PARENT HANDBOOK

AYSO Region 34
South Redondo Beach
2009 Season

P.O. Box 3202
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Regional Website: www.ayso34.org

WELCOME TO AYSO REGION 34!

PHILOSOPHY
The American Youth Soccer Organization is a volunteer based, nonprofit organization which was founded in Torrance in 1964. Our mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based upon the following AYSO philosophies:

EVERYONE PLAYS: Our goal is for kids to have the opportunity to play soccer regardless of their skill level. We mandate that every player on each team in divisions U6 through U14 must play at least three-quarters of every game. Divisions U16 and U19 must play at least half of every game. The "Everyone Plays" principle applies if the player regularly participates in practices, appears at games and practices on time, is not injured, or under disciplinary suspension.

BALANCED TEAMS/TEAM SELECTION: New teams are formed every season. Each division strives to select balanced teams through a process which uses individual player scores from his/her previous year's coach or for new players, their summer tryout score. These scores are then used to divide the teams evenly. The Division Captain and Coach Administrator work with the division coaches at a "draft" to make certain that the teams are balanced. **NO TRADES ARE ALLOWED AND "PLAY WITH" REQUESTS AFTER U6 ARE NOT CONSIDERED.**

POSITIVE COACHING: The way to make winning kids is by building them up, not tearing them down. We require our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to their players, rather than dispense negative criticism.

REGISTRATION: The program is open to all children between the ages of 4 and 18 who want to register to play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria necessary for playing.

SPORTSMANSHIP: We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-cost attitude. AYSO is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of the program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE SEASON: Practices begin in the middle of August. Most practices and games are at Alta Vista School, Alta Vista Park, Tulita School, and Nick Parras Middle School fields. The regular season will last from September 12th until November 2009 with the season officially wrapping up the weekend prior to Thanksgiving.. Area Play-offs and All-Star Tournaments (for Divisions U10-U14) follow in January and February.

DIVISIONS: Players are divided into Divisions based upon their age as of July 31st as follows:

Birthdate	Division	Age	Birthdate	Division	Age
8/1/04-7/31/05	U5	4	8/1/97-7/31/99	U12	10-11
8/1/03-7/31/04	U6	5	8/1/95-7/31/97	U14	12-13
8/1/02-7/31/03	U7	6	8/1/93-7/31/95	U16	14-15
8/1/01-7/31/02	U8	7	8/1/90-7/31/93	U19	16-18
8/1/99-7/31/01	U10	8-9			

EQUIPMENT: Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn (under the socks) at all games and practices - no exceptions! Even though studded shoes are not required, we strongly suggest a player wear shoes with rubber or molded cleats to provide better footing, especially on wet grass. Baseball/football shoes with square cleats under the toes are not acceptable. Your child should practice with a real soccer ball (not a rubber ball) to develop skill and coordination. Players in Divisions U6 through U8 use a size 3 ball, Divisions U10 and U12 use a size 4 and Divisions U14 through U19 use a size 5. Please have your child bring his/her ball, clearly marked with a name, to every practice.

A uniform (jersey, shorts, and socks) is provided to each player. The complete uniform must be worn to all games or the player may not be able to play. Bicycle pants/sliding shorts may be worn beneath the uniform shorts but must be the same color. Do not wear uniforms to practices. ABSOLUTELY NO JEWELRY is to be worn during games or practices. Jewelry can cause injury or cut off circulation in cases of swelling. This includes: watches, necklaces, bracelets, rings, metal or plastic head bands and even earrings (including studs).

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONT.)

PHYSICAL CONTACT: Soccer is a "contact sport" and players will, from time to time, fall, get bumped and bruised without foul play being involved. Even if foul play is involved, the laws of the game provide for the proper action. In the younger divisions, there are tears from time to time, mostly from being startled. Those tears dry quickly, so please don't overreact when players "go down." Referees will stop the game when a player appears injured or startled enough to require attention. In those cases the referee will ask only the coach to enter the field and assess whether the player needs additional care. The safety of the players is our main concern.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE: Be positive and supportive at all times. Your attitude sets the example for the way the players will conduct themselves on the field. Do not openly criticize the referees and coaches, or undermine their authority through your comments. Be supportive and understanding of the players—these are not professional players. We all want competitive and exciting games, but remember to give positive support to the players and avoid giving negative criticism. Parents are not to coach their children from the sidelines.

The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players and the spectators on and off the field!

Verbal abuse and/or the use of profanity will not be tolerated during or after the game by players, coaches or spectators. If this occurs a warning will be given to restrain the offender. If the abuse persists, the offender will be ejected from the game. If abuse continues, the game will be terminated and the offender subject to league discipline by the Regional Executive Committee.

PARENT PARTICIPATION: AYSO is volunteer based and depends on everybody's involvement. The Coach is a volunteer. Every team needs an Assistant Coach, a Team Parent, a field setup coordinator, and snack bar volunteers. We also need referees and assistant referees. We offer clinics for coaches and referees and ongoing support. Get involved and become a seasoned volunteer! Coaches are mandated to complete an AYSO certification course appropriate to the division they are coaching. Please contact the Coach Administrator for more information.

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONT.)

COACHES: Your team's coach needs your support. Have players on time for games and practices. The Coach is not the team's chauffeur. Arrange car-pools, if necessary, with other parents from the team. Coaches make the coaching decisions. If you have questions, ask him/her to explain what you didn't understand, but do not openly criticize their decisions or put them down.

AYSO coaches are NOT permitted to form special teams or hold special practices or scrimmages during the regular league season. AYSO coaches are volunteers. Coaches CANNOT accept fees for clinics, private lessons or other special instruction. During the season, instructional clinics are provided for coaches and players.

REFEREES: Like coaches and team parents, our referees are also volunteers. Other sports leagues provide paid officials. Our AYSO referees donate their time, not only during the regular season, but also during post season tournaments and playoffs. Unlike coaches and team parents, our referees are asked to officiate games when their children are not playing.

Keep things in perspective. Our AYSO program IS A CHILDREN'S YOUTH SPORTS RECREATIONAL LEAGUE, not a professional, NCAA, or World Cup match. Please show our volunteer referees the respect and appreciation they deserve by giving them an occasional word of thanks or encouragement. Put yourself in their shoes. We could not have a program without these referees. Dissent toward our referees will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action.

SPONSORSHIPS: As a nonprofit organization, AYSO Region 34 derives its funds from registration, Snack Bar proceeds, and sponsorships. Without this combined financial support it would not be possible to provide the players with this unique experience. Sponsorships are made out to AYSO Region 34 per AYSO National Policy. Sponsors are listed in the directory produced by the region. Contributions are tax deductible!

THE SEASON

Events during the season that require your involvement are:

GAMES: Divisions U14, U12, and U10 play on Saturdays and Sundays with occasional Friday night games under the lights. Divisions U6, U7 and U8 will generally play on Saturdays with occasional games on Sunday. Saturday games start at 9:00 AM. Sunday games start at 11:00 AM or noon.

Division	Home Field Assignments
U14-U19	Parras Middle School
U12	Alta Vista Park Field
U10	Alta Vista School Field, Tulita School
U7,8	Julia Field
U5,6	Alta Vista Park Fields (4 fields)

Practices and times are assigned by the Regional Scheduler for Alta Vista, Julia, and Parras fields with an attempt to accomodate the coaches schedule. Younger division teams are assigned earlier practice times. Game schedules for the season will be distributed to coaches by August 29th.

PARENT'S MEETING: Each Coach is asked to conduct a parent meeting to discuss AYSO Philosophy's, season activities and parent participation.

BANNER/FLAG CONTEST: During the Opening Day Ceremonies, team banners/flag, created for the current season, are judged. The banners/flags are created through parent volunteer efforts and are a great symbol of team spirit and support. Winners in divisions U5-U14 and the all-around winner will be awarded a cash prize and recognized in regional publications.

PICTURE DAY: On Saturday, September 12th, 2009 team and individual player pictures will be taken. An individual player picture make-up day will be scheduled, however the player must be present September 12th, to be included in the team picture. The cost of the pictures is included in the registration fee. Additional information about picture day and make-up picture day will be distributed to the team parent coordinator and the team parent/coach.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Incentive awards are presented for sportsmanship leaders at the end of the season for Divisions U7-U14 based upon the conduct of players, coaches, team spectators, uniform appearance, and courtesy toward referees.

REFEREE VOLUNTEERS: Referees are incredibly important - without them we cannot play! We need a Center Referee for each U7 and U8 game and we need a Center Referee and two Assistant Referees for each U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19 game. That's a lot of refs! Free certification clinics are available to all those 12 and over and each team is asked to provide volunteers.

POST-SEASON ELIGIBILITY/POINTS: To be eligible for post-season play-offs (U10/12/14), each team must be in good standing by fulfilling its requirements as noted below (regardless of win/loss record). EACH TEAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY A REFEREE FOR THE GAME PRIOR TO THEIR OWN OR WILL AUTOMATICALLY FORFEIT THEIR GAME.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TEAMS (U5-U19) ARE AS FOLLOWS:
1 Head Coach, 2 Referees (U10/12/14), 2 Volunteers at Field Cleanup, 4 volunteers for one snack bar shift AND 1 parent for Opening Day.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
U5, U6, AND U8: It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that each team send TWO volunteers to referee training.

U10, U12, U14: Each team MUST earn 30 points to fulfill their referee/service point requirements AND provide 4 parents for snack bar duty to qualify for the Beach Cup playoffs.

Referee/Service Points are earned in this manner:
Certified Regional Referee or higher
1 Point for Center Official U8 game
2 Points for Center Official or AR U10/U12 game
3 Points for Center Official or AR U14+ game
Head Coach gets 2 points for being certified
Head coach gets 1 point for being Safe Haven certified
Refs get 2 points for certification (up to 6 points total per team)

Important Note: Existing and New Referees WITHOUT team afilliation CANNOT transfer their accrued points. The purpose of this point system is to encourage a buildup of qualified referees by acquiring new referees from each team. Team affiliation is defined as "family" (i.e. Grandparent,/Parent/Guardian/Sibling).

SNACK BAR: The Snack Bar is a necessary source of income for our Region which keeps registration fees low and eliminates the need for other fundraisers. Every team will have Snack Bar duty during the season. Each team is required to fulfill their responsibility by scheduling four people per four hour shift.

STANDINGS/CHAMPIONSHIP: Standings are determined by points (win=2, tie=1, loss=0). Divisions U5 through U8 are "instructional" only with no standings or post season play! Division U10, U12, and U14 league champions represent Region 34 in the Area D Tournament in January. Successful teams then proceed to Section One Tournament play and, from there, they can advance to Tri-Section Tournament play.

ALL-STARS: Players are selected in Divisions U10, U12 and U14 to form Divisional All-Star Teams that follow a similar playoff sequence starting with Area D Tournament play in February. Successful teams advance to Section One and Tri-Section Tournament play. In order to be eligible for All-Star selection players must play in 50% of their games per Area Guidelines.

THANKSGIVING/OUTSIDE TOURNAMENTS: Teams may participate in local Tournaments. These teams are "select" and are open to any player who has played at least 50% of the games during the Fall Season. Coaches who take the team will be responsible for player selection, referee responsibilities and all fees associated with the entry into a tournament including referee deposits.

SPRING SOCCER: AYSO 34 participates in the AREA 1D Spring Soccer program. However we are limited in the number of teams that we may send to this tournament due to the constrained # of fields we can offer and the limited # of referees who we must provide. As a result, not everyone who wants to play Spring soccer is guaranteed a spot. Teams will be balanced as best as possible from the pool of players available who desire to play Spring. However it is up to the coaches to select the team/players they would like to have on their team as often times we have significantly more players than we have open spots. Each Spring team will be responsible for their own ref assignments as well and each team should have at least 3 qualified refs before they will be approved for play in Spring.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FORMS: Please go to eAYSO.org and follow the instructions to register for the season. Bring 2 signed copies of the forms to registration along with the volunteer form. In addition to the registration and volunteer forms, the Player/Parent Code of Conduct and Volunteer Point Requirement form must be completed in order to complete registration and place the player in the draft.

Parents, medical and medical emergency information are absolutely essential in case of an emergency! Parent or guardian must sign registration form to register players.

FEES:

1st PLAYER……. $160.00
MAXIMUM PER FAMILY……$480.00

Early bird special on first player's fee if registered by May 16th. Registration deadline is June 13th, 2009. Registrations received after June 13th will be put on a waiting list.

INCLUDED IN FEES: Uniforms, awards, team/player pictures, AYSO publications, Soccer Accident Insurance, Opening Day Operational Fees, National Player fee, and field maintenance expenses.

REFUND POLICY: Request in writing, accompanied by a self addressed, stamped envelope. Full refunds will be paid until September 11th.

AFTER SEPTEMBER 19th…….NO REFUND

NOTE: Once a uniform has been worn, refund fees will be pro-rated.

AYSO SOCCER ACCIDENT INSURANCE (SAI): Supplemental plan covers eligible expenses which are not covered by your group or individual medical insurance. For details, read the SAI brochure which is available at registration. Any injury which occurs during team practice or at games must be reported to the head coach who will then report to the safety director.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES: All new players to Region 34 are required to show proof of age (birth certificates, etc.) at sign up.

WAITING LIST: Players who register following the official registration dates but prior to team formation will be added to the player pool as space allows (based on date of registration) during team formation. Those who register after team formation will be added if possible but all efforts to keep team balance will be made. Players may not be placed until after two weeks of the start of the regular season. The Divisional Commissioner will rate players on the waiting list by conducting a tryout.

PLACEMENT PRIORITY—AFTER TEAM FORMATION:

Assignment/placement of stronger players made to weaker teams to provide team balance.

Teams lacking players by attrition shall receive priority with player assignment/replacement of equal rank players.

Parent/Adult who volunteers for a critical position.

No placement of club players after the draft unless approved by both the Divisional Commissioner & Regional Commissioner.

Assignments will be conducted at the discretion of the divisional Commissioner. If Coaches and Divisional Commissioners cannot agree on placement of the players, the decision will be made by the Regional Commissioner. Late registrants will not be allowed to practice or play until officially placed on a team by the Divisional Commissioner.

If you require further information contact:

AYSO REGION 34
SOUTH REDONDO BEACH
www.ayso34.org
ayso34info@yahoo.com
AYSO 34 HOTLINE: (424) 903-9514

Or write to:
AYSO REGION 34
P.O. BOX 3202
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

AYSO REGION 34 is an **all-volunteer** organization. We need and expect help from every participating family. Without enough support personnel, referees, and coaches, it's hard to insure that a team and the region will have the proper management for a successful season.

We all work or have other responsibilities. Sometimes it is hard to find time for ourselves but there is a lot of good that comes from volunteering. It is good for our spirit, our kids and our community. Make an investment in our childrens' futures!

Team Coach	No experience necessary for ages 5-9. Experience helpful for ages 10-11. Experience necessary for ages 12-18. Coaches certifications (free clinics) and Safe Haven certification are required.
Assistant Coach	Assist the head coach with practice and games.
Referee	No experience necessary. We provide training and on field instruction in both the laws and spirit of the game. Start as assistant referee and advance to the center referee position. Game assignments are based on level of ability. By raising the quality of our referee program, we raise the quality of our children's soccer experience.
Snack Bar Lead	We are looking for parents to share the supervision of the snack bar. This responsibility will rotate 4-6 times per person during the season.
Team Parent(s)	Interfaces with parents on team administrative matters.
Referee Schedulers	Help us make sure the games are covered!
Divisional Captains	Work to make teams fair and communicate with coaches as needed.
Special Talents	List your talent(s). Example: graphic artist, contractor, printer, and so on.
Field Maintenance	Mark fields for games, fill holes, trash pickup, sweep ing. Help keep our field costs down.

JOIN THE FUN AND LET'S HAVE A GREAT SOCCER SEASON!

AYSO REGION 34 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2009 FALL SEASON

MAY 16 & MAY 30	WALK-UP REGISTRATION–ALTA VISTA COMM CTR (REGISTRATION ALSO AVAILABLE ON EVALUATION DAY)
JUNE 13	EVALUATIONS – Alta Vista Park (DIV U7-U14) NEW PLAYERS TO AYSO 34 ONLY!
JUNE 13	LAST DAY TO REGISTER - WAIT LIST AFTER 6/13
JULY 25	PLAYER DRAFTS BEGIN
AUG 11	U7-U14 COACHES MEETING
AUG 14	PLAYERS CONTACTED BY COACH
AUG 17	PRACTICES BEGIN
AUG 22	REFEREE CLASS (Alta Vista Comm Ctr)
AUG 23	REF REFRESHER
AUG 25	TEAM PARENT MEETING
AUG 29	FIELD PREP DAY, UNIFORMS AND GAME SCHEDULES DISTRIBUTED
SEPT 1	REF ALL HANDS MEETING (TBD)
SEPT 5	REFEREE CLASS (Site TBD)
SEPT 9,11	REF CLASS
SEPT 12	OPENING DAY—Alta Vista Park PICTURE DAY—Alta Vista Park
OCT 3	PICTURE MAKE-UP DAY
NOV 14-15	AYSO 34 BEACH CUP PLAYOFFS (U10-U14)
NOV 21-22	SEASON FINALE U5-U8 TROPHIES U10-U14 BEACH CUP SEMIS AND FINALS

* ALL DATES TENTATIVE – PLEASE CHECK AYSO34.ORG FOR MORE INFO

AYSO 34 KEY CONTACTS

Regional Commissioner	Mike Riley	ayso34info@yahoo.com
Asst. RC	John Rounds	merver@juno.com
Registrar	Shaista Zaragoza	shaistapta@yahoo.com
Regional Coach Admin	Sara Pritzkat	5kats@adelphia.net
Regional Ref Admin	Sam Kabbani	r34ra@yahoo.com