



2011 Parent Handbook
Central Torrance
Region 15

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Central Torrance Region 15

AYSO is a national non-profit organization, established in 1964. The first games were played in Torrance at Jefferson Middle School in 1965. Region 15's objective is to teach the game of soccer and develop positive character traits in children while participating in a quality sports program. Our local Region administers this program strictly through the efforts of volunteers. In order to provide a quality program for our children, we need YOU!

AYSO is divided into 14 Sections across the United States. Central Torrance is part of Section 1 and part of Area 1F. There are 6 Regions in Area 1F, Central Torrance, San Pedro, Palos Verdes, South Torrance, West Torrance and North Torrance.

Region 15's Vision Statement

Together, we hold a passion for youth soccer; a commitment to our Region; and a disciplined business perspective to continually provide values for our players, volunteers and families.

Region 15's Mission Statement

AYSO Region 15 is dedicated to the highest standards of child development and youth soccer. We believe that it is the actions of our volunteers working individually or together that builds strong and everlasting ties within our community. Simply put, AYSO Region 15 will strive to be the best youth soccer program in the AYSO Organization.

AYSO's Vision Statement

To provide world class youth soccer programs that enriches children's lives.

AYSO Mission Statement

The American Youth Soccer Organization's mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs where everyone builds positive character through participation in a fun, family environment based on the six AYSO philosophies.

AYSO Philosophies

Everyone Plays - Our goal is for kids to play soccer. So we mandate that every player on every team must play at least half of every game and no one plays the entire game until everyone has played at least one-half.

Balanced Teams - At the start of each fall season, we set up teams as evenly balanced as possible - because it's more fun when teams of equal ability play.

Positive Coaching - The way to make winning kids is by building them up, not down. We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism.

Open Registration Our programs are open to all children between the ages of 4 and 18 who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.

Good Sportsmanship - We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude. All our programs must be designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

Player Development - We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Fall Season

Practices will start after August 6 (depending on the coach's availability). The first weekend of games begin September 10. For Divisions U5, U6, U8, U16, and U19, the last weekend of games will be the weekend of November 19. Divisions U10, U12, and U14 will play into December, and some teams in these Divisions will qualify for the Area Playoffs that take place during January.

Age Division Eligibility

Your child's division is based upon their age on July 31. The following identifies the ages of the players in each division.

- U5 – age 4
- U6 – age 5
- U8 – ages 6 and 7
- U10 – ages 8 and 9
- U12 – ages 10 and 11
- U14 – ages 12 and 13
- U16 – ages 14 and 15
- U19 – ages 16, 17, and 18

Registration Fees

Registration fees include AYSO fees, which includes premium for Soccer Accident Insurance coverage, a uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts, and socks and pictures.

Refunds

If for some reason you need to request a refund, our refund policy for the 2011 season is as follows:

Before July 1	A full refund
Between July 1 and August 31	\$50 fee is charged per player
After August 31	NO REFUND IS ISSUED

All refund requests must be made in writing to the Registrar at registrar@ayso-region15.org.

Late Registration

Any player that signs up on or after August 6 may be placed on a waiting list until there are enough players to form an additional team. In the unlikely event that the teams are full and we do not have an open spot on a team for your child, a full refund will be issued to you.

Soccer Accident Insurance

AYSO purchases Soccer Accident Insurance (SAI), which pays excess medical costs up to \$50,000 maximum per accident to an insured person for accidental bodily injuries incurred as a direct result of participation in a covered activity subject to the policy terms and conditions. This is an Excess Accidental Medical Expense Benefit, and all eligible expenses will be reimbursed in excess of a primary policy or on a Usual and Customary basis.

- All claims should be submitted within 90 days of the injury.
- Social Security Numbers are required on SAI claim.
- Each claim is subject to a \$200 Deductible.

Benefit Limits:

- \$1,000 physical therapy and chiropractic limit
- \$10,000 accidental death and dismemberment limit
- \$10,000 dental benefit limit
- \$10,000 orthopedic benefit limit

All AYSO currently registered* members (players, coaches, referees and other volunteers) are "Covered Persons" for accidental bodily injury while participating in the following covered activities:

- Team practice sessions, scheduled games, tournaments, or other sponsored activities (meetings, banquets, fundraisers) provided they are under the direct supervision of an AYSO registered volunteer.
- Group travel of five or more participants directly, without interruption to or from such practice sessions, games, tournaments, or sponsored activities, provided that players are traveling as a team and a licensed adult driver operates the vehicle.

*Registration requirements (for both players and volunteers) will be verified before any benefits are paid.

Sponsorship

We are extremely grateful for the donations we receive from all the businesses that support our program. We encourage each team to find sponsors. The more sponsors a team has, the more money the team gets, as one-third of every donation goes directly back to the team to assist with costs for the trophies and end of season team party. Sponsors will be listed in our electronic directory, our Kicker newsletter, and on our Regional website. The Region welcomes sponsors who want to help our children and program.

Electronic Directory

This year we are trying something new with an "electronic directory." Each family will have the opportunity to download a copy of the directory, which will be available sometime in November.

Picture Day

Coaches and their teams should make arrangements to ensure that they will be at the field for pictures the Picture Day at their assigned time. Further information will become available prior to Picture Day, which this year will be on Sunday, September 18. Make-up day for individual pictures will be in October, and once the date is known it will be posted on our website.

Awards

In Divisions U-5 through U8, every player will receive a participation award. Divisions U-10 through U14 will receive medals for the first through fourth place teams.

Attendance and Participation

Every player shall play at least three quarters of every game in Divisions U6 – U14, and at least one-half of every game in Divisions U16-U19. If a player arrives during the first quarter, the player must play a minimum of two quarters and if a player arrives in the second or third quarter, the player must play a minimum of one quarter.

Practices and Games

Our coaches in Region 15 volunteer their time. Dates and time of practice are based on their availability and coordinated with the Region. Shin guards are required at all practices and games. It is recommended that each player bring an appropriate size ball, water, and sweatshirt on cold days to practice.

Game Day Refreshments: Generally, each family is assigned a date to bring refreshments for both half-time and after the game. Coaches and referees appreciate being offered refreshments, so please bring a little extra.

U5 - Practice/scrimmage will consist of 70-minute sessions on Saturdays, with 40 minutes devoted to technical development and 20 minutes for scrimmages.

U6 – Will typically have one weekday training session and one Saturday game each week. Training session shall not exceed 60 minutes. At this level, there are no standings or score, and there are no goal keepers.

U8 – Will typically have one weekday training session and one Saturday game each week. Coaches may hold another optional 60 minute training session. Training sessions shall not exceed 60-minutes each. At this level, there are no standings or score, but a goal keeper is introduced. A player may only play one quarter as a goal keeper each game.

U10–U14 - Will typically have two weekday training sessions and one game each Saturday. Due to the construction projects at the various schools in the area, field space is limited and while every effort will be made to play all games on Saturday, there is the outside chance that games might have to be played on Sunday afternoons. Each training session shall not exceed 90 minutes. A player in U10 may only play 2 quarters as a goal keeper per game, excluding Area and Section playoffs.

U16-19 – Will typically have two weekday training sessions and up to two games each weekend – Saturday and Sunday. Each training session shall not exceed two hours.

Coach Responsibility: All coaches in Region 15 must follow the guidelines of the Safe Haven training. The coach must have the player medical release forms at every practice and every game. Failure to have the player medical release forms could result in the suspension or termination of the coach. At no time should a coach leave a child alone after a practice or game has concluded. The coach needs to have a good contact number for both parents with them at all practices and games.

Parents Responsibility: Each family must make an effort to get make sure their child is on time to both practices and games. Each family is also responsible to ensure that they pick up their players on time from every practice and game. Failure to do so could result in a confidential meeting with the Regional Commissioner and Child Volunteer Protection Advocate to discuss the situation.

Cancellation of Games

Inclement weather or poor field conditions may necessitate the canceling of games. For updates on field conditions check the Region's phone line at 310.371.5934 or website at www.ayso-region15.org.

Team Assignments

The Region's Team Balancing Coordinator shall make team assignments based on the ratings from either the previous season or ratings that took place at the evaluation day in June. Every attempt shall be made to balance the teams in each division.

Equipment

Uniforms: A uniform consisting of a jersey, shirt, shorts and socks are provided for your child's use at the beginning of the season and is yours to keep when the season ends. You are responsible for the uniform and any damages to it. No jewelry is allowed at practices or games. This includes earrings, facial rings, or piercings. Piercings may not be taped over, they must be removed. No hard pony tail holders, barrettes or beads may be worn in the player's hair. Medical bracelets may be worn but must be covered over with fabric or tape.

Shoes: Soccer cleats are best suited for the fields and should be worn at all practices and games. Baseball and football cleats are not allowed for soccer practices or games.

Shin Guards: It is mandatory that all players wear shin guards at all practices and games, no exceptions.

Ball: A player needs to practice with a ball to develop skills and coordination. Please make sure your last name and phone number are written on your child's ball. The following are the division to ball size ratios.

U5 through U8	Size 3 soccer ball
U10 through U12	Size 4 soccer ball
U14 through U19	Size 5 soccer ball

Your Role as Parents

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing an interest in their team. It is important to your child that you be enthusiastic and supportive. However, let your child set their goals and play the games for themselves. Parents should be careful not to impose their own standards and goals for their children that differ from the teachings of AYSO.

Parents must strive to be positive and serve as role models for their children. They should show good sportsmanship at all times toward the coach, referees, opponents and teammates. The key concept is respect for each other. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Encourage your child's efforts and point out their positive accomplishments. Remember that every child is different, so try not to compare your child to other children, as this may create hard feelings and resentment among the players and parents.

Please allow the coach to do their job, COACH. Most coaches are parents who have volunteered their time and have attended coaching clinics to help your child's experience an enjoyable and rewarding one.

As a parent, you can help your child's coach by introducing yourself and thanking them for their interest in coaching a team. Support the coach's request that your child be on time for practices and games. Make sure you pick your child up promptly from practices and games. Do not criticize the coach because you think your child should play a different position. Remember that coaches volunteer their time and energy to instruct and help your child and they need and deserve your cooperation and support. If you are interested in coaching please contact the Coach Administrator and they will see that you have your opportunity to coach your child in the future.

Negative criticism of coaches, referees, players, parents, or administrators will not be tolerated. Repetitive instances may lead to dismissal from program participation.

Referees

AYSO referees are volunteers and should be respected by coaches, players, and spectators. The referee's mistakes—and there will be some—shall be accepted without complaint. Many of the referees have no children playing in our Region and all of them gladly give their time to help us. Please show them the respect they deserve—they are volunteers. Express your appreciation for their commitment to our soccer program. The Region is always in need of referees. If you are interested in becoming a referee, please contact the Regional Referee Administrator.

Referee Point System

Last season, the Region had implemented a referee point system that has been refined and will continue this coming season. Additional details on the referee point system will be made available in August.

Sideline Etiquette

AYSO soccer encourages positive self-esteem, discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, acceptance of and learning from disappointment and success, as well as, perseverance. It is an enjoyable game to watch as well as it is to play. We believe that quality soccer can and should be developed; and that it can and should be fun.

Therefore, the emphasis of our program is not on who wins, but how the players and teams develop, and most importantly, did they have fun in doing so? We want all participants to reach their full, age-appropriate potential and to enjoy themselves in the process. As spectators, we must realize that the players are trying their very best and deserve our very best in the way of support and encouragement.

Negative comments have no place on the field or on the sidelines — in order to ensure a safe, fair, and fun environment for our children, AYSO has a "ZERO TOLERANCE" policy towards negative and unsporting behavior on or near the soccer fields. We need to recognize that the effort of each player is 100% and encourage each player to maintain that effort.

It is also important to recognize all good play being demonstrated—regardless of which team the player is on. The coach should be the sole source of coaching during the match, communicating tactical or technical adjustments to the players. As a coach, your coaching during the match should be limited to positive, instructional and/or encouraging comments (P.I.E.). Giving play-by-play instructions to all players thwarts their ability to put into effect the lessons stressed in practices and disallows them the opportunity to think on their feet. The area off the field that the coaches occupy is called the "technical area" and is on your own team's side, no closer than one yard from the touchline, and up to ten yards from either side of the halfway line. The "technical area" is limited to the head coach and one assistant coach for that team. Not only are these to be the only persons occupying the "technical area," they are the only persons who may coach (give tactical or technical information) during the course of the match.

Sportsmanship

An important aspect of the AYSO program is Sportsmanship. Our children need to experience:

- The fun of hard fought but fair competition,
- Winning graciously,
- Losing graciously,
- Improving one's abilities through practice,
- Learning the social skills involved in being a member of a team, and
- Acknowledging good play by teammates as well as opponents

One of the ways in which our children can learn and continue to have these experiences is by our demonstration of good sideline behavior. Our children learn by watching and imitating our conduct. Keep a positive outlook and demonstrate it by supporting the coaches, players, and referees—in spite of any mistakes they may make during the course of a match.

Volunteering

The success of AYSO comes from the volunteers. Training is available for volunteers at the Section, Area, and Regional levels through clinics, workshops, and guidelines in order to build their confidence and expertise in the particular task for which they have volunteered. Some of the many positions needed every season to make the program run successfully are coaches, referees, assistant referees, team parents, field maintenance, and board members. The following is a list of opportunities for you to consider. All volunteers will receive instructions for selected jobs. Remember: No Previous Experience is Necessary and it's free!

Coaching can be one of the most rewarding opportunities in AYSO. All AYSO coaches must be age appropriate certified. This training is held locally and is required for coaches in Divisions U6, U8, U10, and U12 for the 2011 season. Training for Divisions U14, U16, and U19 is not mandatory, but highly recommended. Safe Haven Coach is required for all Coaches, and is included in the training.

Assistant Coaches assist the team coach during practices and games. AYSO assistant coaches must also be age appropriate certified. This training is held locally and is required for coaches in Divisions U6, U8, U10, and U12 for the 2011 season. Training for Divisions U14, U16, and U19 is not mandatory, but highly recommended. Safe Haven Coach is required for all Coaches, and is included in the training.

Refereeing can be one of the most rewarding opportunities in AYSO. First-time AYSO referees must attend referee training. Upon successful completion of the referee training course, a uniform will be provided by the Region. Contact the Regional Referee Administrator if you're interested. You will learn the rules of soccer and how to conduct the game, and have an opportunity to participate in the game with the players. The AYSO Referee Program requires that all games in Division U10 through U19 have a qualified referee for the game to be played otherwise the game cannot be played.

Assistant Referees assists the referee by calling the ball in and out of play, and offside. A Referee Training Class must be completed. Upon successful completion of Referee Training, a uniform will be provided by the Region at no cost to you.

Team Linespersons receive brief instruction from the referee. They will be responsible for signaling the referee from the sideline with a flag if the whole of the ball crosses the touchline. This person is needed if there are not enough referees or assistant referees available for the game.

Team Parents are the administrative assistant to the coach. The Team Parent is the primary communicator between the coach and the parents. They oversee and coordinate with other parents in several areas, including refreshments, parties, newspaper articles, banner making, communication, and anything else that pertains to the team. Team Parent Meeting provides pertinent information necessary to perform duties. Coaches greatly appreciate a committed volunteer to fill this position.

Field Setup/Tear Down: A hand full of parents are required to help set up and tear down the fields on the days their children have either the first or last games of the day.

Child Protection Policy

Central Torrance Region 15 is committed to the protection of all its children from all forms of abuse and neglect while participating in the program. It promotes the awareness and prevention of child abuse in the community at large.

Central Torrance Region 15 has a Child Protection Advocate, who is be responsible for overseeing the child protection program in accordance with AYSO guidelines. They are a member of the Regional Board and will act as the main resource on child protection issues and are the Region's liaison with the Coordinator of Child Protection Advocacy at the AYSO Education Department.

Central Torrance Region 15 requires all volunteers to complete a volunteer application form, which authorizes AYSO to perform applicant screening.

Central Torrance Region 15 shall have the right to revoke the participation of any individual who lies or knowingly misrepresents information on the application form, or who violates the principles of these child protection policies. AYSO shall have the right to revoke both the registration and certification of any volunteer who falsifies information, is found guilty of child abuse, or fails to complete and submit a volunteer application form.

Important Dates

August 6: Coaches Meeting, Narbonne High School, 9am to 2pm

August 23: Team Parent Meeting, Divisions U5 thru U8, Narbonne High School, 6pm to 8pm

August 30: Team Parent Meeting, Divisions U10-U19, Narbonne High School, 6pm to 8pm

September 10: Opening day

September 18: Picture Day

November 19: End of season for Divisions U5 thru U8

November 20: End of season for Divisions U16 & U19

December 11: end of season for Divisions U10-U14

Contact Information

Region 15 Website: www.ayso-region15.org

Regions 15 Message Line: 310.371.5934

Regional Commissioner: Fred Silver, RC@ayso-region15.org