

# HEY COACH!

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL YOUR COACH TRAINING & IMPORTANT DATES IN ONE DOCUMENT](#)

Welcome to another season with PHMSA and AYSO! This guide will walk you through everything you need to do before the season starts, important dates to remember, and resources to help you have a successful year on the sidelines.

First and foremost, thank you for volunteering. PHMSA simply doesn't happen without volunteers like you. By stepping up to coach, you're doing much more than teaching soccer. You're helping create an environment where kids can learn, grow, build confidence, make friends, and develop a lifelong love of the game.

As coaches, we have the opportunity to teach teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and respect while making soccer fun and memorable for every player. Thank you for investing your time, energy, and passion into our players and families. We're excited to have you on the field this season.

## STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR AYSO TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

AYSO is a leader in coach education and player safety. To ensure every child has a safe, positive soccer experience, several training courses are required by AYSO, California law, and U.S. Soccer.

All required training can be found in your AYSOU Volunteer Portal.

### Required Training

Visit your Volunteer page at [AYSO281.org](http://AYSO281.org) and review your certifications to see what is required or needs renewal. From your Volunteer Portal, select **AYSOU**, then choose **Training Library** from the menu.

[Click here to learn how to access your AYSOU account](#)

[Click here to learn how to take an online course](#)

Required certifications include:

1. Age-Appropriate Coach Certification for your division (most require additional field training)
2. Concussion Awareness Training
3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training
4. AYSO's Safe Haven

5. SafeSport Training
6. Risk Status & Background Check Requirements

## **Coach Certification**

Every coach must complete the age-appropriate online training course and corresponding in-person field session for the division they will be coaching. This training provides the tools and knowledge needed to create a fun, safe, and player-centered environment.

## **Risk Status & Background Check**

### **Sterling Background Check**

AYSO uses Sterling Volunteers to conduct annual background checks. If your Risk Status is not showing as Green, visit your Volunteer page, select the appropriate checkbox, and choose **Renew and Update**.

### **Live Scan Fingerprinting**

California law requires fingerprinting for volunteers working with youth athletes. PHMSA will offer Live Scan services at our Coach Kickoff Meeting. Registration information will be sent as the event approaches.

### **Already completed Live Scan with AYSO?**

If you completed Live Scan through AYSO previously and have not had a break in volunteering of more than five years, you do not need to complete the process again.

## **Important Deadline**

All required online training must be completed before equipment pick-up on **July 26**.

### **Coaching Multiple Teams?**

If you will be coaching in more than one division, please make sure you are properly registered for each team and division in the AYSO system. This helps us build schedules and avoid coaching conflicts throughout the season.

## **COACHES TOOLBOX**

We've gathered the resources you'll need throughout the season in one convenient location. The Coaches Toolbox includes training materials, game-day resources, forms, guidance, and other helpful information to support you throughout the year.

Link to [COACHES TOOLBOX](#)

## **Next Hey Coach! – Field Training Courses: Schedule & Info**