



RULES OF COMPETITION

AYSO SECTION 1 PLAYOFFS

2025-2026 CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES



Section 1 Playoff games will be conducted per the current IFAB Laws of the Game, under current AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Section 1 Rules and Regulations, and the following Guidelines:

I. TEAM REGISTRATIONS

- A. One (1) hour before your first scheduled game time, coaches shall present themselves along with the entire team to the playoff official at the check-in area. Team line-up cards, rosters, player registration (medical authorization) forms, and uniforms will be inspected.
- B. Properly completed lineup cards **in uniform number order** shall be presented to the tournament official before the start of the game and shall include the names of all players, present or not, and an explanation of absences. (4 cards for 19U and 16U; 5 cards for 10U, 12U and 14U)

II. PLAY FORMAT / TEAM SIZE / ROSTER SIZE

Division	Playing Format	Minimum Number of Players	Maximum Roster size	Minimum Roster Size**
16U – 19U	11 v 11	7	22	12
14U	11 v 11	7	22	12
12U	9 v 9	6	18	10
10U	7 v 7	5	14	8

**The minimum number of players shall constitute a team.

III. OFFICIAL UNIFORM

- A. Every effort should be made to ensure the AYSO uniform dress code. All team participants will be uniformed in the same, matching color/style jersey, shorts, and socks. Any exceptions require prior approval by the Section Director or their designee.
- B. Shin guards must be worn, completely under the issued uniform sock.
- C. In case of inclement weather, garments may be worn under uniforms provided they are all the same style, length, and color and do not constitute a color conflict.
- D. In case of conflicting colors, if a team has alternate jerseys, it shall be allowed to change; otherwise, **both teams** shall wear scrimmage vests provided by the Area or Section hosting the competition.

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IV. FORMAT

A. League and All-Star Pool Play:

1. Duration

Division	League Pool Play	All-Star Pool Play
19U	Two (2) 30-minute (minimum) halves	N/A
16U	Two (2) 30-minute (minimum) halves	N/A
14U	Two (2) 25-minute halves	Two (2) 25-minute halves
12U	Two (2) 20-minute halves	Two (2) 20-minute halves
10U	Two (2) 20-minute halves	Two (2) 20-minute halves

2. Tie games will stand.

3. Point System. An accumulated point system will be used as follows:

6 points for a win

3 points for a tie

0 points for a loss

1 point (up to 3) Goals scored (win or lose)

1-point Shut out (e.g., score 0 : 0 = 4 Points)

8 points Forfeit

2-point deduction for Send-off (Ejections) whether spectator, player, substitute, or coach

4. Point ties between first-place teams will be broken on the following basis:

- Prior head-to-head play
- Fewest send-offs (ejections)
- Fewest goals allowed
- Goal differential (maximum 3 per game)
- Sportsmanship Points
- IFAB Penalty Shoot-outs
- Coin toss

5. The first-place team in each pool group will advance to the Semifinals.

6. For 10U-12U-14U League Playoffs

- The second-place team in each pool with the most points will advance to the Semifinals according to the table below.

Winner of 2nd place across pools		
POOL	SF1	SF2
A2	A1 vs B1	C1 vs A2
B2	B1 vs C1	A1 vs B2
C2	C1 vs A1	B1 vs C2

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- b. Point ties between second-place teams in League Playoffs will be broken on the following basis:
 - I. Fewest send-offs (ejections)
 - II. Fewest goals allowed
 - III. Goal differential (maximum 3 per game)
 - IV. Sportsmanship Points
 - V. Coin toss. In the event of a three-way tie, all three toss a coin. The odd one (solitary heads or tails) advances to the Semifinals.
- B. League and All-Star Semifinals and Finals and all Extra Playoffs will be single elimination. The duration of the games will be full length per National Rules & Regulations I. B.
- C. If, for any reason, the match begins later than the scheduled time, the duration of the match may be reduced at the discretion of the Referee to ensure the following match may commence at the scheduled time.
- D. In case of ties, the following tie-breaking system shall apply:
 - 1. In case of a tie at the end of regulation time, two (2) overtime periods shall be played as follows:
 - 19U – Two (2) 10 Minutes
 - 16U – Two (2) 10 Minutes
 - 14U – Two (2) 9 Minutes
 - 12U – Two (2) 7 Minutes
 - 10U – Two (2) 5 Minutes
 - 2. If a team is playing short because of ejections, they will continue to play short during the overtime periods.
 - 3. In the case of a tie after the two overtimes, the winner shall be determined by IFAB Penalty Shoot-outs.
 - 4. The goalkeeper may be changed after any kick from any player on the field at the end of the second overtime period.
 - 5. Unless the referee specifies otherwise, non-participating players, substitutes, coaches, and other spectators may be allowed on the field behind the halfway line, or off the field behind the penalty area. They shall not interfere in any way with the participating players or referees.
- E. Medals may be awarded for 1st through 4th place.
- F. If a game is terminated before completion, the outcome/standings shall be determined by the Section Director or designee and Section Referee Administrator or designee.
- G. Semi-Final Game Groupings and brackets are subject to change at the discretion of the Section Director or designee.

V. GRACE PERIOD

- A. A scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field the minimum number of eligible players.

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- B. A grace period of 15 minutes from the scheduled kickoff time shall be allowed by the referee in charge of the game after which the match will be reported as a forfeit if one or both teams are not ready to play.

VI. SUBSTITUTIONS

A. 10U, 12U & 14U

1. Substitutions shall be allowed approximately midway through each half per National Rules & Regulations I. C. and will be recorded on the game cards by the referee.
2. 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).
3. Substitutions in overtime periods of semi-final and final matches will be at the beginning of each period only.

B. 16U & 19U

1. Monitored substitution will be allowed at Section Playoffs. Monitored Substitution Forms for each team must be filled out during each game and turned in with the Game Cards at the end of the match. All players must have the opportunity to play a minimum of half of the game. The monitored substitution will be supervised by Playoff staff. Substitution monitoring forms will be available on the section website as well as on-site at Playoff headquarters.
2. All substitutions will be made at any stoppage in play. Substitutions must be approved and recognized by the referee.

VII. COMPETITION

- A. The team listed first on the schedule will be considered the home team.
- B. Home teams shall occupy the North or East side of the field. Visitors shall occupy the opposite side of the field.
- C. It shall be mandatory to play a scheduled game. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action against the coach or team. The coach may present an excuse for such non-appearance, but the full power to uphold the forfeit, to levy discipline, or to reschedule the game shall reside with the section director for sectional games, or with their respective designee.
- D. In case of failure to play a regularly scheduled game, the offending team shall lose the said game by a score of 1:0.

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E. Failure to Appear (no-show)

1. Should a team selected to represent their Area in the Playoff Games be unable to play its games as scheduled, a minimum of 48-hour notice must be given to the Playoff Director or Playoff registrar to allow for a replacement team to be selected. If this notice is less than 48 hours, and a replacement team cannot be found, or the team simply fails to appear, then the following sanctions will apply:
 - a. The Coach involved will be ineligible to participate in the next year's Playoff Games, whether League, Extra, or All-Star.
 - b. It is strongly recommended that the Area and Region involved suspend the coach for a minimum of one (1) year, from Region or Area competition.
2. Should a team that has advanced from the pool play portion of the Playoff Games to the semi-final and final portion of the Playoff Games fail to appear to play its scheduled games, the above shall apply, and in addition that team will forfeit any medals or awards.
3. The Playoff Director will notify the Area Director of the team involved and the actions taken. The Playoff Director shall have the discretion to not impose these sanctions if it is determined that circumstances were beyond the control of the team.

F. Games shall be played as scheduled and only the referee in charge or the Section Director or their respective designee shall have the authority to cancel such games.

VIII. SEND-OFFS

- A. Any player, substitute, or coach who receives a Send-off for violent conduct, serious foul play, or abusive language before, during, or after a game, will be suspended from the Playoff Games (League and All-star).
- B. Any player, substitute, or coach who receives a Send-off for actions other than violent conduct, serious foul play, or abusive language before, during, or after a game, will be suspended from the team's next scheduled game.
- C. Outrageous conduct may result in suspension from AYSO.
- D. Any player or coach who receives a Send-off for violent conduct (fighting) during the regular regional season, regional playoffs, area playoffs, or in the previous year's section playoffs will be ineligible to participate in the section playoffs.

IX. PROTESTS

There will be no protest of games, yellow or red cards.

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