

COSTA MESA CLASSIC TOURNAMENT 2026

AYSO COSTA MESA REGION 120

REFEREE PLAN

The following are guidelines that the Costa Mesa Classic Tournament will apply for referees in our 2026 tournament:	
A. COMMITMENT REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Each team participating in the 2026 CM Classic Tournament must provide at least 1 crew consisting of 3 qualified referees.B. The CM Classic Referee Form must be completed by January 1st, 2026C. Each referee team may be asked to officiate a minimum of 3 matches during the tournament. These may be game assignments or standby assignments, which will be consider equal in terms of earning the referee deposit refund.D. If all assignments are completed, the entire referee deposit of \$360 will be refunded within 14 days of the completion of the tournament. If only partial assignments are completed, then a partial refund will be provided equal to the proportion of assignments completed.E. The deposit refund will be returned in the same form of payment made when registering for the tournament.F. Remember: the quality of officiating is largely dependent upon the experience and abilities of the referees you provide.
B. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Each referee must be an AYSO registered volunteer and Safe Haven certified.B. Each referee must be versed in the Laws of the Game, including current law changes and capable of applying the laws according to the spirit of the game.C. Each referee may only represent one team in the tournament.D. Players in the tournament will not be allowed to officiate.E. Coaches in this tournament are strongly discouraged from officiating so that scheduling of referees with the best experience and without conflicts can be accomplished. If an exception is warranted due to lack of other referee volunteers, this must be approved in advance by the Tournament Referee Administrator.F. Youth referees will only be allowed if they are not a player in the tournament. Care must be taken when considering whether to allow a youth referee to officiate in the heated environment of a competitive tournament. These referees must have their Youth Volunteer Application form with them at all times and present it to any Tournament official upon request.
C. UNIFORM REQUIREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. All referees must be in full Uniform as defined by AYSO and USSF, including the AYSO Badge. Short black socks are permitted.B. The Gold uniform will be considered the primary color of referee uniform for this tournament. The referee crew will be expected to change to an alternate color in case of conflict with either of the teams' uniforms.

	C. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games, and their team's referee deposit may be subject to forfeiture.
D. COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS	<p>A. The Referee Administrator will attempt to assign games as follows: 10U: Regional Badge or higher 12U: Intermediate Badge or higher 14U: Advanced Badge or higher</p> <p>Any exceptions must have the prior written approval of the CM Classic Referee Administrator.</p> <p>B. Every effort will be made to assign referees to neutral games at their level of competency or below. In rare cases, referee crews may be asked to split up in order to meet these goals.</p> <p>C. Referees will be expected to referee at the level commensurate with the age group for the team they represent. Any referee determined to be ineligible under these circumstances, and thus not given any referee assignments, will not qualify the team for any portion of the referee deposit refund.</p>
E. TOURNAMENT RULES	<p>A. Referees will be expected to familiarize themselves with and uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament, and will place a team's referee deposit refund in jeopardy.</p> <p>B. Only the diagonal system of control will be used.</p> <p>C. Referees will be expected to fill out the game cards and to keep track of substitutions.</p> <p>D. Referees will be expected to note on the back of the game cards and to fill out misconduct reports immediately after the game in which a misconduct (caution and/or send-off) was issued to a player or coach, or if there were spectator interference problems, or any other action that merits a report.</p> <p>E. Referees will be expected to turn in all completed game cards and misconduct reports to the Field Monitor immediately after each game.</p>
F. REFEREE SCHEDULES	A. Referee schedules will be on matchtrak. Each team will be expected to ensure that the referee schedule and check-in instructions have been provided to their referee crew.
G. USE OF LOCAL REFEREES	A. Additional referees will be provided by the host region, including from the surrounding regions and Areas to ensure all games are covered by qualified referees. These referees will be provided assignments on a stand-by or fill-in basis. Priority will be given to referee crews to ensure an opportunity to earn their deposit refund.
H. REFEREE CHECK IN	<p>A. All referees will be expected to check in at the Referee Station upon their arrival at the tournament at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match.</p> <p>B. At check-in, each referee team will be provided with a summarized set of tournament rules that they will be expected to administer.</p>

	C. Referees are expected to check in at the Referee Station at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned game. Failure to appear on time may result in a replacement referee crew being assigned to the field. Once a replacement crew has been assigned, they will have priority and the original crew must report to the Referee station for alternative assignment.
I. REFEREE MEMENTOS	<p>A. Referees will have water and snacks available at the Referee Station with lunch delivered around lunch hour.</p> <p>B. Participating referees will receive a tournament t-shirt, flipping coin and pin as mementos to thank them for their contribution.</p>
J. ADDRESS	Referee forms will be emailed by the Coach to the referees. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure their referees fill out this form in order to be given their assignments and not lose their referee deposit.
K. CONTACT INFORMATION	<p>Questions regarding referee requirements should be directed to:</p> <p>E-mail: tournaments@ayso120.org</p> <p>Web site www.AYSO120.org</p>