break will be 5 minutes

Durations for semi and final matches will be regulation-length games:

- 14U - Two 35-minute halves
- 12U - Two 30-minute halves
- 10U - Two 25-minute halves
- Halftime break will be 5 minutes

Two overtime periods will be played in the case of a tie at the end of regulation time. Overtime periods shall be 5 minutes each for 10U, 7 minutes each for 12U, and 9 minutes for 14U divisions. Teams will play and complete both overtime periods. There is no sudden victory during overtime play. The team with the most goals scored at the end of the second overtime period will be declared the winner.

- If a team is playing short due to ejections, it will remain short during overtime periods.
- The teams shall change the ends of the field after the end of the first overtime period. No halftime will be permitted. Coaches may substitute at the end of the first overtime period. Play will resume immediately following player substitutions.

If a tie remains at the end of regulation time and after both overtime periods, as noted above, the winner shall be determined by taking kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with current FIFA procedure.

**Cautions/Send-off:** Any player sent off for the following reasons:

1. Violent conduct and serious foul play
2. Foul and/or abusive language

Before, during, or after the match, maybe suspended for other matches, up to and including the remainder of the Championships. The Area Staff will review all red cards to determine if further discipline is necessary.

Players will be suspended from the next match for any other send-off not covered above.

**Artificial Noisemakers:** Artificial noisemaking devices, such as but not limited to air horns, cowbells, drums, megaphones, etc., shall not be allowed.

**Protest:** There will be no protesting of games, red cards, or yellow cards. Our staff will not engage in any debate or discussion with parents or coaches about how a game was refereed. Instead, Referee Feedback forms will be available at the Referee tent or from our Referee Staff. We encourage your positive feedback and comments. **AYSO Area 1H is an organization that consistently provides ongoing mentoring for all referees and coaches.**

**These Guidelines shall be applied and administered by the Playoff Committee, which shall also decide on anything not covered within these Guidelines, Section Guidelines, or National Rules & Regulations.**

AYSO Area 1H- Providing world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives.

