



NOTE: This is a working document, under review by committee. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please send them to bob@coachbob.com

AYSO Challenge Program Region 68 Channel Islands Soccer Club/FC Camarillo

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The following are supplemental guidelines exclusive to the Region 68 Challenge Program. These guidelines support the unique character and culture of Region 68 and are in addition to the Section 10 Challenge guidelines, pending approval by the AYSO National Board of Directors.

REGION CHALLENGE ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Region 68 is responsible for the administration and management of its Challenge program under the oversight of Area 68. Region 68 will create and approve essential board positions or expand responsibilities of existing board positions to support the Regional program and the Area Challenge program as a whole.

These positions include, but are not limited to: (Please refer to Section 10 Challenge Guidelines for role descriptions):

- **Region Challenge Coordinator (RCC)**
- Region Challenge Registrar
- Region Challenge Treasurer
- Region Challenge Coach Director
- Other positions that will share some expanded responsibilities include:
 - CVPA/Risk Management
 - Safety Coordinator
 - Referee Administrator
 - Secretary

TEAM ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Beyond what Cal South mandates, Region 68 will require each team have the following official team personnel, who are appropriately licensed and have both Safe Haven and the club Risk Management certifications. They must also be AYSO Registered volunteers.

- **Challenge Head Coach:** Each team must have one designated Head Coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.
- **Challenge Assistant Coach:** Each team must have at least one designated assistant coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.

- **Challenge Team Manager:** Each team will be required to have a Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. Team manager will liaise with RCC and Challenge Registrar and be responsible for ensuring team registration and compliance and coordination of volunteer participation within home region.
- **Challenge Assistant Team Manager:** Each team is strongly encouraged to have a backup Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. The Assistant Team Manager will assume Team Manager responsibilities in the absence of the Team Manager or assist/share responsibilities.

Region 68 will provide basic training and orientation, however, it is the team's, player's and parents' responsibility to become immersed with the non-AYSO club and gaming circuit policies, in addition to those of AYSO Challenge, which can be found on their respective websites.

AYSO Challenge/Region 68: [www. 68](http://www.68)

Cal South: www.calsouth.com

Coast Soccer League: www.coastsoccer.com

Player Registration with AYSO Challenge

Each player must be dual registered with AYSO and with the non-AYSO club governing body, Cal South, in order to play in AYSO Challenge. Region 68 has established a per-player registration fee of \$68 for [Year] that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- AYSO registration & administrative fees
- Cal South Player registration
- Coast Soccer League Team registration
- Supplemental Training (camps, trainers, etc.)
- Tournament fees (e.g., State Cup, if applicable)
- Uniform
- Field Permits (practice and game day)

Team Registration with Non-AYSO Gaming Circuit

Funds for team registration with the Coast Soccer League (\$450 as of 2014) must come from player registration fees set by Region 68 (tentatively \$450/player for fall, 2015). The forfeit bond (\$150) is paid for by Region 68 and will stay with the region, even if the team disbands. If a team forfeits a game, it will be responsible for reimbursing the Region for the forfeit bond and will not be permitted to participate in League Cup until bond is paid.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- Players must be dual registered in both AYSO and a non-AYSO club league (Cal South and Coast Soccer League).

Teams must fulfill volunteer requirements detailed in the [Region 68 Guidelines] that are designed to "GIVE BACK" to Region 68 to compensate for the significant volunteer support required to run the Challenge Program and to help enrich the Region 68 experience overall. This includes volunteer tasks and refereeing, etc. Team volunteer requirements and volunteer jobs are detailed in the Region 68 Guidelines and volunteer assignments will be similar to other teams in Region 68 of similar roster size and player age.

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- Every player must take the Region Basic Referee course at age U12.
- Each coach/team manager must sign a Coach-Challenge Agreement.
- Each Player Family must sign a Player/Parent Agreement.

- A parent of each family must attend a Challenge Orientation meeting annually.
- Each family must agree to meet all financial obligations as set by Region 68. All AYSO Challenge fees are due no later than July 1.
 - [Arrangements for a player fee extension may be made between the Region and Player Family]. Payment must be made to Region 68 directly.
 - A player may seek sponsorship or apply money raised through fundraising (all fundraising should be directed through the Region on behalf of the beneficiaries).

Team Finances

- All team/player registration fees are collected, deposited and disbursed by the host Region as required for participation in Fall non-AYSO club play. A team may NOT set up a separate account for Fall Registration fees.
- The AYSO Challenge players (parents/guardians) are responsible to provide auxiliary funds as needed or participate in fundraising efforts.
- Any team funds collected for the purposes of referee fees, supplemental training, equipment, team events, etc., must be managed and documented by the team itself, either by the Team Manager or appointed Team Treasurer.
- The Region will hold the coach and team manager solely responsible for their team finances.
- Detailed accounting of team finances must be available to the Region upon request.

FALL SEASON PLAYER & COACH COMMITMENT PERIOD AND PLAYER TRANSFERS

The Region 68 Challenge Program “Fall Season Player & Coach Commitment Period” extends from August 1 through the conclusion of a team’s participation in State Cup.

- Players/parents are required to sign a Player/Parent Agreement and coaches are required to sign Coach-Challenge Agreement that acknowledges the “Fall Season Player & Coach Commitment Period.”
- Coaches and Players are expected to continue to participate in all team activities (practices, games, etc.) through the entire commitment period.
- No player transfers within the Challenge Program will be permitted.
- Any transfer exceptions within the Challenge Program will only be considered with consent from both the coach of the team the player is leaving and the Regional Commissioner of the team the player wishes to transfer to.
- At the end of the Fall Season Player & Coach Commitment Period, players will be permitted to transfer to clubs within the Challenge Program.
- Players from outside clubs who wish to transfer to an AYSO Challenge Program may be permitted to do so, provided transfer complies with Cal South guidelines and the player pays both Cal South and \$20 per player AYSO Administrative Registration fee.
- Any player requesting their release from the Challenge Program to transfer to a non-AYSO club, must be given their release in accordance with Cal South guidelines and are not bound to the Player & Coach Commitment Period.
- Any player who is released from a Challenge Program during the Player & Coach Commitment Period and later seeks reinstatement in the same season, will require Regional Commissioner approval.

NON-AYSO CLUB GUIDELINES & REGISTRATION FOR TEAMS & PLAYERS

Eligibility to Participate in Challenge

The mission of the Challenge Program is to develop players in a highly competitive environment, but even more important, is to foster a love of the game. Therefore, Region 68 will only allow teams capable of competing at a higher level to participate in this program, consistent with the Section 10 Challenge Guidelines.

- Any team accepted into the Challenge program should have a proven and successful performance record, such as: The core of a team had a highly successful Extra, All-Star or Tournament season the prior year, or the recruiting class of a newly formed team is so exceptional it warrants consideration.
- U11-U12 teams applying for the Challenge Program will require Area approval, with a recommendation from Region 68.
- U13 and above teams applying for the Challenge Program will require Region 68 approval only.
- Region 68 reserves the right to deny the continuation of any existing Challenge team if it deems further participation is detrimental to the team's development, love of the game or the program as a whole as determined by Area. Such examples would be poor performance record beyond losses (i.e., lopsided scores) or persistent disciplinary issues.

The final determination will be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner. Opportunity to appeal will be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner.

Team Size

Although Cal South has established maximum limits for team sizes, Region 68 policy limits team size further to ensure that players enjoy as much field time as possible and that teams will comply with the 50% playing time mandate for each player. A team may petition for additional players and adding players above the limit will require Regional Commissioner approval.

Region 68 Maximum team size:

- U11- U14: (15) maximum roster size
- U15- U18: (18) maximum roster size

Age Policy

In non-AYSO gaming circuits, players are permitted to "play up" in older age divisions. However, the ability to "play up" is subject to Regional Commissioner approval in part based on the player's proven ability to perform against higher competition, maturity, the player's and family's sportsmanship, etc. Parents must confirm in writing to the Regional Commissioner that they approve of their child playing up.

Team Name and Uniform

All Region 68 teams will participate under the Channel Islands Soccer Club/FC Camarillo brand. In addition to AYSO Logo on official uniforms, only board-approved Challenge/FC Camarillo program logos may be used on team uniform apparel on the sleeve ONLY and that is at the team's expense. Any sponsorship logos on apparel outside of the uniform must have PRIOR Region approval.

Region 68 Challenge teams will wear uniforms approved by the Region Challenge Coordinator. Uniforms will support the region's signature Red/White for Home jerseys and a complementary color of white for Visitor jerseys.

COACH SELECTION PROCEDURE

Coach selection process will follow Section 10 Guidelines.

PLAYER SELECTION PROCEDURE

Player selection process will follow Section 10 Challenge guidelines.

TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE

Team selection process will follow Section 10 Challenge guidelines.

Multiple teams in one age division:

Challenge's goal is to retain top players and volunteers and create more opportunities for player development. Under the following circumstances, where one team currently exists, additional teams would be considered for a possible second team:

- **There is an abundance of "Challenge-caliber" players at open tryouts.**
- **An existing team is potentially moving up to a higher level.**
- Following tryouts, a coach of a higher level team (bronze moving up, silver or gold) will be allowed to invite a sufficient number of players back provided they attended tryouts and made the "Challenge-caliber" player pool so that the team may retain at least the minimum of players required by the non-AYSO club organization to maintain its higher playing level.
- No Challenge-caliber designated player is bound to play for any team and if the player is selected for more than one team, it will be the player's choice. Success in retaining the minimum amount of players will largely depend on the coach and the playing experience he/she provided the past year.
- In the event there are two teams, the second coach may elect to extend an invitation to those same players.
- In cases where a player is invited by both coaches, players and their parents will decide which team to join.
- If a player refuses an invitation to a team and there are no other Challenge options available, the player is free to try out for Extra or play in the Region 68 Primary program.

Accepting non-AYSO Teams: Region 68 will consider accepting outside teams (club or neighboring regions) who wish to join AYSO Challenge, provided they:

- Attend open tryouts so other Challenge coaches have access to their players
- Agree to established Challenge Registration fees
- Agree to established Challenge Volunteer Requirements
- Obtain necessary AYSO and non-AYSO certifications
- Do not adversely affect a given Challenge age division within Region 68
- Meet AYSO and non-AYSO league deadlines and requirements

Note: The possibility exists that an outside team may apply to join the Region Challenge Program after tryouts have concluded and teams have been selected. If so, the Regional Commissioner may choose to give the team a tryout exemption and accept the team intact, provided they agree to attend open tryouts the following year AND, that the team will not recruit from players already committed to an existing Challenge team until the Player Commitment Period concludes. If the team is from a neighboring Region, and that Region consents, the team may be permitted to keep their Region uniform colors and name, with the approval of the Regional Commissioner of the host region.

Replacement Player Policy & Supplemental Tryouts:

Challenge teams may add players or hold supplemental tryouts provided they comply with Section 10 Challenge guidelines on replacement players.

Recruiting: Although all tryouts are open, and Regions are free to publicize their programs, direct solicitation from other Regions in a manner that adversely affects their teams or the Region as a whole is not permitted. All suspected "Poaching" should be brought to the immediate attention of the Region Challenge Coordinator. Any team or team official found to be recruiting beyond reasonable means of contact are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from a team.

Please note that a coach “chatting” with parents of a player from another team is not considered poaching, unless it can be undeniably substantiated. Regions and Areas cannot be expected to and will not police private conversations between coach, player and families.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

Currently, Challenge season ends for Region 68 teams at the conclusion of State Cup. At that time the team may choose to continue as a “Tournament team,” which is different than a Fall Challenge team:

- Participation is by coach invitation only.
- Fall Players are not automatically included on a tournament team, even if their Fall coach is coaching a tournament team. Tournament play is outside the scope of the Fall season. The non-league tournament season is outside of the Fall Season Player and Coach Commitment Period.
- A coach has the option to extend invitations to all or some players, and add additional players to the roster who did not participate in the Fall season.
- A player may request a transfer to another club within or outside of AYSO Challenge during the tournament season and may be subject to a refund as noted in the Regional refund policy.
- Tournament is an opportunity for coaches to recruit new players and for players to perhaps try new teams.

MISCONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Region 68 will follow all Section 10 Challenge guidelines regarding misconduct, discipline and dispute resolution for In-Game and Non-Game violations, including all guidelines by CSL and Cal South.

REFUND POLICY

Fall Season: Players are entitled to a full refund up until June 30, minus any non-refundable fees (team registration is due May 15 to CSL). From July 1-31, if a player drops, they are entitled to 70% of the refundable player fees. Cal South registration player fees are not refundable once the player has been registered for the Fall season. **No refunds after Aug. 1.**

If a player drops from a Challenge Team after Aug 1., and is eligible to play for an Extra team or Primary team, should a vacancy exist that does not impact team balance, the player’s non-refundable registration fee may be applied toward participation on these teams. However, any new uniform will be at the player’s expense.

Tournament: A player withdrawing from a tournament team once the teams have been formed and fees have been paid, will be subject to a 50% withdrawal penalty on any refund given. Refunds will be calculated upon written or email notification of the player withdrawing from the team, with all tournament entry fees and related expenses incurred (uniforms, equipment, permit fees, etc.) deducted from the final refund. Any tournaments where a player was at the time an official member of the team, but did not participate in the tournament, will be considered as if the player had participated, regardless of whether a substitute was used for that tournament date.

The Region will hold the tournament coach solely responsible for their team finances.

Region 68 AYSO Challenge Volunteer Program

Mission: As an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, it is our goal to provide a soccer experience that enriches children's lives through a collective effort of all AYSO Region member families.

Purpose of program: All AYSO Challenge teams are expected to "give back to their home region." As the AYSO Challenge program requires significant region resources to manage, participating teams are required to provide volunteer hours in order to help enhance the Region overall.

Team volunteer requirements and volunteer jobs are detailed in the Region 68 Guidelines and volunteer assignments will be similar to other teams in Region 68 of similar roster size and player age.

AYSO Challenge Team Requirement:

- ~~Each team will be required to provide 10 general volunteer hours per Fall season.~~ This can be in the form of field painting, field monitoring, and other duties noted below. These hours will be tracked and posted at the Region website.
- ~~Each team will be required to provide 12 referee assignments per Fall season.~~ These assignments will be tracked and posted at the Region website. Center Referee or Assistant Referee assignments MUST be performed by a certified referee.
- ~~Teams that do not reach the required minimum will be sanctioned,~~ which could include team coach and/or manager suspension or being prohibited from participating in postseason tournaments (i.e., League or State Cup).
- ~~Teams that organize a community outreach effort may be eligible for volunteer hours with prior approval from the Regional Commissioner. Email the Region Volunteer Coordinator for details.~~

Volunteer opportunities can include, but are not limited to:

- Pre-season field preparations
- Region fundraising participation
- Player registration
- Field monitoring
- Field setup
- Field breakdown
- Equipment transport
- Information tent staff
- Picture day assistance
- Opening day check-in
- Board participation
- Staffing concessions

How to serve volunteer hours:

1. ~~**Volunteer on game days when you are the HOME Team**~~, ONE team volunteer must monitor the game prior to your team's game. (First game of the day is excluded.) This requires wearing a safety vest and monitoring behavior and playing conditions on each touchline. Should any incidents occur, report your observations to AYSO Challenge officials. Each team will get ONE Volunteer credit for every game monitored, which should account for at least 4-5 volunteer points over the course of the season.
2. ~~**Additional volunteer hours:**~~ Every team should have at least 5 home games, so during HOME game weekends you will need to assign additional parents to volunteer duty (painting fields, reporting to the primary fields monitoring on Saturday, etc.) to reach the required 10 Volunteer hours.
3. ~~**Field setup/teardown applies to HOME and VISITING teams:**~~ HOME teams get credit for transport of goals and credit for setup/teardown of one goal.
4. ~~**When teams reach their volunteer quota, they are still required to fulfill their volunteer responsibilities through the conclusion of Fall season.**~~
5. ~~**No credit will be given to teams that do not Field Monitor the full game prior to their team's game**~~, meaning if you show up 30 minutes before your game, you will not get credit.
6. Teams may make up missed volunteer hours on Saturdays during core team play, thus giving back to the core program.
7. A team may apply surplus referee hours to their volunteer hours once they have exceeded the required 12 referee assignments.
8. Teams who have a parent of a player on a U10 or above Challenge team who is also a Region board member, qualify for an automatic 1-hour credit per board member.
9. Volunteer points will be posted weekly along with the team standings at [region website URL]. For any questions on volunteer point totals, email the Regional Challenge Coordinator within 5 DAYS of when the hour(s) was served.