

# **AYSO Challenge Teams**

## **AYSO Challenge FC**

### **Program Operating Procedures**

These guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive and are updated annually.

#### **DEFINITION**

Challenge Teams are composed of players registered within an AYSO Region of Section 12 Area D and registered with Arizona Youth Soccer Association "AYSA" as AYSO Challenge Football Club Central (Challenge FC). So, Challenge teams coaches and players have all of the advantages of being in AYSO and playing in "club".

Challenge Teams are made up of players who are selected through open tryouts and who want to play at the most advanced, competitive level within AYSO. Challenge teams represent Section 12D in PSOL or Chipotle State League as well as in inter-regional, intersectional, and international play. A significantly higher commitment is required to participate in the Challenge program. This opportunity to play may require team fund raising and may involve team travel. Travel is authorized for Challenge teams but is not a required part of the Challenge program.

The Regional Board of each AYSO "Home" Region must first approve the Challenge teams and coaches that will be proposed to the Challenge Administrator of Section 12D for final approval. Operating guidelines and directives are under the authority of the Area AYSO Section 12D Challenge program and are set forth herein.

Challenge FC Coaches are accountable to their Area Challenge Program (and their "Home Region"). The Area Challenge Program is accountable to the Section 12 Challenge Administrator and the Section 12 director.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Challenge Program is to:

- Promote AYSO's **Vision** to provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives
- Provide an opportunity for players who wish to commit and play at a more competitive level.
- Retain and regain players, volunteers, and families in AYSO.
- Provide an opportunity for valuable, skilled volunteers to continue contributing to their home Region's programs.
- Expand the existing program through additional opportunities to play as well as access to different levels of play.
- Provide programs that enhance regular season play.

This purpose will be accomplished by utilizing the protections of AYSO which include the tenets of:

### **EVERYONE PLAYS**

The program mandates that every player in the program play a minimum of half of every league or tournament game. It also supports the standard that players play three quarters of a game before any player plays the entire game.

### **POSITIVE COACHING**

The coaching program will be enhanced as a result of the skills of the Challenge coaches. In addition, Challenge coaches, as representatives of AYSO will be held to a higher standard of coaching and good sportsmanship than regular season coaches.

### **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

Challenge Coaches, Players, and Volunteers/Parents will be representing AYSO in a competitive venue, therefore the program expects and will enforce a higher standard of conduct for all participants.

### **OPEN REGISTRATION**

All eligible players (as defined below) will be given proper notice and opportunity to try out for a Challenge team.

### **BALANCED TEAMS**

Teams will be picked by the Challenge Team Coach or Coaches.

If multiple teams exist within a home region for the same age/gender:

- No active form of balancing will take place between the teams. How the teams perform within the non-AYSO gaming circuit will be the only true form of balancing. Preferences of players and their parents are to be considered as part of the selection process
- There will be no “A/B” team formations. Each coach will pick the best team they can. How the teams do will depend on the talent of the players and the coaching they receive.

### **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

The Challenge Program gives players a chance to develop their soccer skills through competitive play under the direction of some of our most experienced and best trained coaches.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following guidelines shall be used to determine player eligibility:

- Players selected *should* be registered prior to tryouts, but do not have to be. At tryouts a parent or legal guardian for each player will be required to sign an Emergency Authorization, Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk and Waiver, and the Acknowledgement and Consent Agreement form at Tryouts (see appendix E). It is possible the host region holding the tryouts may charge a nominal fee for covering the tryout expenses.
- All players must be 9 years old by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming season to be eligible to participate in this program.
- Once a player is old enough to play in Challenge, a player may play up a year without permission (i.e. a U12 player may play on a U13 team). A Coach wanting a player to play up multiple years must get the permission of the Area Challenge Coordinator and the parents of the player.
- Age classifications for Challenge teams shall be for single age group from U10 thru U19 inclusively.  
To calculate the division, take the age of the player as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, add 1; and put a “U” in front of it. That will then be the age division they will play on. So, if the player is 12 as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, they would play in the U13 division – “U” meaning under the age of 13.
- Dual participation with another soccer league/club other than AYSO Challenge or AYSO is strongly discouraged.
- Only players who attended open tryouts may be selected for placement on a Challenge Team.
- There will be NO “Alternate Players” in the Challenge Program. In the past, the Challenge Program has identified “Alternate players” – players that didn’t make the team but may practice or play with the team if there was an injury. That practice is no longer in effect.
- It is strongly advocated to have players stay within their own "home region" and participate on the Challenge Teams coming from that Region. However, it is understood that, occasionally, players registered in one Region may want to or need to play on another Region's Challenge team. The Area Challenge Registrar will monitor this movement and if it becomes excessive, will bring it to the attention of the Area Challenge Coordinator

## **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

Once a player is chosen for a Challenge Team:

- The player must be AYSO registered within their Home Region. If the player is not currently registered, they must become registered.
- After the player is verified to have an AYSO registration, the player will then need to become dual registered with AYSA by using the Challenge FC Registrar. The player/parent is responsible for paying the associated Club registration fee. The team may elect to pay the fee instead, by using team funds.
  - Make checks payable to AYSO Challenge or AYSO Challenge FC
  - Player Cards will be produced from the AYSA registration
  - The AYSA registration form will be the players Medical Release form

## **Challenge Team Limits**

Challenge teams are limited to a maximum of:

- 12 players for U10-U11 (Playing 8v8)
- 16 players for U12-U14 (Playing 11v11)
- 22 players for U15-U19 (Playing 11v11)

Every effort shall be made to insure that the number of Challenge FC teams in any age division do not exceed the number of teams in the primary core program. Where single age division are utilized in the Challenge program, their numbers will be added together to match the equivalent AYSO core program (IE: U11 and U12 will be added together to equal the U12 core program numbers).

Challenge Teams must have one head coach and one assistant coach. Two additional assistant coaches may be added to the coaching staff at the discretion of the head coach.

Rosters may be further limited by small-sided game rules. Roster size should take into consideration the requirement to achieve the ½ play per player per game.

Notes

- Teams at the U14 division may add additional player (s) if they have a player (s) who will be playing for their high school team and will not participate in the Fall Season
- U15-19 teams may have up to 22 players on the roster. However, they will be only be able to “suit” up 18 players in a GAME and will have to abide by any and all tournament restrictions.

## Tryouts

### Initial Tryout in Spring:

The following guidelines will be used in player selection:

- May 1st is the earliest available tryout date
- Regions within metro Phoenix will make every effort to hold at least 1 tryout session on alternating dates to allow players to select where they want to tryout.
- Challenge Teams must be chosen by tryouts. Tryout dates for Challenge teams will be posted on the home region's web site, the area website, and on the FC Challenge website as well as posted at all registration sessions to assure that all players have an equal opportunity to tryout.
- A copy of all tryout records may be requested to be turned over to the Area Challenge Director.
- Players may only be selected from candidates who attended tryouts. The Area Challenge Administrator must approve any exceptions.
- Once selected and position accepted, the player may not drop off one team and be picked up by another team during that season. All players and parents will sign the team commitment form, which prohibits all participants in the FC Challenge from switching teams during the season
- Players must tryout at the OPEN TRYOUT annually for a position on a Challenge team. NO player is guaranteed a position on any team
- Tryouts require Standard evaluation forms (this form will be supplied by Challenge FC), as well as advanced certified (or higher) coaches to help with evaluations, and a member of the regional board should also be present.
- It is recommended that all participants be contacted within a week of tryouts to be informed of the results. However, it is required that all participants be contacted within 2 weeks. Failure to do this can impact the coach's future participation.
- Tryout information must be at all general registrations if possible.

### Age Groups with 2 or more teams:

- All players will participate in at least one tryout. Players may try out for teams in neighboring regions.
- All players signing in to participate in the tryout will have the option to either choose a team they would like to play for or to choose to have no preference. If nothing is selected, then the team/coach they played for last year will be considered their preference; however, if the player did not play for either team/coach, then no preference will be assumed.
  - Each player may choose to "try for" a particular team or choose to just try out for all teams
  - PRIOR to the starting of the tryout, it must be explained to the parents/players what the "Preference" means in the selection process. The explanation may be written (see the Appendix C for a letter from the Area Challenge Administrator explaining this) and/or done verbally. The Area Challenge Administrator (or their designee) must be present during the explanation.

- The parents/players will have 10 minutes to make any changes they may want to make. After that time, **NO** changes will be made to the preferences. The Regional Challenge Coordinator(or their designee) will either take the sign in sheets (to have copies made) or will sign off on each sheet
- All players to be selected for a Challenge team must meet the selection performance criteria. Having played Challenge before does not automatically guarantee a player a spot on a team.
- The selection process will be as follows:
  1. Each coach will first pick all the desired players from the list of those players who chose them as a preferred coach/team to fill out their roster.
  2. If all teams' rosters have not been filled out, ALL players that have not been picked will be put into a pool of possible players to pick.
  3. Each coach will then have an initial 1<sup>st</sup> pick– the selection order will be – (1) the coach with the fewest players; (2) the coach with the least number of years in Challenge (coaching at this age level); (3) by a flip of the coin.
  4. After the 1<sup>st</sup> pick, the coach with the fewest players will pick until the number of players on each team are even.
  5. At that point, the picks will alternate between the teams until the rosters are filled out – based on the selection order defined above.

### Supplemental Tryouts:

If a Challenge Team loses players (after the initial selection of the team) or the Challenge Coach wants to add player(s) to the team after the tryouts are concluded and the original team roster is set, the Challenge Coach does have the option to schedule supplementary open tryout.

#### The Coach MUST:

- The coach must contact the Area Challenge Coordinator and the Area Challenge Director of Coaching.

#### At the U10/11/12/13 age groups

- This secondary or mid-season tryout, must be published through their home region's web site and publicized (at the minimum by posting signs at the fields where regular season games are played) at least 2 weeks before holding them.
- The brother/sister team coaches are allowed to attend and watch the tryout. They also may offer a position a player if they are not offered a position by the coach holding the tryout.

#### At the U14+ age groups

- This secondary or mid-season tryout may be much more informal.
- They may have a player or two show up to a practice or scrimmage to be evaluated.

- If the player(s) are not registered with either AYSO nor AYSA they still must have their parent/guardian sign the Emergency Authorization, Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk and Waiver, and the Acknowledgement and Consent Agreement form at Tryouts.
- The brother/sister team coaches are allowed to attend and watch the tryout. They also may offer a position a player if they are not offered a position by the coach holding the tryout.

## **COACH SELECTION**

### “Call for Coaches”

Openings for Head Coaching positions within the Challenge program must be advertised each year and application submitted no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming season.

- NEW Coaches seeking a position must submit an application via email and two letters of recommendation from parents of players they have recently coached (the letters must from non-regional board members).
- Returning coaches, must submit an application via email

### **Coaches (head and assistant) MUST:**

Have the AYSO basic coaching criteria (expected of all AYSO volunteers)

- Must take the online Safe Haven (Child and Volunteer Protection) Course once.
- Will be required to complete the CDC Heads Up Concussion Training through [www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org).
- Must fill out a Volunteer form with e-signature online at [www.eAYSO.org](http://www.eAYSO.org) each year.

Have and maintain a current AYSA Risk Management Disclosure with AYSA. This will ensure that coaches can get AYSA Coaches Cards and be allowed to be on the side lines during games and tournaments.

- Note: when filling out the Risk Management Form...the organization is “Challenge Football Club”

### **Coach Training Level**

At a minimum, each head coach must be at least one Coach Level over the age group that is desired to coach.

To be a Head Coach:

- U10      U12 Coach Certificate
- U12      Intermediate Coach Certificate
- U14-19    Advanced Coach Certificate.

**Each coach (head and assistant) must be or become** AYSO Advanced Certified Coaches as soon as possible (in accordance with the National Coaching Program).

- If a coach is **NOT** currently an Advanced Certified Coach, they **MUST** attend the 2 ½ day Advanced Certified Coaching Clinic that is offered during the summer prior to beginning work with their team.

Exception: If a coach has not taken the appropriate coaching classes to be able to take the Advanced Certified Coaching Clinic, they must work with their Home Region Regional Coach Administrator and the Area Challenge Director of Coaching to work out a Class path within their local region to become an Advanced Certified Coach as soon as possible (see appendix B).

- If a coach **IS** currently an Advanced Certified Coach, they **MUST** attend continuing education classes each year prior to beginning work with their team.

This requirement does not apply to tryouts for the Challenge Team.

Must agree to and meet the following requirements:

- All Challenge Teams (coaches, parents, and possibly players) **are** required to “Give Back” to their home Region’s core program. This may be accomplished by many different ways (see appendix A).
- All Challenge teams should “Help” at AREA 12D Challenge AYSO Tournaments. This help will make sure the tournament is put on correctly, efficiently, and professionally. The better the tournament, the more teams will show up; the more teams, the more profit will be available for the “Jobs”.
- It is expected that Coaches in the Challenge program will hold Good Sportsmanship in high regard. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated in a Challenge coach. Likewise, anything other than Positive Coaching will not be tolerated.
- Coaches are expected to report all “Red Cards” received by their teams or themselves to the Area Challenge Director and Area Director of Coaching within 48 hours. Reports of misconduct will be handled in accordance with home Region’s disciplinary policies and by the disciplinary policies of AYSO.

## **HEAD COACH’S RESPONSIBILITY**

The team’s head coach is ultimately responsible for all activities of the team and is directly accountable to the Area Challenge Administrator, the Area Challenge Director of Coaching, and their Home Region’s Challenge Coordinator. All official communication from the Area/Region will go through the head coach.



The team's head coach will direct and be responsible for:

- Practice times, place, and games (including scrimmages).
- Timely communication with all team parents.
- Team Expenditures (tournaments, warm ups, bags, balls, etc.)
- Tournament play, transportation, and lodging.
- Disciplinary action, as needed.
- Uniforms, Equipment, and proper paperwork.
- Appointment and dismissal of an Assistant Coach(es), Team Manager, and Fund Raising Chairperson
- Approval of team sponsors that are in line with AYSO National Guidelines and must be approved by the Area Challenge Director.
- Ensuring that EACH PLAYER WILL play at a minimum one-half of each game (injuries and disciplinary action exempt).
- Notification to Area Challenge Coordinator for any scrimmages or team events -- for liability purposes.
- Ensuring AYSO volunteer to player ratio is adhered to at all times
- It is recommended that all coaches dress in a professional manner at all matches and training sessions. Coach polo shirts will be supplied to each team from Challenge FC.

## **TEAM OPERATIONS**

### **Practice:**

- The Challenge Season shall be from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Practice fields and times will be coordinated through the home Region's Park Scheduler. Each team will be allowed up to two 2-hour practices per week.
- Practices may be scheduled twice a week for up to 2 hours each practice.
- Practices cannot start until August 1<sup>st</sup> (or 2 weeks before the teams 1st tournament, whichever comes first).
- Scrimmages are recommended and encouraged. Scrimmage time does not count as practice time.
- Other voluntary soccer related activities – such as additional Soccer Training, PowerSkills, or Summer Camps –will not count as practice time.

### **Tournaments:**

- Playing in Tournaments is strongly encouraged in the Challenge program. At the beginning of the soccer year (or each season), the coach should map out which tournaments the team will participate in.
- The coach or team manager should get the application for the tournament in PRIOR to the due date.

- To get payment from the team's funds, the coach or team manager can e-mail the Area Challenge Administrator and the Area Challenge Treasurer, ccing the Regional Challenge Coordinator with: the NAME of the Tournament, WHO/WHAT to make the checkout to, and HOW MUCH the check needs to be for. If the team has the funds, the check will then be sent to the Head Coach (or can be picked up). It is ***not*** recommended that individuals pay for tournaments and then get reimbursed at a later time. Reimbursement will not be issued until all games are completed.
- For consistency, when signing up for a tournament, please use:  
"AYSO Challenge FC <Team Name>".

FOR ALL Communication and tournament requests must use the Challenge FC email address for correspondence and check requests  
(guys@azchallengefc.com) (treasurer@azchallengefc.com)

***Guest Players:***

Getting guest players to play on the Challenge team is allowed.

- For "Club" players - the Challenge Coach must get the player ID and paperwork from the coach of the guest player's team. Then the coach must fill out and print the Guest form on the AYSA website
- If the guest player is on an AYSO Regular Season team, the Challenge Coach must register the player with AYSA on to a Challenge FC "House" team; get the player card from the Area Challenge Director or Area Challenge Registrar along with the registration form and then fill out and print the GUEST form on the AYSA club website.
- The Team will be responsible for the PSOL or Chipotle State league registration fee.

It is allowed to have a Challenge player play as a Guest player for another team (Challenge team or another Club). You must supply the coach of the other team the player's player card and you are NOT required to deliver anything; the coach of the team wanting the player should come to the Challenge Coach. The exception is if your team is also playing in that tournament, most tournaments do not allow a guest player to play in the tournament if their normal team is also playing.

NOTE: Guest players are only allowed for tournaments. They are NOT allowed for regular season play.

### **Communication and League Notification:**

- It is required to supply the Regional Challenge and Area Challenge Coordinator phone numbers (home, cell, etc.) and an email address (that is **CHECKED** regularly). Open communication between the Head Coach and the Area Challenge Director is critical. To ensure that all scrimmages, get-togethers, and fundraising events are covered by AYSO liability, the coach, or his/her delegate, is required to notify the Area Challenge Administrator by email.
- There can be no events or fundraisers that are related to alcohol or tobacco (or other prohibited events or fundraisers from AYSO National – if there is a question, please check first).
- There will be an area Shutterfly site set up we will use this to track tournaments participation, fund raisers etc.

### **Required Paperwork:**

- Challenge Players need to be registered with BOTH AYSO and AYSA. Challenge Teams will have AYSA Player Cards and AYSA registration forms (that serve as a Medical Release). Challenge coaches MUST have the registration forms with them for any practice/game)
- If traveling out of state, the Challenge Coach MUST fill out/print the TRAVEL portion of the membership form and have them notarized.
- Both the players and the coaches will be issued AYSA Player/Coach cards.

### **Uniforms:**

- All Challenge teams have the same uniforms as chosen by the Area Challenge Administrator and his/her board. After the coach has had their team meeting, they must contact the Area Challenge Administrator with team name and coaches email address.
- The Uniform vendor will then send you a spread sheet that must be completely filled out and returned within 1 week
  - Fall teams uniform deadline will be approx. June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Each player/ parent will be responsible for ordering uniform kits and training kits online.
- The uniforms are used for TWO YEARS.
  - New teams will get uniforms and training kits for every player.
  - Returning teams will get new uniforms for every NEW player and new socks for every player. If uniforms from returning players need replacing... the team/parents will be charged for that replacement.

## **Funding the Team:**

- Teams **MUST** fund themselves.
- Payment can be made by parents without participation in fundraising.
- AYSO Fundraisers should be worked through their Home Region and approved by the Area Challenge Coordinator.
- A team may do other fund raisers. The Area Challenge Coordinator must approve all proposed fund raising activities. Notifications can be made in writing or by phone; but must be done 10 days before the fund raiser takes place.
- Donations are allowed from the player's family, individuals, or businesses. A player's family may elect to donate funds to the team; but a coach **may not** require families to make a donation.
- The Area Challenge Treasurer will set up a team account. A team **MAY NOT** set up a separate checking account or retain funds in any other way. Teams must fund their AYSO fee for play in the local Club gaming circuit Club League and for all Tournaments through the Area Challenge Account.

## **Team Discipline:**

It is highly recommended that the coach should go over his/her expectations of the players and parents/guardians and share their expectations of themselves in the first team meeting after the team has been chosen.

Going over that information **PRIOR** to the start of the season might avoid the need of having to invoke any of the following Team Discipline.

A suggested document to pass out and have the player, parents/guardians, and coach to sign in in Appendix D

- A player may be Suspended from playing in a game OR removed from a Challenge team (and be placed on a regular season team) only if:
  - The player's behavior presents a significant conduct and discipline problem and is disruptive to the team.
  - The player fails to show a good faith effort to attend scheduled team practices, games, or otherwise participate in soccer related activities.
  - The action of any player's parent who attempts to undermine the discipline of the team and/or the coach's control of the team.
  - Coaches are responsible for notifying all team parents of the disciplinary policy in writing as part of the acceptance process.

### ***Suspension***

The Head Coach must document, in writing, and submit to the Area Challenge Director the rationale for taking the disciplinary action. It must be demonstrated how the player's behavior is presenting a significant conduct and discipline problem. Or, in the case of missing team practices, must have documented

proof that the player has missed OVER ½ of the schedule Practices (minimally - 3 weeks of normally scheduled practices must have passed).

After reviewing the documentation provided, the Head Coach must meet with the Area Challenge Director to verify all other possible remedies have been exhausted. If, after the meeting, the Area Challenge Director and the team's Head Coach agree, the player may be suspended from the team for a game.

### ***Removal from Team***

The Head Coach must document, in writing, and submit to the Area Challenge Administrator the rationale for taking the disciplinary action. All AYSO National policies and procedures for dispute resolution and due process shall apply.

The associated Region must then be informed of the pending action. The Area Challenge Administrator and Coach must meet with the appropriate Regional Staff (the Regional Commissioner (or their designee) and the Regional Coach Administrator) and discuss the desired action.

If there is a consensus, the parents (and player) will then be invited in to hear the concerns and be allowed to respond. If the Area Challenge Administrator and the Regional representatives agree, the player may be removed from the Challenge team and (have the option to be) placed on a Core Team.

Obviously, ALL efforts should be made in order work out the issue involved and this is and should always be a last resort.

### ***Player Misconduct Reporting and Sanctions***

- It is expected that players in the Challenge program will hold Good Sportsmanship in high regard.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated in a Challenge player. Reports of misconduct will be handled in accordance with Area and home Region's disciplinary policies.
- Because of the high visibility of the Challenge program, if any player is sent off the field by a game official (shown a red card):
  - Coach MUST report this to the Area Challenge Administrator, and the Area Challenge Director of Coaching, with 48 hours with a full report of what happened
  - Player MUST automatically serve a one game suspension (note: if the sendoff happens in the last game of a tournament, the game suspension does NOT carry over into the regular season).The suspension shall be served in the first game (not a scrimmage) that is played following the game of the incident (even if that game is in the following year. If the sendoff (red card) is for "Violent Conduct" or "Serious Foul Play", the player will automatically be suspend for 3 games and incident will be

- Any suspension may be increased and other disciplinary measures applied if deemed warranted by the Area Challenge Director.
- A second sendoff will result in a suspension that will not be lifted until after an investigation and hearing determines that the player may return to the Challenge program.
- The Area and/or Section Challenge Administrator (or the Board of the coach's home Region) retains the right to remove any approved coach from any Challenge Team.

## **Poaching**

- The AYSA rules on player recruitment or "poaching" will be in effect.
- There will be no taking players from the primary program until all of the games are completed in regular season. This is only an option when the primary season is complete.

## **General Notes:**

- There must be a coach, assistant coach or team chaperone of the same sex as the players at all team activities.
- The chaperone ratio should be a 8 to 1 on any out of town tournaments or events. Safe Haven/CVPA guidelines apply to Challenge Teams at all times.
  - The Area Challenge staff will be conducting ongoing coach evaluations. Some will be scheduled with the coach some will be random these will be conducted during training or games.

## **AYSA Notes:(Subject to local authority)**

- Challenge teams MUST provide USSF Certified Referees and assigners. If their referee is just AYSO certified, they must cross-train and become USSF certified. Team funds may be used to assist their referee with any local fees associated with getting that certification.
- Your team Schedule (for regular season games) will be on the AYSA website
- Games times and locations sometimes CHANGE... please review the schedule weekly
- All games played in AYSA will have "Free" Substitution
- All teams will be requires to abide by all AYSA rules and guidelines

*The information below are requirements of AYSA policies & procedures which our Challenge teams must abide by.*

### **SCORE CARDS AND GAME DAY ROSTERS**

3.1 The home team is responsible for printing the score card from GotSoccer, bringing it to the match, and presenting it to the referee.

3.2 All players participating in the match must be noted on the score card. This includes player names, player ID number, and jersey number. Players listed on the score card but not participating in the match must be crossed off. Loan players must be designated as such and included on the scorecard. Hand-written information is acceptable.

3.3 At the conclusion of the match, both coaches must sign the score card. The home team is then responsible for calling the results in to GotSoccer, including the score, red cards and yellow cards. Basic instructions are included at the top of the score card.

3.3.1 A coach who refuses to sign the score card, regardless if he/she agrees with the outcome or any portion of the match, will be considered as having been ejected from the match.

Suspension rules will apply.

3.3.2 Score cards should be kept on file by the home team until the end of April of the seasonal year. If, in the event of a roster discrepancy in the Open/State Championships, the home team must furnish the roster to AYSA upon request.

### **4. UNPLAYED MATCHES**

4.1 If a team fails to play a scheduled game, the team will be fined \$250.00, to be paid before their next game. Additionally, the coach may be required to attend a league D & R hearing.

4.2 If a team fails to play a second scheduled game, the team will be fined \$500.00. The coach and the club's Director of Coaching will be required to attend a league D & R hearing, and may be subject to suspension.

- 4.3 All unpaid fines become the debt of the club. *These funds will be taken from the teams account.*

### **List of Leagues Which Cannot Loan Players to POSOL Teams**

Chipotle State League

Far West Regional League

- National League

### ***Communicating with AYSA***

PLEASE direct all questions/comments/etc. through the Area Challenge staff. Most of the time, we'll have the answer. Other times we'll forward on your inquires and get the answer.

# • Appendix A (Option 1)

## *Supporting the Primary Program*

The purpose of the AYSO Challenge Program is to provide competitive play for our most talented and motivated players and to improve the Primary Core Program for the rest of the players in our home regions. Improving the primary program is not just a good idea; it's the reason there is a Challenge Program in the first place.

Each Challenge team (coaches and/or parents) will be responsible for “giving back” to the Primary Core Program. Each “give back” activity will have associated points (see below). As an incentive, each team that gives back a minimum amount of points of 30, will be able to participate in the Region Supported fundraising activities. Additionally, if coaches participate in “giving back” to the Primary Core Program for at least 15 points, their team will have the opportunity to participate in the large fundraising activity of Jobs at the Challenge Program Tournaments (note: the AYSO Meltdown jobs are first offered to the non-Challenge Teams).

And lastly, at the end of each soccer year, the team with top points will be given the “Team of the Year” award <Enter in what the Award is>

Points can be earned:

Give Back “Job”	Credit	Term
Regional Board Member	20	Year
Regional Staff Member	15	Year
Division Commissioner or Registrar	15	Year
Active Primary Core Coach	25	Year
Active AYSO Referee (U10+)	7	Per Game
Intermediate Coach (or above) and do PowerSkills	5	Per Session
Field Marker	15	Year
Help/participate in U5 Master Coach program	5	Per Session
Team participate in VIP Program	25	Season
Work with Area Tournaments as a STAFF member	10	Tournament
Area Staff Member	20	Year
Coach Instructor – U6/U8/U10	5	Per Session
Coach Instructor – U12+	10	Per Session
[other jobs] - TBD		

Each Head Coach needs to report all initial points at the beginning of the August. Each month, the Head Coach may update the points to the Area Challenge Director and after they are verified will be posted to the team total.



# Appendix A (Option 2)

## Supporting the Primary Program

The purpose of the AYSO Challenge Program is to provide competitive play for our most talented and motivated players and to improve the primary program for the rest of the players in our home regions. Improving the primary program is not just a good idea; it's the reason there is a Challenge Program in the first place. Therefore, a condition of allowing coaches to participate in the Challenge Program, as either head coaches or assistant coaches, is that they support the Primary Program in their Home Regions.

Because there are lots of ways to improve the primary program, we've left it up to each Home Region participating in Challenge to specify and TRACK that participation.

Below, EACH coach must fill out this page and sign (and by signing agree to) to specify how they will support their Home Region. NOT performing what is agreed to, will result in a one year suspension from the Challenge Program.

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Giving BACK MUST include at least ONE of the Following:

- ACTIVE member of AYSO Regional Board –Position \_\_\_\_\_
- ACTIVE member of AYSO Regional Staff -- Position \_\_\_\_\_
- ACTIVE Division Commissioner or Division Registrar \_\_\_\_\_
- ACTIVE Standard Program Coach \_\_\_\_\_
- Be an ACTIVE AYSO Referee  
Referee 3 games in the Fall and 3 Games in the Spring Season
- Be an ACTIVE coach in PowerSkills  
Attend majority of sessions in the Fall and majority sessions in the Spring Season
- Other, (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby promise to participate in the above Activity or Activities.

I understand that if I do NOT participate, I will NOT be allowed to Coach in the Challenge program the Following Year.

---

Challenge Coach

Date

# Appendix B

## Coach Training Program

Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches who are ***NOT*** Advanced Certified and have NOT had the prerequisite classes to take the Advanced Certification Class must create a plan to become Advanced Certified. The plan **MUST** be approved by the Director of Coach Training.

Plan Created by: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
*Coaches Name*

Course	Scheduled Date	Completed Date
U12		
Intermediate		
Advanced		

Plan Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
*Area Director of Coaching*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby promise to participate in the above Activity or Activities.

I understand that if I do NOT participate, I will NOT be allowed to Coach in the Challenge program the Following Year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Challenge Coach                      Date

# **Appendix C**

## **Parent/Player Explanation Of Player Preference (Tryouts with 2 or More Teams)**

Dear Parents/Players,

You (or your son/daughter) will be trying out for an age group with x teams.

We at AYSO want to give the opportunity for each Player to try to play for the team/coach they prefer. Obviously, this cannot be guaranteed, but we want to give a preference to each player.

However, it **MUST** be noted that **IF** you give a preference, you will still have the opportunity to play for either team. Also, if you say **NO** preference, you will still have an opportunity to play for either team.

Here is a description of how the Coaches are **REQUIRED** pick their teams:

- Each coach will **PICK** all the desired players from their (player selected) preferred list to fill out their roster.
- If either coach (or both) has not filled out their teams, **ALL** players that have not been picked (players with preferences and with **NO** preference) will be put into a pool of possible players to pick.
- The coach or coaches will then pick from the players defined above to fill out their teams.

With this information, you will now have a short period of time to make any changes. After that time, the preference list will be frozen.

Thank you for your support of AYSO Soccer

Guy Sutton  
AYSO Challenge FC Administrator

# Appendix D

## Commitment and Expectations

Welcome to AYSO Challenge FC. We thought it would be a good idea to set down what some of the expectations we at AYSO Challenge FC have of our Players and of our Coaches.

All of our coaches must adhere to our expectations; and by signing this document, we will assume the Parents/Guardians/Players will understand what is expected.

Player Commitment / Expectations	Coach Expectation
<p>The player is committing to play soccer on the AYSO Challenge FC Team (listed below) for the next Soccer Season (begins on August 1<sup>st</sup> and runs thru July 31<sup>st</sup>).</p> <p>The player understands that he/she may <b><i>NOT</i></b> play for any other soccer team in any other league during this time frame.</p> <p>The player will commit to be positive and respectful to their coach(es), fellow team members, referees, other coaches, other teams, parents/spectators.</p> <p>The player will commit to showing a good faith effort to attend scheduled practices, games, or other soccer related activities.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians will commit to:                      Displaying appropriate behavior at games.                      Getting players to practice/games on time.                      Helping out with team functions and fundraising.</p> <p>Players and Parents/Guardians will express any problems or concerns in an appropriate manner outside of practices and games.*</p>	<p>AYSO Philosophies</p> <p>Everyone Plays  <b><u>Every player at a game MUST play at least ½ of the game.</u></b></p> <p>Positive Coaching                      Coach will be positive at both practices and games.</p> <p>Good Sportsmanship                      Coach will promote good sportsmanship and respect for other coaches, referee's, other teams, other players, and parents.</p> <p>Player Development                      Coach will continue with their coach training.</p> <p>The coach will commit to be positive and respectful to their players, fellow coach(es), referees, other teams coaches and players, parents/spectators.</p> <p>The coach will commit to make themselves available to communicate with player or parent/guardian at times other than practices and games.*</p>

\* If a parent or guardian is unable to resolve problems or concerns with the coach, or the coach's response is not satisfactory, the parent or guardian may escalate the issue to the Director of Coaching (chief.coach@challengefc.org) or the AYSO Challenge FC Director (director@challengefc.org).

Team			
Soccer Season			
Player			
Parent/Guardian			
Coach			
	Print Name	Signature	Date

# Appendix E

## THE EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION, DISCLAIMER, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER, AND THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT AGREEMENT

**I, the parent or legal guardian of the player, a minor (“Player”), on behalf of myself, Player and our heirs, assigns and next of kin, hereby agree as follows:**

**EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION:** I hereby authorize each of the coaches, team parents, and/or other officials of the American Youth Soccer Organization (“AYSO”) to act as my agents in the capacity of activity supervisors and vehicle drivers, and I authorize each of them to consent to medical, surgical or dental examination and/or treatment.

**DISCLAIMER, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER:** I acknowledge that participation in soccer necessarily involves play in adverse field conditions, contact with considerable force, and risk of severe, permanent physical injury including bruises, scrapes, strained, sprained or torn muscles, tendons or ligaments, broken bones, dislocation of joints, concussion, brain damage, nerve and spinal cord injury, paralysis and death. I willingly and voluntarily accept and assume all such risk.

I willingly and voluntarily agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation and, if Player or I observe any concern in Player’s readiness for participation and or in the program itself, I will remove player from participation and bring such concern to the attention of the nearest official immediately and also of the regional commissioner as soon as possible thereafter.

In consideration of accepting the registration and permitting the voluntary participation of Player in AYSO programs, I hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless to the fullest extent permitted by law AYSO, its players, employees, volunteers, officials, sponsors and other representatives and any and all owners, lessors, lessees or other persons or entities allowing, permitting or authorizing the use of facilities by AYSO and the agents, employees, officers and directors of said persons or entities from any and all claims, demands, costs, expenses and compensation arising out of or in any way related to an injury or other damage that may result to said participant or to members of my family or my household or individuals I invite or for whom I am otherwise responsible while participating in or present at any AYSO-sponsored event, including any physical or other injury caused by the negligence of any person or entity described above. I further acknowledge that AYSO is primarily administered by volunteers rather than paid professionals. I further acknowledge and accept that this Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk and Waiver is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the state in which participation takes place and agree that if any portion of this Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk and Waiver is deemed to be invalid, the remainder will continue in full legal force and effect.