

AYSO referees are Volunteers and as such the IRS does not allow AYSO to pay volunteer referees for services rendered, however, AYSO can provide volunteers (referees, coaches, board members) with a stipend to reimburse them for the cost of volunteering. Each AYSO region can determine what that cost is and how much a stipend should be for any volunteer and account for that in their annual budgets for their regions. AYSO can hire referees from a company that provides referees. (Paid Services Agreement required). It's common for AYSO regions to offer training and support to their volunteer referees, including free uniforms and gear.

Here's a more detailed look:

- **Volunteer Basis:**

The core of AYSO's refereeing system is built on volunteers. This means most referees in AYSO are parents, older siblings, or community members who donate their time.

- **No Standard Pay:**

There isn't a standard, region-wide pay structure for AYSO referees.

- **Stipends and Reimbursements:**

Some regions may offer stipends or reimbursements to cover expenses like travel or game costs, but this is not a standard practice.

- **Incentives and Rewards:**

While not paid, referees can earn incentives like community service hours, which can be beneficial for college applications. Some regions also offer prizes or awards for their volunteer referees.

- **Training and Support:**

AYSO provides extensive free training for its referees, including on-field mentoring and online resources.

- **Benefits for Referees:**

Refereeing in AYSO can offer benefits like learning the rules of the game, developing leadership and communication skills, and contributing to the community.

- **Youth Referee Program:**

AYSO also has a Youth Referee Program for kids as young as 12, which allows them to gain experience and potentially earn volunteer points and rewards.