

COACH INFORMATION – *Important - Read both sides please!*

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PLAYERS BY August 29th! You may utilize your Team Page on our league website www.ayso803.org to communicate with your team.

PRACTICES. Practices may begin on or after August 29th at City Parks and after September 6th at ECASD sites. Games may begin on September 10th. Consult the “Practice Field Availability Sheet” for practice locations and days we may utilize.

Practice should be scheduled for 4:30 pm or later on weekdays. Before the season begins on September 10th arrange at least one and ideally two practices for your team. Once games start, one practice is sufficient and if you are playing two games that week, practicing during the week may not be necessary.

If you do not have a co-coach present at a practice, please be aware that you must have another adult with you at all practices. You may need to ask a parent to stay if you find yourself to be the only coach there. You, as the coaches, determine when and where the team practices. If a parent is late picking up a child after a practice or game, do not leave the child unattended. Wait or have another parent wait with the child and make it clear to the parent involved that they need to be prompt.

Coaches must have hand-signed or eSigned Player Registration Forms and any required emergency authorization form on hand at all practices and games.

HEADING OF THE BALL IS NOT ALLOWED FOR U12 AND YOUNGER DIVISIONS

CLEAT & JEWELRY REMINDER. Toe cleats & jewelry may not be worn at soccer practices or at games. Referees will conduct an equipment check prior to each game and will not let a child play with toe cleats, earrings, or other jewelry. **Playing or practicing with a cast is also prohibited.** Please make sure that all parents are aware of this rule.

GAME SITE INFO. The coach equipment bag will have a key, which unlocks the equipment boxes at Soccer Park. The equipment boxes contain corner flags, referee flags, pinnies, and First Aid kits. Please plan to start your games at the scheduled time. This means equipment ready and players warmed up and ready to go at game time.

We have had problems in the past with equipment being left on fields after games. If you DO NOT see new teams at the fields when your game is finished, **please put all equipment away** (corner flags and linesperson flags) in the box and lock it. The game following yours could have been rescheduled to a different day.

FOUL WEATHER POLICY. 1) Only the referee or the coaches (if ref is not present) may cancel game at the field at game time. Games must be canceled if lightning is seen by spectators, coaches, or players, or if the sirens go off. 2) In case of extensive rain resulting in poor field conditions, the Regional Commissioner may cancel games. Check our web site <http://www.ayso803.org> for cancellation information. Coaches will also be notified via email in the event of cancellation.

NON-WEATHER RELATED GAME CANCELLATIONS. Coaches by mutual agreement may cancel games not less than 48 hours prior to game time. Scheduling coordinator (see contact list) must be contacted at least 48 hours prior to the game so the referee can also be notified.

REFEREES. We are always refreshing our referee base, which means we need our refs to return from year to year. **PLEASE emphasize good sportsmanship and do not question referee calls. NEVER CONFRONT A REFEREE.** If there is a problem, contact the referee coordinator Ref@ayso803.org and he will contact the referee personally.

AYSO PHILOSOPHY is that “Everyone Plays”. This means that ALL players should sit out 1 quarter before another player sits out 2 quarters. Also, players should rotate through all the positions to learn all aspects of the game. Our efforts at balanced teams don’t always succeed and are especially blind when making teams where there are so many beginners. If it happens that your team is dominating the game and the score is reflecting this significantly, please make an effort to change the players’ positions to allow for more equal play. We realize that sometimes this doesn’t make a difference but parents and other coaches appreciate the effort.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND OFFICIALS.

IT IS THE DUTY OF EACH COACH AND OFFICIAL TO:

1. Conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of AYSO.
2. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
3. Train and coach the team to the best of their ability.
4. Uphold the Rules and Regulations of AYSO and Region 803.
5. Coach positively. **Sideline coaching (joysticking) should be minimized during games.** Coaching should take place primarily during practice. Let them play during games.
6. Negative comments and complaints about refereeing are not allowed at the field.
7. Assure that no pets, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages are present at the games or practices.
8. If any person does not conform to these guidelines, they will be asked to leave.

We sincerely hope that you all enjoy coaching soccer with AYSO Region 803. **Thank you** for your time and commitment! Please feel free to share any suggestions/concerns you may have with us (see League Contact List at www.ayso803.org for appropriate persons to contact).

HAVE FUN – AND COACH POSITIVELY!