



Sponsored by AYSO Area 10 E

2026 Patriots Cup AYSO Invitational Tournament Rules

CATEGORY	RULE
1) JURISDICTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Unless otherwise noted, the current AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Section 10 and FIFA Laws of the game will be used for this tournament. The following rules are intended specifically for this tournament ONLY!B. The Tournament Committee (incl. Tournament Director, Assistant Director(s), Field Director, Referee Director and other designated staff) will have jurisdiction over all games played. Disputes will be resolved by the end of the soccer day.C. Referee judgment calls are NOT subject to dispute or protest!
2) FEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Entry fee must accompany tournament application and will be returned if application is not accepted. Fee must be a single check issued from the respective Region's account (no personal checks).B. Fees are: 16U - \$600; 19U - \$600C. There are no referee deposits required
3) ACCEPTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Applications are due on or before February 14th, 2026. You MUST fill out the ONLINE Team Form on the website at www.ayso10e.org.B. Applications will be accepted by the determination of the tournament committee. Consideration will be given to order of receipt, number of teams per region, team conduct in previous tournaments and other factors as necessary to field the most fun and fair divisions. Only completed applications will be accepted (see Team Application Form for criteria). Teams will be notified of acceptance no later than 48 hours after application deadline date as specified in 3 A. above.C. Teams not accepted into the tournament will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list or have the complete packet returned within 48 hours after application deadline date as specified in 3 A. above.D. The primary form of communication between the Tournament and applying teams will be via email and the Tournament website. Teams must designate a Team Contact on their application who has email and Internet access.
4) REFUNDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Teams withdrawing 30 days or more before the tournament will be issued a full refund.B. Teams withdrawing less than 30 days before the start of the tournament will only be issued a refund if a replacement team can be found.C. If the tournament is canceled and cannot be rescheduled a full refund will be issued
5) RAINOUT/ CANCELLATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. If the tournament is canceled due to weather after partially completing and it cannot be rescheduled to be completed, refunds will be made to teams on a prorated basis, based on the number of actual games played.B. If the tournament cannot be held due to weather or other conditions beyond the control of the tournament hosts, then a full refund will be sent to all teams.
6) PLAYERS/TEAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Players on participating teams must be registered to play in AYSO for the 2025 Membership year.-Coaches are responsible to ensure that all players meet eligibility requirements.B. The official Association Platform JERSEY ORDER team roster must be verified and approved by each player's Regional Commissioner. Rosters MUST be from the Association platform and be in JERSEY NUMBER ORDER. Roster changes may be submitted (with the written approval of the Regional Commissioner); however, these changes must be received by the Tournament Director on the day of the tournament before your first game.C. Up to 3 Guest Players (players from a different region from the applying team's region) will be allowed for each team. However, the Guest Player will be required to have the approval of his/her own Regional Commissioner (see Guest Player Form). Additional guest players require the approval of the Tournament Director.D. Coed teams will be accepted; however they must play in the boys divisions only. <p>Division 16U and 19U will play 11 -v- 11 and will have a limit of 20 players per team.</p>

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	<p>E. All players must play at least half of each game. Violation of these player rules exposes a team to protest and renders them subject to forfeiture of game and possible disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director.</p>
7) COACHES	<p>A. Each team is limited to one Head Coach and/or one Assistant Coach only. These coaches must be the ones listed on the Official Team Roster.</p> <p>B. Each Coach must provide his or her registration number, be a currently registered volunteer, Safe-Haven certified and trained at the age-appropriate level, Concussion training, Sudden Cardiac Arrest certified, Safesport, and Live Scanned. Proof of coach certification and training must be listed on the roster. Only Association Platform rosters will be accepted at this tournament.</p> <p>C. Coaches will be expected to set the example for proper conduct, exhibiting AYSO TEAM behavior and Kid Zone philosophy.</p> <p>D. Coaches are expected to remain in the technical area during games and only enter the field of play as requested by the referee.</p> <p>E. Teams are expected to play all matches. Forfeiture of matches during pool play will at the election of the tournament committee subject the team to dismissal from further participation in the tournament including but not limited to any and all playoff or finals matches.</p> <p>F. All games scheduled or played games against a team that forfeits will be scored as a forfeit.</p>
8) REFEREES	<p>A. Referees will be on an invitation only basis. We need all teams to provide AT LEAST 2 qualified referees for their application to be considered completed.</p> <p>B. All referees must be AYSO and Safe-Haven Certified and currently registered volunteers as well as Concussion trained, SCA, Safe Sport and Live Scanned cleared.</p> <p>C. Only the diagonal system of control will be used to referee the games.</p> <p>D. Referees for 19U games should be Advanced level or above. Referees for 16U games should be Advanced level or above.</p> <p>E. Coaches and players in the tournament will be used as referees at the discretion of the Tournament Referee Administrator.</p> <p>F. Referees will be expected to uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any willful failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament. Referees are expected to referee in full uniform.</p>
9) FIELDS	<p>A. All fields will be set up and taken down by the tournament staff.</p> <p>B. Trash cans will be provided at each field. Teams will be expected to clean up all trash in their area before leaving.</p> <p>C. Please observe any and all posted Facility Use Rules while attending the tournament.</p> <p>D. Only service dogs will be allowed at the fields. NO OTHER ANIMALS ALLOWED.</p>
10) FORMAT	<p>A. This is a pool-play tournament.</p> <p>B. Each age division will be bracketed into playing pools. Each team will play a minimum of 3 preliminary play games within their respective pools.</p> <p>C. Teams will advance to championship rounds from qualifying pools based on pool play standings points. The number of teams advancing per pool will be determined by the number of pools in the division. Details will be posted on the website right before the tournament.</p>
11) CHECK-IN	<p>A. Coaches only- (no players) must check in on the first day of the tournament at least 45 minutes prior to their first game, and must present four (4) game cards. Game Cards must be properly completed with the players' listed last name-first name in uniform number order. The players listed on the game cards must match the official approved roster submitted with the team's application.</p> <p>B. Each coach or team representative must provide AYSO Player Registration forms with original ink signatures or e signatures for verification by tournament officials. NO ID cards needed.</p> <p>C. Coach must have these Player Registration forms with them at all times and ready for presentation to Tournament Officials.</p> <p>D. Late arriving players must be escorted to the check-in station by a team official along with their Player Registration Form and be cleared by the Tournament Staff before participating in any games.</p>
12) FIELD MONITORS	<p>A. Each HOME TEAM will designate a parent to be a Field Monitor assigned to that field. The parent will wear an orange vest and use a walkie talkie to notify medics and/or tournament staff. Field Monitors will pass the walkie-talkie and vest to the next team on that field on the HOME side.</p>

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	<p>B. At the conclusion of the game, the match referees must return the completed game cards to the Referee Tent.</p> <p>C. Field Monitors will be the first to respond to any incidents or injuries, and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff by radio. Tournament participants are encouraged to report any concerns immediately to the Field Monitor, and also to respectfully follow any instructions given by the Field Monitor.</p>														
13) GAMES	<p>A. Pool play games will consist of 2 halves with a five minute half time. There will be a running clock during the match including substitutions. There will be no time added on for injuries or time wasted in qualifying rounds. Games will expect to end on time, and may be shortened if they started late. Pool play games may end in a tie.</p> <p>B. Championship games will consist of 2 halves with times listed below. Championship games will be played until there is a winner (see Championship Round rules below).</p> <p>C. Game duration shall be as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Pool Play</th> <th>Final Rounds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16U:</td> <td>40 minute half</td> <td>40 minute half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19U:</td> <td>45 minute half</td> <td>45 minute half</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The “home” team will be the first team or top team listed on the game schedule and will be responsible for providing the game ball. The home team will be situated on the North or East side of the field, and the visitor will be situated on the South or West side. Spectators must remain on the side of the field designated for their team. The home team will change jerseys or don pinnies in the event of a color conflict with the visitor team. If there are any questions, the referee will determine whether this is necessary.</p> <p>D. FORFEITS: Teams must be ready to play at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each match. There will be a five-minute grace period before a forfeit is declared. The score for a forfeit match will be 1-0 for the remaining team (See STANDINGS for the points to be awarded) For 16U and 19U there must be a minimum of 7 players to continue a game. If a team cannot field the minimum number of players, the game will be abandoned and a forfeit will be declared. See further sanctions with regards to Forfeits in item 7E and 7F above.</p> <p>E. SUSPENDED GAMES: The Tournament Committee may determine to end matches early if field schedule is behind due to game delays, interference, or if weather conditions provide unsafe conditions; and may distribute awards according to games played and points. The Tournament Committee will determine the outcome of any single game which is terminated prematurely (due to inclement weather, participant injury, or interference by outside party, etc.).</p> <p>F. ABANDONED GAMES: if any pool play games cannot be played due to circumstances beyond the control of the tournament, the final standings of the pool will be determined by applying the Winning Percentage formula (Total Points Earned in all Games Played divided by Total Points Possible for the Number of Games Played) to each team in the pool.</p>	Division	Pool Play	Final Rounds	16U:	40 minute half	40 minute half	19U:	45 minute half	45 minute half					
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14) SUBSTITUTIONS	<p>A. Substitutions shall be allowed approximately mid way through each half for ALL divisions, and will be recorded on the game cards by the referee. We do not have “free substitutions” in this tournament.</p> <p>B. All substitutions must be approved and recognized by the referee. Substitutions may be made for injured players; however, they may not return until the beginning of the next quarter and will be considered as having played the current quarter (exception: an injured player not replaced may return to play at any time with the referee’s permission).</p> <p>C. All players must play at least one half of the game, unless injured or absent, per National AYSO rules.</p>														
15) STANDINGS	<p>A. Standings for pool play games will be determined on the “ten-point system” as follows:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>WIN</td> <td>= 6 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TIE</td> <td>= 3 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LOSS</td> <td>= 0 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GOAL</td> <td>= 1 point (one point per goal scored up to a maximum of 3 per game, win, lose or draw)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHUTOUT</td> <td>= 1 point (for an <u>earned</u> shutout, including a 0-0 tie)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FORFEIT</td> <td>= 7 points (scored as a 1-0 win, no shutout points as it is not an “earned” shutout). If a team forfeits a game during pool play, then all games played against that team will be scored as a forfeit.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RED CARD</td> <td>= 2 point deduction (includes 2 points for each player, substitute, or coach or parent)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>B. Winners of ties in standings will be determined as follows:</p> <p>Head to head competition Fewest goals allowed – (Max 5 per game and excluding forfeit) Most shutouts (excluding forfeits) Goal differential (Max 5 per game) Least Red Cards (Ejections or send offs) Least Yellow Cards</p> <p>As determined by Tournament Director-Consideration will be given to sporting behavior of players, coaches and spectators, warnings to coaches and spectators and overall behavior of the teams participating.</p>	WIN	= 6 points	TIE	= 3 points	LOSS	= 0 points	GOAL	= 1 point (one point per goal scored up to a maximum of 3 per game, win, lose or draw)	SHUTOUT	= 1 point (for an <u>earned</u> shutout, including a 0-0 tie)	FORFEIT	= 7 points (scored as a 1-0 win, no shutout points as it is not an “earned” shutout). If a team forfeits a game during pool play, then all games played against that team will be scored as a forfeit.	RED CARD	= 2 point deduction (includes 2 points for each player, substitute, or coach or parent)
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	C. Standings will be updated at the Tournament Scoreboard and the tournament website. The deadline to challenge the posted results will be at the conclusion of Pool Play.
16) ADVANCEMENTS	A. Teams advancing to Championship rounds and will play for 1 st or 2 nd place medals B. Teams will play championship final matches (Collectively Called Championship Rounds) depending on the format of play for that flight and where each team finishes in that pool.
17) CHAMPIONSHIPS	A. All Championship round matches ending in a tie are decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA Laws and regulations.
18) AWARDS	A. Medals will be presented to coaches and for first and second place in each flight or division. B. A tournament pin, and/or other promotional items will also be presented to all teams commemorating their participation in the tournament.
19) CONDUCT	A. Coaches will be expected to set a positive example for the team and will be held responsible for the actions of their team including spectators. All spectators must remain behind the control line and between the 18-yard lines. Two coaches maximum per team, and they must remain in the marked coaching area (within ten yards either way from midfield). B. Referees will be required to complete a game misconduct report for <u>all</u> misconducts during the game, as well as any incidents of interference by spectators. C. Any coach or spectator ejected must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field and will be prohibited from attending the next scheduled game. Any player sent off (red carded) must immediately leave the vicinity of the game (under supervision of a parent or Safe Haven-certified adult), and may not return to the field of play during the current game, including for the post-game handshake, and may not be substituted for, and is suspended from participation in the next game. There will be penalty points deductions for all send-offs (see Standings rules). D. Any violent conduct, red card or ejection will result in that player/coach/spectator being barred from the remainder of the tournament. E. If it is determined that an ineligible player has participated in a game, the team will forfeit all games in which that player participated illegally. Furthermore, if it is determined that the coach knowingly played a player illegally, that coach will be barred from further participation in the tournament. F. It is mandatory to play a scheduled game. If it is determined that a coach willfully fails to have his team participate in a scheduled game, the coach will be dismissed from the tournament and the incident will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner. G. All conduct problems will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner. H. All Serious Incidents will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner as well as Area, Section and AYSO National Office parties.
20) MEDICAL/FIRST AID	A. There will be a First Aid station at the main tent where participants may receive ice, etc. for minor injuries. B. There will be a roving first aid response staff member to respond to injuries on the field. Field Monitors will communicate via radio to call the first aid staffer to the field where first aid is requested. C. If an injury is serious, the first aid staffer or Safety Director will have a mobile phone to call 911 for emergency response.
21) UNIFORMS/SAFETY	A. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only, and all players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (except goalkeeper). B. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently-affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card, and may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper. C. Garments may be worn under the uniform, however the match referee will be the judge of what should be allowed or not. D. Not allowed: Jewelry, hard metal or plastic clips on clothing or hair. No player will be allowed to play with any type of cast or splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area in order to participate shall disqualify that team member from participation. E. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field.
22) PROTESTS	A. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An ineligible player has played.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more registered player(s), present and in uniform, have not played the required one half of the game (except for illness or injury as recorded by the game referee). B. All protests must be presented in writing to the Director within 1/2 hour of the completion of the game. C. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three persons selected by the Director. In all cases, the members of the Protest Committee will be unrelated to either team involved in the protest. ALL PROTEST DECISIONS ARE FINAL! D. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are not grounds for or subject to protest or dispute!
23) RULES INTERPRETATION	The Directors retain the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants.