



AYSO Region 92 – Travel Team Policy

Updated February 2026

Overview

Region 92 is supportive of our registered AYSO players playing on volunteer-led travel teams in tournaments and outside leagues. By participating on a Region 92 travel team, our AYSO players gain additional opportunities to learn and grow within the sport, to form stronger relationships with teammates, and to remain actively involved in the AYSO program, particularly when they might otherwise forego AYSO entirely in favor of a club team.

As a national organization, AYSO provides a number of structured programs for players to compete at higher levels outside of the core program we administer within Region 92. As of August 2026, these programs include:

- AYSO EXTRA, where the most skillful players within a region are selected at the beginning of the season to play against other EXTRA teams in other regions,
- AYSO Alliance, where the most skillful players within a region are selected at the beginning of the season to play in club leagues against club teams.

While the EXTRA and Alliance programs can work well for larger regions, Region 92 wants to maintain the strength of the core fall and spring programs for all participants. As a result, Region 92 determined the most beneficial way to provide additional player development opportunities outside of the core program is to allow core AYSO players to also participate on travel teams. To balance the best interests of the region as a whole, travel team participation both 1) requires player and coach participation in the core program and 2) is not allowed to interfere with core AYSO league activities.

We have observed several benefits to the travel team program, including:

- Growth: More players benefit from more playing time with better players and better coaches.
- Commitment: Travel team players stay committed to AYSO for longer.
- Shared Benefits: Core teams experience higher-level play as a result of travel team players and coaches bringing their skill, character, and soccer intelligence to all participants.
- Competitiveness: Region 92 sends more competitive teams to Area/Section/National tournaments.

Outlined below are guidelines to ensure we operate our travel teams within the larger AYSO charter and guidelines.

Jurisdiction

All travel team activities fall under the jurisdiction of AYSO Region 92 existing policies. Region 92 has the sole authority to authorize and deauthorize travel teams operating within the region. Decisions regarding coaches and their ability to operate travel teams will be determined solely by the Region 92 Commissioner or their delegate.

Coach Eligibility

All head and assistant coaches who wish to coach a travel team must, at a minimum, meet the following eligibility criteria for the role of travel team coach:

1. Registration: Coach will be a registered volunteer in Region 92.
2. Verification & Training: Coach will have all required AYSO training, including Safe Haven, Concussion, Sudden Cardiac, SafeSport (requires periodic refreshers), and any other training determined by AYSO. Additionally, coaches will have registered fingerprints within LiveScan and will have passed a current (annual) background check.
3. Coaching Education: Coach will be certified by AYSO to coach the age group of the respective travel team. While operating a travel team, head coaches are required to periodically seek additional training from US Soccer or other organizations.
4. Coaching Experience: The head coach will have been a head coach for at least two seasons in Region 92 (which could be two fall seasons or a fall or spring season of the same league year). The head coach must have volunteered as a head coach in the current (or most recent) fall season in the age group of the target travel team. (The Regional Commissioner may grant an exception, for example in the case where a different division was more in need of a coach.)
5. Coaching Methodology: Head coach will outline a methodology for player development.
6. Behavior: Coach will have consistently demonstrated the values of positive coaching and player development during core, All-Star, and travel team coaching experiences. Coach will have exhibited a pattern of good sportsmanship. Conversely, the coach will not have exhibited a pattern of behavior that resulted in cautions, send-offs, or suspensions, or raises similar concerns.
7. Volunteering: Coach will continue to volunteer as a coach each member year in at least one of the two annual AYSO seasons for Region 92 (e.g., fall or spring). Head coaches must volunteer as a head coach. Assistant coaches must volunteer as a head or assistant coach.

Additional Team Personnel

All referees and additional adult volunteers who wish to assist the travel team need to meet the following eligibility criteria for the desired role and must be approved by the Regional Commissioner or their delegate:

1. Registration: Volunteers will be a registered volunteer in Region 92.
2. Verification & Training: Volunteers will have all required AYSO training, including Safe Haven, Concussion, Sudden Cardiac, SafeSport (requires periodic refreshers), and any other training determined by AYSO. Additionally, volunteers will have registered fingerprints within LiveScan and will have passed a current (annual) background check.
3. Volunteer Education: Volunteers will be certified by AYSO to perform the duties of the role they are performing, such as appropriate referee certification for referees.

Team Application Process

Coaches who aspire to establish new teams are required to advance through multiple steps in the application process, including a written application, board interview, and background check.

Written Application

The candidate will submit a written application, collected via Google Forms, which include the following topics:

- Target Age Group: Identify the gender and birth years of your targeted team.
 - e.g., Girls 2016 & 2017
- Coaching Experience: List the role, age/division, seasons, organization you have coached.
 - e.g., HC, G12U, Fall 2024, R92
- Coaching Education: List your coaching certifications. Include source, course, and year.
 - e.g., AYSO Advanced Coach, 2024; USSF D License 2023
- Child Ranking: Identify the approximate ranking of your own child within her age group. Reflect back on the most recent Core season and player ratings meeting.
 - e.g., top 10%, top 20%, top 50%, other.
- Big Why: Describe why you coach.
- Smaller Why: Describe why you want to lead a travel team.
- Player Development Approach: Describe your approach to developing players.
- Example practice plan: Describe a recent practice plan that you feel is representative of the type of practice you would run for a travel team.
- Acknowledgment of Expectations: Confirm you understand the coaching and player eligibility requirements each year.

Ask the Travel Team Commissioner or Regional Commissioner for access to the Google Form.

Application Review

Upon submission of the written application form, the candidate will notify the Travel Team Commissioner to schedule a call to review the responses. The coach may be disqualified at this stage due to a missing coach eligibility requirement or other obvious disqualifier. The Travel Team Commissioner will coordinate with the candidate to attend a regularly scheduled Region 92 Board meeting.

Interview at Regional Board Meeting

The candidate will attend a regularly scheduled board meeting. At the designated section of the board meeting, the candidate will share prepared remarks, which may include relevant highlights from the written application. Board members will ask follow-up questions with the intention of ensuring the Region and the players in the coach's charge will be well represented by the candidate. Upon the conclusion of the interview, the candidate will depart the meeting, and the board members will discuss the candidate's qualifications. The Regional Commissioner will conduct a straw poll and make a determination whether to proceed to the next step.

Additional Diligence

The Travel Team Commissioner, Regional Commissioner, or other designee will contact 2 or more parents of players from the candidate's recent teams to understand the candidate's strengths and areas for improvement.

Notification of Decision

The Regional Commissioner will make the final determination of the candidate's application. After reviewing the decision with the Regional Commissioner, the Travel Team Commissioner will send a notification to the candidate.

- If approved, the notification will include the Travel Team Policy, Parent Acknowledgement, and guidance on uniforms, tournaments/leagues, and practice slot allocation.
- If denied, the notification will include a summary of rationale and indication of whether the coach is encouraged to reapply in the future.

The Regional Commissioner has the sole authority to determine the eligibility of any coach who petitions or currently runs a travel team. The Regional Commissioner may ultimately deny the application for any reason or no reason, including the lack of practice field availability.

For example, Region 92 has limited access to field space. As noted in the Scheduling Field Space section below, core AYSO fall and spring teams, All-Stars teams, and Tournament of Champions teams have field priority. The very limited remaining field space is allocated to travel teams. Thus a coach may be denied permission if the addition of a new team reduces practice slot availability for travel teams below a minimum threshold to avoid a tragedy of the commons.

- Within the group of travel teams, priority is given to teams with greatest longevity; new teams are at the bottom of the priority list.

Failure to follow AYSO, Section 1, Area 1D, or Region 92 procedures, rules, regulations or guidelines may result in revocation of the right to run a travel team. Travel team coaches are expected to cooperate with Region 92 Board members, staff members, and other coaches. Repeated or unacceptable conflict may result in revocation of the right to run a travel team.

Prior to the formation of the team, all travel team coaches must be approved by the Regional Commissioner or their delegate. Revocation of the right to run a travel team may be made by the Regional Commissioner or their delegate at any time.

Team Formation

A head coach, who is approved by the Regional Commissioner to organize a travel team, is solely responsible for forming and managing the team. All player additions and removals are at the coach's discretion.

Only players who are eligible, as described in the Player Eligibility section below, may be a member of the team. Some accommodation may be made to include guest players on a temporary basis, as described in the Guest Players section below. All players must participate in age-appropriate teams for tournament play.

- Players must have completed their fall season of 8U before joining a team or a team can be formed around them.

During initial team formation, coaches are encouraged, but not required, to host a tryout for interested players. When identifying potential players, coaches may consider:

- Querying other coaches and directly observing players through the core or All-Stars season.
- Contacting the parents of target players directly with a recruitment message.
 - If holding a tryout, the recruitment message should explicitly note that not all players may be selected to the travel team.
- Requesting the Travel Team Commissioner send a recruitment message to all parents of players of the target gender and age.
 - The message may invite players to a tryout or reference additional information about the travel team opportunity.
 - Note: All-Stars rosters are posted to Team Central once formed in the data management system.

The head coach, parents, and player must mutually agree the player will be a member of the travel team. The coach may not prohibit the player from being a member of another team, including another AYSO core, All-Stars, or travel team.

Once a player is offered membership on the team, parents must sign the Region 92 Travel Team Parent Acknowledgement form prior to their child's participation on the team.

Naming Convention

When a travel team is anticipated to be renewed and carried forward with approximately the same group of players, Region 92 utilizes the "Gundo FC" or in some cases, the "El Segundo Football Club," naming convention. Where there is more than one team within a division, the higher rated team will be designated as "Gold" and the other as "Blue". In league and tournament play, teams will be designated as Gundo FC [B|G][Age+U] [Gold | Blue]. For example:

- Gundo FC G15U Gold & Gundo FC G15U Blue
- Gundo FC B12U

If a coach is forming a team that is not expected to be renewed, the coach may propose an alternative name as long as it is not offensive and doesn't violate intellectual property rights.

Uniform Requirements

All Gundo FC teams must utilize the authorized jersey vendor and design, along with the approved shorts and socks. The approved Gundo FC logo is included in the jersey design.

Teams may seek sponsors for team expenses, including uniforms. Teams may offer to include a sponsor logo on the jersey. However sponsor logos may only be placed on the sleeves.

- Teams may also offer to showcase banners with sponsor logos at games and/or post team photos to social media with the sponsor logos, for example.

Coaches can coordinate with the Travel Team Commissioner to initiate a jersey order for the entire team or individual player. Similarly, practice jerseys and backpacks can be coordinated through the Travel Team Commissioner.

Authorized Fanwear Store

Gundo FC Logo wear, with approved logos and branding, is available through an authorized storefront. Coaches cannot provide or promote an alternative storefront, logos, or gear. Exceptions must be pre-approved by the Travel Team Commissioner.

Annual Coach & Team Reauthorization

A travel team may persist until the end of the membership year in which it was formed. The head coach of a travel team with sufficient player, parent, and coach interest, and whose players and coaches continue to meet the eligibility requirements, may petition to form the team again for the new membership year.

At the start of each membership year (August), travel team coaches must indicate their desire to reestablish a travel team for the new membership year to the Travel Team Commissioner. The Regional Commissioner, in collaboration with the Travel Team Commissioner, will revisit the Coach Eligibility Criteria and may reauthorize or decline the request. In cases where the team will not be reauthorized for the new league year, the Regional Commissioner may allow the travel team to compete in a final end-of-summer tournament.

While every coach is subject to assessment and annual review, first-year coaches are subject to additional scrutiny. First year coaches must conduct a parent survey by sharing the provided survey link to the parents of all team members. The results of the survey will be reviewed by the Commissioner and shared with the coach. (Parents must be advised that in order for their child to remain on the travel team, the parent must complete the survey.)

Coaches of more established teams are also encouraged to conduct an annual survey with parents covering the following topics:

- How much does your child enjoy Gundo FC? (scale 0 to 10)
- To make Gundo FC a better experience, what can we start doing (or do more of) that we're not currently doing?
- What can we stop doing (or do less of) that we're currently doing? (e.g., something that's not working)
- What's most important to continue doing?
- What else can we do to improve the experience? (e.g., practices, tournaments, strength of competition, extra activities, communication, etc.)
- Reacknowledgements about travel team requirements.

Ask the Travel Team Commissioner or Regional Commissioner for access to the Google Form.

Annual Coach Continuing Education

All travel team head coaches must continue their coaching education outside of AYSO. Assistant coaches are strongly encouraged to do so as well. Region 92 currently reimburses certain training expenses according to the Coach Training Reimbursement Policy.

First-year head coaches must complete the [TOVO Grassroots Coach](#) course or the [TOVO Methodology \(V1\)](#) course within their first year of leading a travel team.

All head coaches must complete an external training course at least once every two years. The objective is each league year, the coach is completing either a mandated AYSO coaching course or an external course. While biannual is the requirement, head and assistant coaches are encouraged to complete an external training course every year.

- Review the Coach Training Reimbursement Policy for approved external training programs. Ask the Travel Team Commissioner about other course providers.

Head coaches are required to provide proof of course completion once complete, which will be reviewed as part of the annual renewal process.

Player Eligibility

Players are eligible for the entire membership year (August 1 through July 31 of the following year) by registering and playing for Region 92 in the core AYSO fall season. Alternatively, players are eligible for the spring season through the end of the membership year by registering and playing for Region 92 in the core AYSO spring season. Once a player is registered for either core season, they are eligible for the travel team for the remainder of the membership year.

Players who fail to play in 50% of the games (or the percentage outlined in the current All-Stars Selection Guidelines, if that policy is more current) in the core AYSO season in which they are registered may be disqualified from playing on the travel team by the Regional Commissioner. Players with discipline concerns such as cautions, send-offs, or suspensions may also be disqualified from playing on the travel team by the Regional Commissioner.

Guest Players

When a team is unable to field a sufficient number of players for an event, often tournament and league rules allow guest players to participate with the team. When in need of guest players, travel team coaches will make a concerted effort to utilize Region 92 players—including other appropriately aged players from another Region 92 travel team—to fill guest roster spots, with the objective of maintaining (or coming close to maintaining) the team's level of play. When contacting players from another Region 92 travel team, coaches must notify the guest player's head coach.

If after a concerted but unsuccessful effort to find a Region 92 player, a travel team coach may invite a player who does not meet the Player Eligibility requirements to attend up to 2 tournaments or 4 league games within the membership year, as well as travel team practices in the week leading up to the associated events. However, a guest player cannot become a full member of the travel team, nor regularly attend practices, games, or tournaments, until they meet the Player Eligibility requirements. Guest Players from outside of Region 92 must also sign the Travel Team Guest Player Waiver prior to participating in any practices or games.

Likewise, travel team players may play as guest players on other teams, including other travel teams or club teams.

Entering Tournaments and Outside Leagues

The travel team coach will determine in which tournaments, leagues, or outside activities the travel team will participate. The coach will be responsible for all necessary registration activities for the team.

Tournaments, league games, and outside activities cannot conflict with Region 92, Area 1D, and Section 1 events in which a coach or player is scheduled to attend. Coaches who miss, or encourage players to miss, scheduled Region/Area/Section games to attend tournaments, outside league games, or other activities may not be allowed to coach in the future. Similarly, team practices in support of Region/Area/Section games take priority over any travel team activity, with infrequent exceptions negotiated in advance between the travel team coach and the core or All-Stars team coach.

Foreign Travel

AYSO travel teams may travel to another country, or host foreign teams, for the purpose of playing soccer, learning about different cultures and geographic areas, and making friends through the universal language of soccer/football. Specific forms are required by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) to either host a foreign team or to travel to a foreign country. More information is available at the US Soccer website regarding hosting foreign teams and the foreign travel process:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/federation-services/youth-permission-travel-hosting>

Player Rosters & Player Cards

Once the team is formed, and upon any player additions or subtractions, the coach will submit the travel team roster to the Travel Team Commissioner for entry into the data management system. The Travel Team Commissioner will then generate an official roster and provide the roster along with the player registration (medical release) forms to the coach.

Most tournaments and league games also require valid player ID cards for the current membership year. The travel team coach may request player ID cards from the Travel Team Commissioner. All players must have suitable photos uploaded in the system prior to the request, or included as part of the request being submitted.

When required for tournaments or other events, the travel team coach will be responsible for ensuring the team roster is complete and signed by the Regional Commissioner. Roster and player ID card requests must be made at least 10 business days prior to the date the roster or cards are needed.

Funding & Financial Obligations

Region 92 does not provide financial aid to travel teams. All funding for registration fees, uniforms, transportation, lodging, and any other expenses must be provided by the members of the travel team. These funds can be obtained from families, sponsorships, fundraisers, or other legal means. As AYSO is a volunteer organization, these funds cannot be used to pay travel team coaches or other volunteers.

Financial Transparency

Each February and August, the travel team must submit to the Travel Team Commissioner, Treasurer, and Regional Commissioner an accounting of income and expenses for the prior six months (August–January, February–July) in sufficient detail to ensure that all funds are being properly used under AYSO guidelines.

The records kept by a team must document:

- Total costs for each expense – such as registration fees, uniforms, equipment, etc.
- Per-player costs for each expense – based on clear and consistent apportionment.
 - For example, tournament fees should only be divided among those who attend (or commit to attending).
 - For example, league referee fees may be aggregated for the entire season and divided equally among all team members who participate in league play. Alternatively, referee fees for each game may be split among players who participate in each game.
- Reimbursements for each player.
 - Each parent should have access to a running tally for their current outstanding balance.
- Sponsorship money received and to which expenses it applies.

The coach must be prepared to provide receipts for expenses if requested by the Treasurer, Travel Team Commissioner, or Regional Commissioner. Some payments, such as cash paid to referees, can be validated with a game schedule and referee fee schedule.

AYSO Tournament Fees

If a tournament requires a Region 92 check for the registration fee, the travel team coach must provide the funds needed to enter the desired tournament, including any referee or other refundable or non-refundable fees. The total amount requested for the registration check must be given to the Region 92 Treasurer for deposit at least 5 business days prior to receiving an AYSO 92 check payable to the tournament hosts. All checks used for payment must be made out to 'AYSO Region 92'.

Referee Recruitment and Associated Fees

Travel team coaches are responsible for recruiting referees as may be requested or required by some tournaments. Once volunteer referees have been identified, the travel team coach may work with the Region 92 Referee Administrator to validate necessary credentials of the recruited referees. (The Referee Administrator will not recruit referees on behalf of the coach.)

Some tournaments will require a referee fee, which may be refunded to the region after the team provides referees for the tournament and those referees complete their assignments. By AYSO rules, this referee fee refund must be returned to the region. Volunteers who referee tournaments cannot keep the referee fee refund. If the referee fee is included with the

registration fee and the funds are returned to Region 92, those funds will be returned to the coach of the travel team. It will be the coach's responsibility to properly distribute the refunded funds.

Safety

In accordance with the Region 92 safety policy, all injuries or incidents require the submission of an Incident Report (available on the Region 92 website) to the Region 92 Safety Director. Player registration (medical release) forms must be kept by the coach for all players and be available at all games, practices, and any other team events.

Scheduling Field Space

When utilizing Region 92 field space, travel team coaches will work with the Region 92 board to ensure they are practicing or scrimmaging at an approved time, and they will not be displacing another team from their scheduled practice. Teams participating in the current core season, Tournament of Champions, and All-Star will have priority and assigned practice times prior to travel teams. In order to use AYSO priority with the City of El Segundo, all scheduling requests must be made through the Region 92 Scheduler. Events scheduled directly with the city must be booked as private individuals and meet all City requirements for rental fees, insurance, and other requirements.

Equipment

Region 92 will offer the use of minimal practice equipment (balls, cones, pinnies) to travel teams on an as-available basis. Any equipment loaned to a travel team must be returned at the end of the season.