



Hosted by AYSO Area J Grand Rapids, MI



2023 AYSO Area 8J Fall Tournament Tournament Rules

| CATEGORY | RULE |
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| 1) JURISDICTION | <p>A. Unless otherwise noted, the current AYSO National Rules and Regulations and FIFA Laws of the game will be used for this tournament. The following rules are intended specifically for this tournament ONLY!</p> <p>B. The Tournament Committee (incl. Area Director, Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator, Tournament Director, Assistant Director(s), Field Director, Referee Director, and other designated staff) will have jurisdiction over all games played. Disputes will be resolved by the end of the soccer day. Referee judgment calls are NOT subject to dispute or protest!</p> <p>C. Exceptions to the rules may be made when determined to be in the best interest of the tournament by the Tournament Committee.</p> |
| 2) FEES | <p>A. Entire fee must accompany tournament application and will be returned if application is not accepted. Fee must be a single check issued from the respective Region's account only.</p> <p>B. Fees are: \$350 for 10U, \$420 for 12U and \$525 for 14U per team.</p> |
| 3) ACCEPTANCE | <p>A. Applications are due on September 30th, 2023.</p> <p>B. Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis, based on completed application (see Team Application Form for criteria). Teams will be notified by email within 48 hours of the receipt of their applications.</p> <p>C. Teams not accepted into the tournament will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list.</p> <p>D. The primary form of communication between the Tournament and applying teams will be email and the Tournament website. Teams must designate a Team Contact on their application who has email and Internet access.</p> |
| 4) WITHDRAWALS | <p>A. Teams withdrawing before the start of the tournament will only be issued a refund if a replacement team can be found, less any additional cost incurred to register the replacement team.</p> |
| 5) RAINOUT/ CANCELLATION | <p>A. Should the tournament be rained out on the original date (fields deemed unplayable by Tournament Director), it will not be rescheduled, and refunds will be issued for 50% off the registration costs minus the t-shirt costs. (10U \$125, 12U \$150 and 14U \$187.50). T-shirts will be mailed/delivered to each team.</p> <p>B. Should the tournament, or a certain division, be canceled due to insufficient teams, refunds will be issued for 100% of the registration cost (10U \$350, 12U \$420 and 14U \$525).</p> |
| 6) PLAYERS/TEAMS | <p>A. Players on participating teams must be properly registered to play in AYSO and have played in the fall 2023 season. Coaches are responsible to ensure that all players meet eligibility requirements.</p> <p>B. The team roster must be verified and approved by each player's Regional Commissioner. Roster changes may be submitted (with the written approval of the Regional Commissioner). Roster changes will be accepted until the Wednesday before tournament start date.</p> <p>C. Team rosters shall have a minimum of the players from the current house (existing core) team. (10U – 6, 12U 7, and 14U 9)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any current house team player who wishes to play on the tournament team must be allowed to play. (No Try-outs or Coach Selection should be used to create an "all-star" team roster. Again, this is meant to be a fun tournament experience open to all AYSO players) 2. Players from other regional house teams can be added to complete the roster if players are still needed after all current house team players who wish to play are included (see Max Roster Size by Age Group section), 3. Guest Players: If the roster cannot be filled from the current house team and other regional players, with the permission of the Area Director and your Regional Commissioner, up to four (4) guest players from another AYSO region may be added. 4. Any special team format requests need to be directed to the Tournament Director. All requests will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee. The Committee's ruling will be final. <p>D. Coed teams will be accepted; however, they must play in the boy's divisions only.</p> |

| | <p>E. Division U-10 will play 7-v-7, and there will be a roster limit of 10 players per team. Division U-12 will play 9-v-9, and there will be a roster limit of 12 players per team. Division U-14 will play 11-v-11, and there will be a roster limit of 15 players per team.</p> <p>F. All players must play at least half of each game. Violation of these player rules exposes a team to protest and renders them subject to forfeiture of game and possible disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.</p> <p>G. Two teams maximum per division per gender for each region.</p> <p>H. A minimum of four teams per division per gender will be required to host the tournament.</p> <p>I. A maximum of ten teams will be admitted per division per gender.</p> | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>7) COACHES</p> | <p>A. Each team is limited to one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach only. These coaches must be the ones listed on the Official Team Roster. All coaches must be 18 years of age or older.</p> <p>B. Each Coach (Head and Assistant) must be Age Appropriately Trained, Safe-Haven Certified, CDC Concussion Awareness Certified (within the last three years), Up to date on Safe Sport Certification and must provide their AYSO Identification Number.</p> <p>C. Coaches are expected to set the example for their team in exhibiting proper AYSO behavior and Kid Zone behavior. Coaches are expected to remain in the technical area during games and only enter the field of play as requested by the referee.</p> <p>D. Coaches must meet AYSO's National/Section 8 Coaching/Training Policy in effect as of 8/01/2022:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="537 789 1468 936"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Division</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Minimum Required Certification/Qualification</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U10</td> <td>U10 Coach Course (Must have 10U Field Training and Online or In person)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U12</td> <td>U12 Coach Course</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U14</td> <td>Intermediate Coach Course</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">**Exceptions must be granted by Area Director</p> | Division | Minimum Required Certification/Qualification | U10 | U10 Coach Course (Must have 10U Field Training and Online or In person) | U12 | U12 Coach Course | U14 | Intermediate Coach Course |
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| <p>8) REFEREES</p> | <p>A. Each team in the tournament must provide referees. These referees will be assigned 3 games or more, based on their qualifications.</p> <p>B. All referees must be an AYSO registered volunteer and be Safe-Haven Certified, CDC Concussion Certified and Safe Sport Certified (if you are an adult)</p> <p>C. Only the diagonal system of control will be used to referee the games.</p> <p>D. Referees for U-14 games must be Advanced/Intermediate level or above. Referees for U-12 games must be Intermediate level or above. Referees for U-10 games must be Regional or above.</p> <p>E. Youth referees (center referees) must be at least 2 years older than the age group they are refereeing.</p> <p>F. All referees must be in full Uniform as defined by AYSO and USSF, including the Referee Badge. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games. Youth referees may wear referee t-shirts that are supplied by their home region.</p> <p>G. Referees will be expected to uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament.</p> <p>H. Referees are expected to check in at the Referee Station at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned game. Failure to appear on time may result in a replacement referee crew being assigned to the field. Once a replacement crew has been assigned, they will have priority and the original crew must report to the Referee station for alternative assignment.</p> <p>I. Coaches in the tournament will not be allowed to referee games in the division they are participating.</p> <p>J. Players in the tournament that are refereeing will not be allowed to referee games in the division they are participating.</p> <p>K. Referees will not be allowed to center referee games from their home region.</p> <p>L. Exceptions to Section 8) REFEREES may be made at the discretion of the Tournament Referee Administrator.</p> | | | | | | | | |

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| 9) DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES | <p>A. Heading will not be allowed at the U10 and U12 level. Heading is allowed at all other levels.</p> <p>B. Slide-Tackling is NOT allowed during the tournament at any level. Indirect Free Kicks will be awarded to the opposing team regardless of the success or legality of the slide-tackle. Moreover, if the referee determines that the slide tackle was performed carelessly, recklessly or with excessive force, the referee may award a Direct Free Kick to the opposing team; Caution or Send-Off the offending player.</p> |
| 10) FIELDS | <p>A. All fields will be set up and taken down by the tournament staff.</p> <p>B. Trash cans will be provided near each field. Teams will be expected to clean up all trash in their area before leaving. Sportsmanship points will be deducted from teams leaving trash behind in their area.</p> <p>C. NO PARKING ON ANY GRASS. TENTS IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY.</p> <p>D. NO pets be brought to the field during the tournament.</p> |
| 11) FORMAT | <p>A. This is a pool-play tournament.</p> <p>B. Each age division will be bracketed into playing pools. Each team will play a minimum of 3 preliminary play games within their respective pools.</p> <p>C. Teams will advance from qualifying pools based on pool play standings points and sportsmanship points where ties are indicated. Number of teams advancing per pool will be determined by the number of pools in the division.</p> |
| 12) CHECK-IN | <p>A. Teams must check in 60 minutes prior to their first game. Game Cards will be provided for as many games as the team will play in the tournament (including medal-round games). The Game Cards must be properly completed with the player's listed first name-last name and uniform order. The players listed on the game cards must match the approved roster submitted with the team's application.</p> <p>B. Each coach or team representative must hold AYSO Player Registration forms with e-signature or original ink signatures for use as needed for medical emergencies and/or verification by tournament officials.</p> <p>C. Coach must have these Player Registration cards with them at all times and ready for presentation to Tournament Officials.</p> <p>D. Late arriving players must be escorted to the check-in station by a team official along with their Player Registration card and be cleared by the Tournament Staff before participating in any games.</p> |
| 13) FIELD MONITORS | <p>A. There may be a tournament Field Monitor assigned to each field and will report to the Tournament Field Director. Field Monitors (or Referees where a Field Monitor is not available) will check-in teams prior to each game and obtain the game cards for each team to present to the match referees.</p> <p>B. At the conclusion of the game, the match referees must return the completed game cards to the Field Monitor or scoring table as appropriate.</p> <p>C. Field Monitors / Tournament Staff will respond to any incidents or injuries and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff by radio. Tournament participants are encouraged to report any concerns immediately to the Field Monitor, and to respectfully follow any instructions given by the Field Monitor.</p> |

| 14) GAMES | <p>A. There will be a running clock during the match including substitutions. Time will not be added on for injuries or time wasted in qualifying rounds. Games will be expected to end on time and may be shortened if they start late. Pool play games may end in a tie.</p> <p>B. Championship games will be full length for that division (see chart below). Championship games will be played until there is a winner (see Medal Round rules below).</p> <p>C. Game duration shall be as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="444 386 964 485"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Pool Play</th> <th>Semi, Final Rounds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U-10:</td> <td>20 minute half</td> <td>25 minute half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U-12:</td> <td>25 minute half</td> <td>30 minute half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U-14:</td> <td>30 minute half</td> <td>35 minute half</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>D. The “home” team will be the first team or top team listed on the game schedule. The home team will be situated on the North or East side of the field, and the visitor will be situated on the South or West side. Spectators must remain on the side of the field designated for their team. The home team will change jerseys or don pinnies in the event of a color conflict with the visitor team. If any questions, the referee will determine whether this is necessary.</p> <p>E. There will be no warming up on the field. Teams must warm up prior to taking the field. As soon as the previous game has ended, teams must clear the field and the teams for the next game must take their places.</p> <p>F. FORFEITS: Teams must check in 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. There will be a five-minute grace period at the start of the game for a team to take the field before a forfeit is declared. The score for a forfeit match will be 1-0 for the remaining team (See STANDINGS for the points to be awarded). For U-10 division teams, there is a minimum of 5 players on the field to continue a game. For U-12 the minimum number is 6 players. For all other divisions, there must be a minimum of 7 players to continue a game. If a team cannot field the minimum number of players, the game will be abandoned, and a forfeit will be declared.</p> <p>G. SUSPENDED GAMES: The Tournament Committee may determine to end matches early if field schedule is behind due to game delays, interference, or if weather conditions provide unsafe conditions; and may distribute awards according to games played and points. The Tournament Committee will determine the outcome of any single game which is terminated prematurely (due to inclement weather, participant injury, or interference by outside party, etc.).</p> <p>H. ABANDONED GAMES: if any pool play games cannot be played due to circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Committee, the final standings of the pool will be determined by applying the Winning Percentage formula (Total Points Earned in all Game Played divided by Total Points Possible for the Number of Games Played) to each team in the pool. Note. This does not apply to games which were shortened due to late a late start. Only the Tournament Director or designee can declare a game to be abandoned or not played.</p> | Division | Pool Play | Semi, Final Rounds | U-10: | 20 minute half | 25 minute half | U-12: | 25 minute half | 30 minute half | U-14: | 30 minute half | 35 minute half |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-------|----------------|----------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
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| U-14: | 30 minute half | 35 minute half | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15) SUBSTITUTIONS | <p>A. Substitutions will be allowed approximately mid way through each half for ALL divisions U-10 through U-14 and will be recorded on the game cards by the referee.</p> <p>B. All substitutions must be approved and recognized by the referee. Substitutions may be made for injured players; however, they may not return until the beginning of the next quarter for U10 through U14 and will be considered as having played the current quarter (exception: an injured player not replaced may return to play at any time with the referee’s permission).</p> <p>C. Substitutions in all overtime periods of medal round matches will be at the beginning of the periods only.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16) STANDINGS | <p>A. Standings for pool play games will be determined on a “point system” as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="505 1409 773 1482"> <tbody> <tr> <td>WIN</td> <td>= 3 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TIE</td> <td>= 1 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LOSS</td> <td>= 0 points</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Winners of ties in standings will be determined as follows:</p> <ol data-bbox="683 1514 943 1629" style="list-style-type: none"> Goals Against Head-to-Head Scoring Shootout Sportsmanship Points <p>B. Standings will be updated hourly at the Tournament Scoreboard. The deadline to challenge the posted results will be at the conclusion of Pool Play.</p> | WIN | = 3 points | TIE | = 1 points | LOSS | = 0 points | | | | | | |
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| 17) ADVANCEMENTS | <p>A. Pool winners (and in some cases wildcard teams) will advance to medal round play.</p> <p>B. Teams may play semi-final and/or championship final matches, depending on the number of teams in each pool and the format of play for that flight.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 18) MEDAL-ROUNDS | A. All medal round matches ending in a tie will have two full overtime periods of five minutes in length with teams changing field direction after the first five-minute period. In these matches, if still tied after overtime play, the game shall be decided by FIFA kicks from the penalty mark. |
| 19) AWARDS | A. Awards will be presented to coaches and players for the first, second, third and fourth place teams and the Sportsmanship winner in each division. |
| 20) CONDUCT | <p>A. Coaches will be expected to set a positive example for the team and will be held responsible for the actions of their team including spectators. All spectators must remain between the 18-yard lines. Two coaches maximum per team, and they must remain in the coaching area (within ten yards either way from midfield).</p> <p>B. At the conclusion of each match, the referees will indicate on the reverse of the game cards any point deductions for poor sportsmanship. Sportsmanship points deductions will be used as tie-breakers should that become necessary.</p> <p>C. Any coach or spectator ejected must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field (out of sight and sound) and will be prohibited from attending, at a minimum, the next scheduled game (See Part D below). Any player sent off (red carded) must immediately leave the vicinity of the game (under supervision of their parent or Safe Haven-certified adult), and may not return to the field of play during the current game, including for the post-game handshake, and may not be substituted for, and is suspended from participation, as a minimum, in the next game (See Part D below). There will be Sportsmanship point deductions for all send-offs.</p> <p>D. Any red card ejection will result in a minimum suspension of 1 match, and at the discretion of the Tournament Committee may further result in that player/coach/spectator being barred from the remainder of the tournament.</p> <p>E. If it is determined that an ineligible player has participated in a game, the team will forfeit all games in which that player participated illegally. Furthermore, if it is determined that the coach knowingly played a player illegally, that coach will be barred from further participation in the tournament.</p> <p>F. It is mandatory to play a scheduled game. If it is determined that a coach willfully fails to have his team participate in a scheduled game, the coach will be dismissed from the tournament and the incident will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner.</p> <p>G. All conduct problems will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner.</p> <p>H. All Serious Incidents will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner as well as Area, Section and AYSO National Office parties on the AYSO Incident Report Form.</p> |
| 21) MEDICAL/FIRST AID | <p>A. There will be a First Aid Station at the main tent where participants may receive ice, etc. for minor injuries.</p> <p>B. There will be a roving first aid response staff member to respond to injuries on the field. Field Monitors will communicate via radio to call the first aid staffer to the field where first aid is requested.</p> <p>C. If an injury is serious, the first aid staffer or Safety Director will have a mobile phone to call 911 for emergency response.</p> <p>D. Directions to the nearest hospital/urgent care center will be available at the First Aid station.</p> |
| 22) UNIFORMS/SAFETY | <p>A. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only, and all players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (goalkeeper excepted – may have a different jersey).</p> <p>B. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card and may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper.</p> <p>C. Garments may be worn under the uniform (i.e. long sleeves, etc.) during inclement weather, however the match referee will be the judge of what should be allowed or not.</p> <p>D. Jewelry, casts, or hard metal or plastic clips on clothing or hair will not be allowed. *exception permitted by Fifa and AYSO rules.</p> <p>E. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs; providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, so as to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field.</p> |

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| <p>23) PROTESTS</p> | <p>A. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ineligible player has played. • One or more registered player(s), present and in uniform, has not played the required one half of the game (except for illness or injury as recorded by the game referee). <p>B. All protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 1/2 hour of the completion of the game.</p> <p>C. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three persons selected by the Tournament Director. In all cases, the members of the Protest Committee will be unrelated to either team involved in the protest. ALL PROTEST DECISIONS ARE FINAL!</p> <p>D. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are not grounds for or subject to protest or dispute!</p> |
| <p>24) RULES INTERPRETATION</p> | <p>The Tournament Committee retains the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants. The Area Director or designated replacement will have the final decision on all matters pertaining to the Area Tournament.</p> |
| <p>25) SPORTSMANSHIP</p> | <p>Teams will start each pool play game with 25 Sportsmanship points. Sportsmanship points may be deducted if, the Referee, Field Monitor or other Tournament Official feels that a member of a team (player, coach or spectator) has acted in an unsporting manner. The list below is intended to provide guidance for potential deductions, but is not intended to be an all-inclusive list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsporting Behavior from Coach, Player or Spectator Team leaves trash at field following game Game score differential > 6 goals Caution Issued to Player, Coach or Spectator Referee Harassment by Coach, Player or Spectator Player, Coach or Spectator Ejection Coaches/Players outside of the team/technical areas during the match Coaching from Spectators Non-Positive Coaching by either Coach or Spectator Players hanging from nets or goals Team appearance (jerseys not tucked - except keeper) Team appearance (unauthorized jewelry, hard bill hats or non-prescription sunglasses) Defacing or damaging field equipment, buildings or other surrounding structures |