

COACH INFORMATION – *Important - Read both sides please!*

THIS PACKET INCLUDES ROSTERS, SCHEDULES, LEAGUE CONTACT INFO, FIELD INFO, and several other sheets of useful information for you as a coach. **Please read through all information carefully so you can represent the league as a well-informed coach.** The sheet which contains contact info for Board members, scheduling and referee coordinators, division coordinators, etc. will be especially helpful to you should questions arise.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PLAYERS ASAP – BY April 5th! Players anxiously wait to hear what team they are on, so please don't keep them waiting! After April 5th, they start calling us! **Practices may begin on or after April 5th, and games may begin on April 17th.** Please utilize your Team Page on our league website www.ayso803.org to communicate with your team.

PRACTICES. If you do not have a co-coach present at a practice, please be aware that you must have another adult with you at all practices. You may need to ask a parent to stay if you find yourself to be the only coach there. You should have the player registration forms with you at each practice and game, since they contain emergency medical information. Please check to see that all of your registration forms are signed, and get them signed if they are not. You, as the coaches, determine when and where the team practices. **Practice should be scheduled for 5 pm or later on weekdays. No practices on Sunday mornings. Many children have church activities on Wednesday so please avoid scheduling practices on those evenings as well.** Typically, 1-2 practices are scheduled per week the 2 weeks prior to games. Once games start, 1 practice is sufficient and if you are playing 2 games that week, practicing during the week is not necessary.

If a parent is late picking up a child after a practice or game, do not leave the child unattended. Wait or have another parent wait with the child and make it clear to the parent involved that they need to be prompt.

HEADING OF THE BALL IS BANNED FOR U12 AND YOUNGER DIVISIONS

CLEAT & JEWELRY REMINDER. Toe cleats & jewelry may not be worn at soccer practices or at games. Referees will conduct an equipment check prior to each game, and will not let a child play with toe cleats, earrings, or other jewelry. **Playing or practicing with a cast is also prohibited.** Please make sure that all parents are aware of this rule.

GAME SITE INFO. The coach equipment bag will have a key, which unlocks the equipment boxes at Soccer Park. The equipment boxes contain corner flags, referee flags, pinnies, and First Aid kits. Please plan to start your games at the scheduled time. This means equipment ready and players warmed up and ready to go at game time. **Pinnies are located in boxes if teams have matching Jersey colors. These need to be returned to the plastic bins with the LIDS PLACED ON TOP SECURELY or they will get wet when it rains.**

We have had problems in the past with equipment being left on fields after games. If you **DO NOT** see new teams at the fields when your game is finished, **please put all equipment away** (pinnies, corner flags and linesperson flags) in the box and lock it. The game following yours could have been rescheduled to a different day.

FOUL WEATHER POLICY. 1) Only the referee or the coaches (if ref is not present) may cancel game at the field at game time. Games must be canceled if lightning is seen by spectators, coaches, or players, or if the sirens go off. If everyone is at the fields and it appears that the storm may pass quickly, please wait 10-15 minutes in cars before canceling the game. 2) In case of extensive rain resulting in poor field conditions, the Regional Commissioner may cancel games. Check our web site <http://www.ayso803.org> for cancellation information. Coaches will also be notified via email in the event of cancellation.

NON-WEATHER RELATED GAME CANCELLATIONS. Coaches by mutual agreement may cancel games not less than 48 hours prior to game time. Scheduling coordinator (see contact list) must be contacted at least 48 hours prior to the game so the referee can also be notified.

REFEREES. We are always refreshing our referee base, which means we need our refs to return from year to year. **PLEASE emphasize good sportsmanship and do not question referee calls. NEVER CONFRONT A REFEREE.** If there is a problem, contact the referee coordinator Ref@ayso803.org and he will contact the referee personally.

AYSO PHILOSOPHY is that “Everyone Plays”. This means that ALL players should sit out 1 quarter before another player sits out 2 quarters. Also, players in younger age divisions (U10 and below) should rotate through all the positions to learn all aspects of the game. Our efforts at balanced teams don’t always succeed and are especially blind when making teams with the 4-8 year olds where there are so many beginners. If it happens that your team is dominating the game and the score is reflecting this significantly, please make an effort to change the players’ positions to allow for more equal play. We realize that sometimes this doesn’t make a difference but parents and other coaches appreciate the effort.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND OFFICIALS.

IT IS THE DUTY OF EACH COACH AND OFFICIAL TO:

1. Conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of AYSO.
2. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
3. Train and coach the team to the best of their ability.
4. Uphold the Rules and Regulations of AYSO and Region 803.
5. Coach positively. **Sideline coaching (joysticking) should be minimized during games.** Coaching should take place primarily during practice. Let them play during games.
6. Negative comments and complaints about refereeing are not allowed at the field.
7. Assure that no pets, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages are present at the games or practices.
8. If any person does not conform to these guidelines, they will be asked to leave.

We sincerely hope that you all enjoy coaching soccer with AYSO Region 803. **Thank you** for your time and commitment! Please feel free to share any suggestions/concerns you may have with us (see League Contact List at www.ayso803.org for appropriate persons to contact).

HAVE FUN – AND COACH POSITIVELY!