

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

Part I: General

1. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish the policies for inter-regional play within Area 5C and with surrounding AYSO Areas. These guidelines consist of three parts. The first part is concerned with team formation, game scheduling and disciplinary matters. The second part provides guidelines for the conduct of games and is intended to be a rule book supplement.

2. Definitions

- a. Regional Game -- A game conducted between two teams from the same region.
- b. Area Game -- A game between two teams from different regions within the same area.
- c. Section Game -- A game between two teams from different regions and different areas within the same section.
- d. National Game -- A game between two teams from different regions, different areas, and different sections.
- e. External Game -- A game between a team from Area 5C and another soccer program, e.g. North Alabama Soccer League
- f. National Guidelines -- Guidance put forward by the AYSO National Organization to include National Bylaws, National Policies, National Rules and Regulations and the FIFA Laws of the Game as amended by AYSO.

3. Modifications to the National Rules and Regulations and LOTG for Spring 2016

In response to changes to the National Rules and Regulations (NR&R) which is not yet released to the public in an updated NR&R document, the National Board of Directors has adopted the following to accommodate U.S. Soccer's mandates on heading heading including a ban on heading in U-12 or U-11 and younger, along with restrictions during training for U-14. The following will apply to the Spring 2016 season Area Games until the changes are documented and released in the official National Rules and Regulations.

- A. Consistent with the U.S. Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division players U-11 (U-12 and below for programs without single age divisions) and below in both practices and games.**
- B. Coaching requirements changes due to new Heading rules:**
 - a. Heading for players in U-14 is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers, per player. There is no restriction on heading in matches.
 - b. There are no restrictions on heading for U-16 and up players in practice or games.

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

C. Changes to the LOTG due to new Heading rules:

- a. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player age 10 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game.
 - i. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.
 - ii. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's penalty area, must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.
- b. Neither cautions nor send-offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infractions.

D. Practical Application

- a. Deliberately heading the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with his/her head. The referee must take the following into consideration:
 - i. The movement of the head towards the ball (not the ball towards the head)
 - ii. The distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- b. Consider this to be a form of dangerous play.
- c. Like any infraction, advantage may be applied if the awarding of the free kick would be to the benefit of the team that committed the infraction.
- d. AYSO recommends that advantage be applied sparingly in U8 and U10 matches, typically only in obvious goal scoring opportunities.
- e. Unlike any other foul or infraction, the placement of the ball for the IFK is on the penalty area line if a defender intentionally heads the ball inside his/her goal area or penalty area.

Part II: Team Formation and Scheduling

1. Team Formation

Teams shall be formed per National Guidelines and National Rules and Regulations. Regions are encouraged to adopt AYSO short sided game program. The standard program for Divisions U12, U10, U8 and U6 within Area 5C are per the short sided program guidance.

2. Inter-regional games

- a. **Divisions U8 and U6.** Area 5C strongly discourages the playing of Area games between regions for these age divisions. Unless closely monitored, the parents immediately turn these games into competitive games since their town can not possibly lose to another town. When a region does not have enough players to form teams for internal play, regions are encouraged to adopt alternate programs such as soccer fest, K-

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

Kickers, etc. which involves the children from both communities. Note that the adoption of short-sided games allows a program with 28 children to form 4 teams in Division U8.

b. Division U10. Area 5C will use the AYSO Short Sided Games Program. Teams will consist of a maximum of 10 players; games will be played 7 versus 7.

c. Division U12. Area 5C will use the AYSO Short Sided Games Program. Teams will consist of a maximum of 12 players; games will be played 9 versus 9.

d. Divisions U14, U16 and U19. Area 5C will use an 11 versus 11 format for Divisions U14, U16, and U19. U14 will consist of 15 players maximum while U16 and U19 teams will consist of a maximum of 18 players.

3. Area Scheduling

Regions that want to participate in Area games will need to declare their intent and attend the area scheduling meeting normally held in mid-August prior to the fall season and in early March prior to the spring season. Area scheduling will not be conducted for Divisions U6 and U8. Prior to the Area scheduling workshop, regions need to provide the number of teams by division and the dates the region fields are available. All teams should be entered in eAYSO prior to the scheduling workshop. Each region will schedule their home games based upon field availability and provide the field and game time information to the appropriate visiting region. Regions should consider the distance the visiting team must travel. Games should not be scheduled which require the home team to depart prior to 7 a.m. or will not allow the visiting team to return by 9 p.m. unless agreed to by the visiting team. For purposes of this guideline, the normal travel time should include an additional 30 minutes for warm-up, parking, etc. For example, a team from Town A must drive 75 minutes to Town B. The earliest game time for this game would be 8:45 a.m. If played in the evening the game should end by 7:45 p.m.

4. Area Tournament Requirements

- In order to participate in the Area tournament, regions must schedule and play Area or Section games during the fall season.
- Each region division (U10C / U10G / U12C / U12G / U14C / U14G / U16C / U16G / U19C / U19G) must play 10% of their regular season games as Area or Section games. i.e. a region has a U10G division with 10 teams that play 8 regular season games for a total of 80 regular season games. Eight (8) of the games must be Area or Section games.
- Any Region that has suspended a player or coach should notify the Area Director and Area Tournament Director, prior to registering their team for the Area Tournament. Name, age division of player/coach, and length of suspension must be provided. The Area Director, Tournament Director and Regional Commissioner will decide what, if any, restrictions carry over to the Area Tournament.

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

5. Equal Playing Strength

Inevitably during a season, a game will occur when one team shows up full strength and the other team barely has enough to play. Part III contains guidelines for referees in deciding what to do. The philosophy is to look for a "win-win" situation. Ruling forfeits or forcing a game of 7 vs. 11 (with 7 substitutes) does not normally result in a winning situation for either team.

6. Misconduct

The standards of conduct at AYSO games are clearly stated in National Guidelines. Since we are dealing with sports that are inherently emotional and players in various states of maturation, there will inevitably be incidents of improper conduct during Area games.

Coaches are considered responsible for insuring that players, spectators and coaches behave properly. Referees have the authority to suspend or terminate games in the event of severe misconduct by players, coaches or spectators. Referees have the authority to request the removal of coaches or spectators that are not conforming to standards of conduct defined by AYSO.

The Area Director has the authority to suspend players and coaches for severe breaches of misconduct. The suspension can be for one or two games or indefinitely. A due process hearing will be held for potential suspensions longer than two games. Players and coaches may be suspended for misconduct even if the referee did not award a caution/warning (yellow card) or send off/eject (red card) the player or coach at the time of the misconduct. Suspension shall be invoked against scheduled games to include makeup games and games added during the season. Suspended players and coaches are not allowed at or on fields when their team is playing.

Any player that receives a second ejection or any coach that is removed from a second game shall be suspended for at least two additional games.

7. Misconduct Reporting

Referees will be required to submit a report in event of serious misconduct during a game. Serious misconduct includes ejection of players (red card), removal of coaches, removal of spectators, removal of any game official, and any other misconduct that results in the referee suspending or terminating the game. Games suspended or terminated for other reasons, e.g., weather or darkness, do not require a report.

The referee's report should describe the incident in full detail to include who was involved and what happened. The report may also contain a recommendation for further action and the reason for doing so, e.g., a player from the game began to swear loudly and profusely and refused to leave the field resulting in suspension of the game for 20 minutes. The report may also indicate the referee's recommendation for no further action.

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

These reports should be written and mailed to the Area Referee Administrator with copies to the home team's Regional Referee Administrator. The referee should verbally notify the home team's Regional Referee Administrator who in turn should notify the Area Referee Administrator.

The Regional Commissioners for each team involved will notify the Area Director. The Area Director will discuss the report with the Area Referee Administrator and decide on the action to take.

8. Due Process

For extreme cases of misconduct or when an individual has repeatedly been guilty of misconduct, the Area Director may decide to hold a Due Process hearing. The Area Director shall appoint a panel of disinterested individuals to investigate the matter and provide a recommendation. The panel shall consist of at least two individuals that have served as Executive Members in AYSO. The hearing shall be conducted per National Guidelines.

9. Game Cancellations

In the event of a game cancellation, the visiting team should be notified as soon as possible. Regions should provide a clear policy on cancellations and provide to visiting teams.

10. Regional Standings

Regions are encouraged to not use Area games in computing regional standings. Area games will not be made up solely due to the need of one region to compute standings.

Part III: Team Formation and Scheduling

Part III is the game day portion of the guidelines. All game officials and coaches should be familiar with these guidelines.

1. Substitutions

- a.** All U10, U12, and U14 games will be played by "quarter" with substitution allowed at "quarter breaks" and halftime or for injured players per the FIFA Laws of the Game and the AYSO National Rules and Regulations.
- b.** For U16 and U19 divisions, Area 5/C is participating in the experimental program established by the AYSO National Board for these age groups. Free substitution will be permitted in the U-16/U-19 Experimental Program, but only if it is handled in a manner which will ensure that every participant plays at least one half of every game by requiring a separate time monitor, independent of either team or coach, who checks each player in or out of the game.

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

Free substitution must be used in any Area U16 or U19 game, as long as the home region provides a time monitor. The time monitor must be a trained fourth official or any AYSO adult volunteer (18 years or age or older), and may be an adult whose child is playing in the game. The time monitor may not be a coach, assistant coach, or player who is involved in the game.

In the event that the home region is unwilling or unable to provide a time monitor, the game will be played with substitution at "quarter breaks," halftime, or for injured players. In the event that the home team provides a time monitor, but the visiting team does not wish to use free substitution, the visiting team should make substitutions approximately at the mid-point of each half, at halftime, and as needed for injury.

If desired, both teams may provide a time monitor, but if the home team does not provide a team monitor, free substitution shall not be used. All monitors should report to the Referee and are subject to his/her guidance and instructions.

If there is no time monitor provided by the home region, referees are not to allow free substitution.

The time monitor must complete a worksheet for each team documenting the playing time for each player. The worksheets and game cards must be submitted to the appropriate regions after the completion of the game. It is the responsibility of the regional commissioner or the area director, as the case may be, to monitor the experimental program during the season. For Area games, both regions must examine the worksheets afterwards to insure compliance with the playing time requirements.

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, either team may request to substitute a player or players at any stoppage of play. Either team may substitute on a kickoff, goal kick, corner kick, drop ball, direct or indirect free kick, throw-in, or stoppage for an injury. Substitutions may be allowed prior to a penalty kick, but the player entering the game cannot take the penalty kick or replace the goalkeeper.

The substitution procedure is as follows.

1. The substitute(s) should line up at the halfway line.
2. At the next stoppage of play, the referee will give permission for the substitution to take place.
3. The players being replaced leave the field.
4. The substitutes enter the field.

Referees should avoid unnecessary delays in the substitution process. If a substitute is not ready to enter the game at a stoppage, the referee may elect to defer the substitution until

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

the next opportunity. Requests for substitution at the time the ball is being put into play may also be deferred until the next opportunity.

2. Equal playing strength

Area games will be played with equal numbers of players. If one team is short players, there are several options available. The referee's role is an honest arbitrator between the two coaches. The solution should be in the best interest of the players which is usually to maximize the playing time for all players present and to avoid discouraging the team that does not have enough players. Note that the referee does not have the power to forfeit a game, but may suspend a game and report to the home Regional Commissioner what action was taken. The following options are provided to equalize the number of players when one of the teams is short by 2 players or more of the maximum number of players allowed per team on the field of play for the teams' division.

- a. The team with the most players loans the short team players.
- b. Scramble the two teams and play the game.
- c. At the option of the short-sided coach, play the game regularly.

3. Misconduct

In addition to the authority granted by the Laws of the Game to the referee, they shall also have the power to have spectators and coaches removed from the playing area in the event of severe misconduct. In the event of spectator misconduct, the coaches of the teams will be notified. Coaches will be held responsible for their team's spectators. In the event the offending spectator cannot be identified with either team, the home team has the responsibility of getting the spectator to leave. Referees have the authority to suspend or terminate a game for player, coach, or spectator misconduct. Referees do not have the authority to forfeit a game. See Part II for administrative actions in the event of a game suspension or termination.

4. Conflict of game jerseys

The home team is responsible for providing a method to distinguish teams in the event of jersey conflict. Regions are encouraged to have a dark and light set of pullover mesh jerseys on hand for this occasion.

5. Caution

When a player in Divisions U19, U16, or U14 receives a caution (Yellow Card), the coach may request to substitute another player. The cautioned player shall be given credit for playing in the quarter in which the caution was awarded. The cautioned player may not return to the game until the next substitution opportunity. The referee may recommend that the coach substitute the player if, in the referee's opinion, this is needed to allow the player to "cool off." It is the coach's

Area 5C Guidelines

Last revised April 16, 2016

decision to substitute the player. Such substitution shall be done during the stoppage of play when the caution is awarded.

6. Cold weather playing uniforms

In the event of cold weather, participants will be allowed to wear appropriate clothing. Clothing worn must not pose a hazard to any player to include the player wearing the clothing. Referees should not prohibit clothing solely because it does not match that worn by other team members, but have authority to prohibit dangerous clothing or clothing that might result in confusion or inability to distinguish the teams.

Approvals:

Area Director	Cathy Farless	Date:	4/16/16
<i>Emails on file to support the concurrences below.</i>			
ACA	Curtis Walker	Date:	4/10/16
AMA	Debbie Farmer	Date:	Verbal 4/16/16
ARA	John Price	Date:	4/15/16
RC 160	Jackie James	Date:	4/12/16
RC 498	Gene Scherer	Date:	4/11/16
RC 557	Rachael Martinez	Date:	4/10/16
RC 894	John Price	Date:	4/15/16
RC 914	David Lunsford	Date:	4/11/16
RC 1174	David Lewis	Date:	4/10/16