

Gettysburg AYSO FAQ

Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

GA1. What does AYSO stand for?

American Youth Soccer Organization. Founded in California in 1964. Based upon six basic principles: Everyone plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Good Sportsmanship, Player Development and Positive Coaching. Today there are over 650,000 players and 50,000 teams nationally.

GA2. What does Region 194 mean?

Our region consists of Gettysburg and surrounding communities. 194 is the number assigned to us when we were first organized back in 1978. Our region number identifies us from all of the other regions nationally.

GA3. Do I have to volunteer?

AYSO is an all-volunteer organization. Volunteering in some way, big or small, will only enhance the positive experience your child can have. If we do not have sufficient volunteer help to support the children who want to play, we will be forced to reduce the number of teams or age groups. This will lead to some children not being able to participate. So please help us to allow all children to play and volunteer where you are able.

GA4. How can I help?

We have numerous opportunities for volunteers. To mention a few – coaches, referees, administration positions, registration help, field setup, field lining, Saturday morning setup or close down. Any help would be appreciated. Login to your Sports Connect account and register for the volunteer position. Or, you may contact a board member or email us at GettysburgAYSO@yahoo.com.

GA5. What is our website address?

GettysburgAYSO.com

GA6. Where is Gettysburg AYSO office?

Our office is located in Gettysburg. It is mainly used as a drop off point and rarely is anyone in the office. The green door facing the street is open 24/7. Inside the door is a second door with a mail slot at the bottom to drop off envelopes. Please be sure the envelope has “Gettysburg AYSO” written on it (there are other organizations in the building).

Our mailing street address is:

Gettysburg AYSO
395 Buford Ave.
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Player Registration

PR1. How do I Register my child to play in AYSO?

NOTE that all registering is online. All forms are eSigned.

Go to our website, select Player Registration tab for registration information.

You click on the “Register Now” button on the upper right corner.

If new to the organization, first create your new Sports Connect login account. Then enter your child’s required information to register him/her.

If a new player to our organization, you will also need a copy of their birth certificate to submit at James Gettys Elementary in-person Registration either on Friday May 12 4:30-6:30pm or Saturday May 13, 9am to 11am.

PR2. When is our in-person Registration?

NOTE - every player is required to be registered online.

In-person registration is on Friday May 12, 4:30pm-6:30pm and Saturday May 13, 9am-11am. Rain or Shine. It is held at the James Gettys Elementary School outside the building at the main entrance.

PR3. Can I only do the online online Registration and not come to the in-person Registration?

Only returning players that are paying by credit card, are not required to come to in-person Registration.

Returning players paying by cash, check or requesting scholarship, still need to attend in-person Registration to make payment.

All NEW players need to attend in-person Registration, regardless how you are paying.

New players need to submit a copy of their birth certificate at Registration.

Parents should confirm their child’s shirt size after seeing sample shirts.

Any submittals after May 13 are considered to be late and will need to pay \$30 late fee.

PR4. What is a Completed Registration?

A completed registration is when you have completed the Online registration, payment has been made (except for those were approved for scholarship) and for new players, a copy of birth certificate was submitted.

PR5. What are the COVID Release Waiver and the AYSO/CDC Concussion forms?

The **COVID Release Waiver** is a form that parents need to eSign when registering a child. The form is listed on our website for review prior to registering under the COVID tab.

The **CDC Concussion** is a form that parents need to eSign when registering a child. CDC stands for Centers for Disease Control. Pennsylvania and numerous other states now have it as a requirement. The purpose of the CDC form is to educate both the player and parent about signs/symptoms of a possible concussion and its potential risks to the player. For additional info go to www.cdc.gov/Concussion.

PR6. Not used.

PR7. What is Late Registration?

Any registration completed after May 13, 2023 at 12:00pm are considered Late Registrations.

PR8. How do I submit a Late Registration?

All Late Registrations will need to be registered online and a copy of their birth certificate mailed to our office at the following address:

Gettysburg AYSO Late Registration
395 Buford Avenue
Gettysburg, PA 17325

For additional information check our website.

PR9. When is the deadline to Late register?

We encourage players to register as soon as possible, in case teams fill up and there is not room to add more players later on.

For the year (both Fall 2023/Spring 2024 seasons), the cutoff date is July 23.

For ONLY the Spring 2024 season, the cutoff date is TBA.

No registrations will be accepted for the upcoming season after the cutoff date.

PR10. When is a child eligible to play?

A child can play in the Fall 2023 and/or Spring 2024 seasons if their birth year is 2009 to 2019.

A child with a birth year of 2020 needs to wait until Fall 2024 and/or Spring 2025.

PR11. Is Gettysburg AYSO only for Gettysburg residents?

No.

Gettysburg AYSO is open to anyone in the area and is not limited to a specific location or town.

PR12. Who can register the child?

A parent or legal guardian of the child needs to register the child online and e-sign the player registration from.

PR13. What is the registration fee for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024?

******NOTE******

We strongly encourage/prefer CREDIT CARD payment to be done online.

Making a payment by check or cash requires some intervention by our Region at Registration that will delay your processing time that day.

The fee is dependent on when the registration is both, completed and received.

\$75 - By May 13 (11am) for both the Fall 2023 / Spring 2024 seasons.

\$105 – After May 13 (noon) and by July 23, for both the Fall 2023 / Spring 2024 seasons.

This includes an additional \$30 late fee for Fall season.

(EXCEPTION - Players new to the area from May 13 to July 23 the fee remains at \$75. A note needs to be included indicating when you moved into the area),

\$75 – After October 1 and by TBA, for ONLY Spring 2024 season.

Plus, any credit card transaction will have a **\$2.75** service fee.

Only one service fee is applied if registering more than one player on the same credit card transaction.

PR14. What is the registration fee if the child only plays one season instead of both Fall and Spring?

The registration fee is the same regardless if the child plays only one or both Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 seasons.

PR15. What does the registration fee cover?

The registration fee pays for a pair of socks and a T-shirt for the player. Additionally, it covers the national fee and region expenses such as field maintenance, goals, equipment, paint for the fields and other administrative costs.

PR16. What is the refund policy?

Part of the Registration fee (\$20) is non-refundable by the National organization after you pre-registered your child online. The credit card service fee is non-refundable either.

To receive a refund for the remaining fee (\$55), a parent needs to formally request it via email or letter to the organization. The request needs to be received BEFORE the July 23, 2023 refund deadline. Uniforms are ordered at this time.

PR17. Can I get a fee discount for more than one child?

We do not give volume discounts to families. Our fees are based on a per player basis.

If unable to pay the full fee at time of registering, please see next two items.

PR18. If I am unable to pay the full fee at Registration, can I pay some now and some later?

Yes.

If you are only able to pay part of the fee at Registration, please see the Registrar at Registration for a payment plan.

PR19. Are scholarships available and how do we apply for one?

Yes, we have both partial and full scholarships.

Gettysburg AYSO does NOT want money to be the reason for a child not playing soccer.

Scholarships are available for families in financial need. Scholarships should be requested by the parents at the time of registration. To verify your financial need to get scholarship consideration, we ask to see (not keep) your previous year's tax returns. Please ask to see one of our board members at our Registration with this information.

PR20. Does a child have to play in both the Fall and Spring seasons?

No.

Most children will play both seasons, but there is no requirement to do so. If you know at Registration that your child will only be playing in one season, please let us know at that time.

PR21. Can I request my child to be on the same team as another player (not a sibling)?

No.

Gettysburg AYSO will not honor same team requests except for extraordinary circumstances approved by the board. This has been our policy for some time. By allowing player requests would get out of control with most players making requests. Further, it does not follow part of National AYSO's philosophy which is to have balanced teams.

If you want players placed on the same team, we suggest that their parents volunteer to coach a team together.

PR22. Will siblings be placed on the same team?

Yes – only for siblings that will be playing in the same gender/division.

Please note, that their parent information needs to be exactly the same for the system to recognize siblings.

Siblings that will be playing in the same gender/division will automatically be placed on the same team within that division. However, a parent may request that they not be on the same team if they so desire. This request needs to be done when registering the children.

PR23. Why can't I be guaranteed the same coach as last season?

First of all, one of AYSO's philosophies is to provide balanced teams. A team that has played together before and has had the same coach would begin with an unfair advantage and therefore not be balanced.

Secondly, changing coaches and players is not a bad thing. New friends can be made and more positive experiences can be had.

Third, your coach may not be in the same division this year as your child. Either your child has moved up or the coach's child may have moved up and your child remained in the same age division.

PR24. What if I cannot make it to Fall Registration?

Parents of NEW players that are unable to be at Registration on May 12 or May 13 should send an email to “gettysburgayso@yahoo.com” explaining their situation. This needs to be done ASAP, but not later than May 13. After May 13 it becomes a Late Registration and the Fall season late fee of \$30 is added.

PR25. What if my NEW player does not make it to the Fall Registration on May 13 or May 14?

Parents who do not make it to the Fall Registration can go to our website at **GettysburgAYSO.com** after May 13 and select **Player Registration** for instructions on how to Late Register. Late registrants are still required to do online registering, just like timely registrants. When online registering is done, to complete the registration you need to send to our office (at Gettysburg AYSO, 395 Buford Ave, Gettysburg, PA) the following:

- Check payment, if fee was not paid online with a credit card, made out to “Gettysburg AYSO”
- New players - a copy of their birth certificate.

If all is in order, the date of receipt by Gettysburg AYSO is when a registration is considered complete.

PR26. What if I just moved into the area after the Fall Registration date?

Players new to the area AFTER the May 13 Fall Registration should follow the instructions on the previous question PR25.

There is one exception for players new to the area, the registration fee will be \$75 and does not go up after May 13. Please include a note stating when you moved into the area.

PR27. If the child played in the Fall season, do they need to register again for the following Spring season?

No.

Any player that was registered and played in the Fall season, is automatically registered for the following Spring season. The Fall teams will remain the same for the Spring season except for new players or dropped off players.

Uniforms

U1. Who determines what size uniform my child will get?

You the parent make this determination when registering online. You will select the shirt size.

REMINDER - child will be using the same shirt for Spring 2024 season, about a year.

Shirt is worn on top of other clothing in cooler weather.

Shirt is 100% polyester moisture-wicking material (not cotton) and does not shrink.

Plan ahead for child's growth over the year.

SIZE	Length (in.)	Width (in.)	Sleeve Length (in.)	Chest (in.)
XS (youth eXtra Small)	21	15	13.375	-
YS (Youth Small)	22.5	16	14.25	26-27
YM (Youth Medium)	23.5	17	15	28-30
YL (Youth Large)	24.75	18	15.75	31-32
AS (Adult Small)	28	20	18.5	35-38
AM (Adult Medium)	29	21.5	19.375	39-41
AL (Adult Large)	30	23	20.25	42-45
XL (adult eXtra Large)	31	24.5	21.125	46-49

U2. What if I need to change the shirt size after registering and before the season starts?

Please send us an email of your requested change ASAP. If we are able to change what is ordered, we will do so. If not, you may have to wait until next season to get a different shirt size.

You the parent make this determination when registering online. You will select the shirt

U3. When does the player receive a uniform?

Players will receive their uniforms at the Parent Meeting held the Saturday August 26.

At this meeting the parents will be given an overview of the program, get to meet their child's coaches and other players on the team. Uniforms (shirt and socks) are handed out at this time.

U4. What should I do if I cannot be at the Parent Meeting?

If you are unable to be at the Parent Meeting, let the coach know when he/she contacts you to provide their team information. The coach will keep the players' uniform and give it to you at the first practice or game.

U5. What else do I need to buy?

To be ready for practice and for the games, you will need to have shoes either soccer or tennis shoes (baseball and football cleats are NOT allowed), shin guards, practice socks, an appropriate size ball (per your division), and a water bottle.

U6. What does the child need to wear to play soccer?

For practices and games, players need to always wear shin guards. Shin guards need to be always covered by the socks or pants.

For games, the player needs to wear his team shirt and socks. The shirt is worn on top of any other clothing the player is wearing. Any color of shorts or pants are allowed to be worn. Some parents prefer to have black pants or shorts, since it goes with most of the color shirts and a child's team color usually changes from year to year.

Any type of soccer shoes, turf shoes, running shoes, gym shoes or sneakers (with or without cleats) is fine for the footwear. No metal is allowed. No baseball or football cleats are allowed, these cleats are the ones that have a single cleat at the front of the shoes.

Players shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any game with any type of cast or splint. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to either themselves or other players.

U7. What about jewelry?

No jewelry can be worn during games or practices, no exceptions. So please be aware if you are having ear piercing. This is a safety hazard and cannot be covered up by tape. Parents please remove the jewelry for the coaches.

U8. I misplaced, lost or cannot find my child's uniform?

Send us an email with the player's name, team color, age group and size at gettysburgayso@yahoo.com.

We keep very few sizes and colors of socks or shirts on hand. If we do have them on hand, an additional shirt or a pair of socks are sold for \$10 each. If we are contacted prior to ordering the uniforms for new players in the Spring, we can include your request for a shirt or socks in that order.

Most likely we will not have the color and size of a shirt or socks you may need. The socks are sold at some sporting goods stores and suggest calling the stores first, before driving there. Also we can special order them, but it may take 1-2 weeks and includes an additional shipping fee of about \$15.

While we do prefer players to have their shirts and socks match their team, it is still a recreational organization and we want the children to play. So, if a child does not have a shirt or socks for a game that day, they may still play as long as their shin guards are covered by pants/socks. Shirt may be any color, except the color of the other team.

U9. Can we put our child's name on their uniform?

No, AYSO has asked that no identifying marks/logos be put on the jersey that is provided to each child.

Teams and Divisions

TD1. What determines which division my child will play in?

The child's birth year determines which division they will be eligible to play in.

TD2. What does "U" after a division age mean, (ex: 10U, 5U)?

The "U" stands for "under" or "less than" the age on December 31 of the same year that the Spring season will be (not the Fall season).

As an example, for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 seasons, the 8U means a player is 8 or under 8 years old on December 31, 2024. Or another way to look at it is the child's year of birth would be 2016 and younger.

However, our annual Registration is for the soccer year that begins on August 1 and ends July 31. National AYSO calls the soccer year MY2023 for August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

TD3. What age groups are in Gettysburg's AYSO?

We will have 5U, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 15U. However, based on registration numbers, we may have to alter these groupings.

TD4. What division is my child in and what size ball does he or she need?

Division	Child's Birth Year	Ball Size
5U	2019	3
6U	2018	3
8U	2017 and 2016	3
10U	2015 and 2014	4
12U	2013 and 2012	4
14U	2011 and 2010	5
15U	2009	5

TD5. Are the teams coed or by gender?

The 5U and 6U divisions are coed teams.

The 8U and 10U divisions are by gender, boys and girls teams.

The 12U and 14U/15U divisions may be either coed or by gender. The number of registrations determines if they are coed or gender teams. Typically, when registering the older 14U/15U players will be wait listed until the organization can determine how many players are interested and what is available for Area play.

TD6. Are the Spring teams the same as the Fall teams?

Yes. The Fall team players and coaches remain the same for the Spring season. The new Spring players are added to the existing Fall teams where there is room.

TD7. What are Area teams?

AYSO Area teams play other AYSO regions, like Littlestown, Upper Adams, Greencastle, Hanover, Chambersburg, Shippensburg, etc. Area teams will have both home and away games.

TD8. What Gettysburg AYSO teams are Area teams?

Due to the low number of players in the 14U/15U division, we have less teams which requires us to play other Area teams.

Typically, the Gettysburg AYSO 12U division does play inhouse like the younger age divisions. However, this mostly depends on how many players are registered for the Fall season. If numbers are low, the 12U division may be forced to play as an Area team(s).

TD9. Can my child play in a younger age division?

No.

Our National AYSO guidelines prohibit older age players from playing in a younger age division.

TD10. Can my child play in an older age division?

In most cases we do not move younger players into older age groups. There are only two reasons that the organization will move younger players up to an older division.

1. When a player's Fall school grade is NOT in their age division, we give the parent the option of moving the child up to be with those classmates.

Please understand that with the age determination being on the calendar year now, the following grades will be in two divisions – Pre-K, K, 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Here is a list of typical school grades in each division:

5U – Pre-K

6U – Pre-K and K

8U – K, 1 and 2

10U – 2, 3 and 4

12U – 4, 5 and 6

14U – 6, 7 and 8

16U – 8, 9 and 10

To move up a division due to school grade, the school grade cannot be in their age determined division. As an example the player's age determines they will be 8U, they can only move up if going into 3rd grade.

It is the parent's decision. If the parent requests to move the child up, it means they understand that the child will be playing with older players and the risks involved with doing so.

2. When a player is highly skilled for his current age division, the board will evaluate their skills during games and make a decision to move a child up. However, this is only done with the approval the parent. Please note, that it is very rare that this will happen, since it is understood that within any division there will always be varying skill levels.

TD11. When will I find out what team my child is on?

After registration is completed we start working on forming the teams and determining coaches. By about the second or third week in August we have a coaches meeting. Coaches start contacting players after that meeting. It is up to each coach to contact all the players and their parents on their team. Due to the coach's schedule, vacation, etc., you may hear from the coach as late as end of August.

10U and younger practices start the week prior to Labor Day holiday in September. Be sure to register your child with a valid phone number and email address for coaches to contact you. If you do not hear from a coach or the organization by August 24, please send an email to gettysburgayso@yahoo.com.

Practices and Games

PG1. When is the Fall season?

The Fall season kicks off with the Parent Meeting on the Saturday morning August 26. There are 7 scheduled game dates.

Practices start the week of August 28. Games start the week after Labor Day. The original schedule has two make-up dates to be used if needed, the first is on Columbus Day weekend and the second one on the weekend after the seventh originally scheduled game date.

Make-up dates are used for canceled game dates – see PG15 below.

The season typically ends on either the last week in October or the first week in November depending if the second make-up date is needed.

PG2. When is the Spring season?

The Spring season starts around the first or second week in April. There are 7 scheduled game dates.

Practices and games start two weeks prior to the first scheduled games.

The original game schedule has two make-up dates to be used if needed.

The first make-up date is on Spring Break (Easter) weekend.

The second make-up date is on the weekend after the seventh originally scheduled game date. Unless it is Memorial Day weekend in which it would be the next weekend.

Make-up dates are used for canceled game dates – see PG15 below.

No games are scheduled on Memorial Day weekend.

The season usually ends on either the first or second week in June depending if the second make-up date is needed.

PG3. Where are practices and games held?

Games and practices are held at James Gettys Elementary School fields. Sometimes the older (13U, 14U, 15U and 16U) Area teams practice elsewhere.

PG4. When are games played?

For 12U divisions and younger, all soccer games are only on Saturdays between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Games are scheduled as follows – 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 and 12:00 (if needed).

Most games are under an hour long. The starting time for each team will most likely be different from week to week.

PG5. When are the practices?

The 5U and 6U teams will only practice for a half hour on Saturday mornings of scheduled games. Practice is followed with a half hour game. This accounts for the one hour time slot.

The 8U and 10U teams will practice once during the week (Monday-Thursday) lasting about one hour. The day and time for a team's practice is scheduled by the team's volunteer coaches. Times are in late afternoon and early evenings. Typically, 4:30 being the earliest and ending no later than 7:30.

The 12U and older teams that play inhouse (or possibly Area) may practice more than once a week.

PG6. What if my child team's practice day and time conflicts with other activities? Can we change teams?

As our established policy, we do not swap players on teams because a player is unable to make a practice day/time due to another activity. Possible solutions are:

When the team's practice and the other activity occur at the exact same time, you can alternate weeks between both of them. Or you can split the time between the two activities weekly.

When the team's practice and another activity are NOT at the exact same time, go to part of one or the other.

As of last resort, contact us and the organization can ask another team's coach if your child may practice with their team but they will remain on the current team for games on Saturday.

PG7. What determines if practices are canceled?

Usually, the coaches for your team will decide if they want to cancel practice and they will notify their team accordingly.

However, there will be times for various reasons that the AYSO board will cancel all practices at the James Gettys fields. When this occurs, the website is updated and a global email is sent out to all users (account holders) in Sports Connect.

PG8. What determines if games will be canceled?

The AYSO board will make the decision to cancel games. Several factors could determine if games are canceled. To list a few:

- Field conditions, such as amount of laying water or how saturated the ground is
- Weather predictions for the morning
- Existing weather. (Example – thunderstorms, heavy rains)
(Note however, sometimes we do play in a light rain.)
- Gettysburg School District may request for us to cancel games at James Gettys.

PG9. How do we know if the scheduled Saturday games will be played?

If games are to be canceled and **only when games are canceled**, we do the following:

- Our website (gettysburgayso.com) will be updated by 7:15 on the morning of the games with a cancellation message.
- We will send a cancellation email message out to our AYSO Email List prior to 7:30. However bear in mind that depending on the internet providers and email traffic, the email may not be received by 7:30.

PLEASE NOTE: No information is changed/sent if games are being played as scheduled. We will only do game cancellation information.

PG10. How do we get on the Gettysburg AYSO Global Email List?

If you are related/know a registered player, contact their parent and have them add you on as an additional account holder. You will be able to enter your email address when you are added.

If you are not related to a registered player, go to our website and create a login account which will include your email address.

PG11. I am not receiving Gettysburg AYSO emails after I had my email address added as noted in the above PG10?

Check your email software settings to be verify emails from gettysburgayso.com are not being blocked. Also, it is possible that your email software may be classifying our emails as Spam. Therefore, check in your Spam.

If still not receiving emails, please send us an email to gettysburgayso@yahoo.com from your email address and explain the situation.

PG12. When are game schedules available?

The Fall schedule is done by the Parent Meeting day.

The Spring schedule is done usually about 2-3 weeks before the season starts.

PG13. How are game schedules created?

The actual scheduling of games start after we receive the older divisions' Area team schedules. This happens about 2-3 weeks prior to the start of the season. Then when scheduling games, all the following are taken into consideration:

- a.) Parking limitations at James Gettys.
- b.) Number of fields available each hour for each age division.
- c.) Each division playing the other teams in their division equal number of times.
- d.) Coaches with more than one team cannot have games at the same time.

In doing the scheduling, once in awhile there will be some situations where we are unable to meet all of the above considerations. However, in addition, we do try to change game times around, but the above criteria are far more important.

PG14. Are cancelled games rescheduled?

Yes, if there is a make-up date still available. See the next item.

PG15. How and when are make-up dates done?

We have two make-up dates built into the season schedule for cancellations (in both the Fall and Spring seasons).

The first make-up dates are Columbus Day weekend in the Fall season and the Spring Break weekend in the Spring season (if it falls after the start of the Spring season).

The second make-up date is the weekend after the last originally scheduled season game.

PG16. Why aren't games played on Memorial Day Weekend?

Some of the reasons, but not limited to, for not having Gettysburg AYSO games on Memorial Day weekend.

- Typically, students do not have classes on the following Monday.
- Being a holiday weekend, some families like to go away for the weekend or enjoy the break from the regular routine.
- Being a holiday weekend, families with more than one child may be out of town to participate in soccer tournaments or other events with the other child. This would include some team coaches and referees.
- Some of the Gettysburg AYSO board members are out of town or have other plans on this weekend.
- Gettysburg AYSO may not have the use of the James Gettys soccer fields. They may be used by another organization.

PG17. Does a player have a required minimum of playing time in a game?

Yes, in accordance with our national guidelines,

“Every player shall be entitled to play at least half of every game. Moreover, it is the policy of the Region to encourage each coach to (i) play each player at least three quarters of every game, whenever possible, and (ii) to allow different players to start the first quarter of each game.”

With that being said, most coaches prior to a game create lineups for each quarter of the game. To rotate players in different positions and have each player in for at least half the game, if not three quarters. However, if a player arrives late and misses one of their quarters to play or tells the coach they want to not play (or sit out) a quarter, may result in not meeting the required two quarter minimum playing time. While a coach may try to accommodate, they can only do so much in those situations.

Referee Info

R1 Can my child be a referee?

Yes! We have a number of youth referees. If your child is 10 or older we encourage them to take one of our referee classes and help referee games.