



AYSO SECTION 1 RULES & REGULATIONS 2023-2024



All play within Section 1 will be conducted in accordance with the current IFAB Laws of the Game, AYSO National Rules and Regulations, and these Section 1 Rules and Regulations. Participation in Section 1 play is by invitation. The privilege of participating in Section Playoffs is not automatic but by invitation. The Area Directors will advance teams that demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship and character to Section play. The Section Director will advance teams that demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship and character to Western States Championships when scheduled.

I. PLAYER REGISTRATION / PLACEMENT / TRANSFER TEAM FORMATION

- A. No registration, placement, or transfer of players shall be accepted after the dates shown on the Section 1 Calendar (<https://www.aysosection1.org>).
- B. Teams shall not be formed after dates shown on the Section 1 calendar.
- C. A complete listing of teams by division, indicating the players and birth dates thereon, shall be submitted to the respective Area Director, upon their request, or as directed by the Section Director.
- D. The effective date of age determination shall be the calendar year or the registrant's age as of December 31 in the same year as the end of the AYSO competition and the end of the Membership Year.

II. COMPETITION

- A. League champions shall be determined by a system devised by the Region Board before the start of the season.
- B. The program for Division 16U and 19U play permits free player substitution at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner with the prior approval of the Area Director. This departure from traditional player substitution procedures shall not apply to Area, Section, or AYSO Western States Championships, absent prior notification to the contrary from the Section Director. To the extent that a region wishes to use "free substitution," it must use some form of independent monitoring system (other than the coach) to ensure that every participant plays at least half of every game. It shall be the joint responsibility of the regional commissioner and the Area Director to monitor the application of this free substitution to ensure strict adherence and compliance with playing time as defined in National Rules & Regulations Article 1.C.1. Failure to adequately monitor for compliance may be grounds for revocation of the free substitution option.
- C. For a team to be eligible for league playoff competition, the team must play a minimum of six AYSO regional or inter-regional games.
- D. To be eligible for league playoff competition a player must have played in at least half of the total number of league games played by that playoff team to which he/she

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was assigned during the regular season, except in the situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness, injury, or a change of residence which causes a change of regions.

- E. Any player or coach who received a red card for fighting during the previous year's Section playoffs will be ineligible to participate in the current year's Section playoffs.
- F. Any player determined to have participated on two CORE league teams concurrently shall not be permitted to participate in any post-season playoff games, league, or All-Star.
- G. League champions may compete in a playoff to determine Area champions. Area champions may compete in a playoff to determine Section champions.
- H. Each charter region may enter teams, as approved by Area Director, from Divisions 10U through 19U in the Area championships. Teams in Divisions 8U and 6U are not eligible for playoffs.
- I. Section 1 will be responsible to provide only a Championship Playoff for Area League champions. Section 1 League champions may compete in a playoff, when available, to determine Western States Champions.
- J. All playoff competitions shall be conducted under these Rules & Regulations. The format of each Section playoff competition shall be determined by a vote of the Area Directors after receiving the input of the Section Staff. The designated playoff chairman shall publish, at least 60 days before the commencement of the playoffs, administrative procedures necessary, but not in conflict with these Rules & Regulations.
- K. All playoff games shall be played as scheduled. The referee, the Section Director, or the Tournament Director(s) for Section games shall have the authority to cancel or terminate such games.

III. ALL-STAR COMPETITION

- A. The All-Star program is intended to provide an opportunity for those players who have demonstrated outstanding soccer ability and who have displayed an attitude of fair play, enthusiasm, and cooperative team spirit to participate on a team composed of players who have similar qualifications. The Section may provide a Championship Playoff for Area All-Star teams. Section 1 All-Star champions may compete in a playoff, when available to determine State Champions.
- B. All-Star teams shall be formed no sooner than November 15 for Divisions 14U, 12U, and 10U. A final team roster shall be given to the Area Director on or before a date established by the Area Director. This date shall be before the team's first scheduled game.
- C. Each Area shall determine its own competitive format.
- D. All-Star players must compete in the division in which they participated during the regular season.

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- E. To be eligible for the All-Star competition a player must have played in at least half of the total number of league games played by the team to which he/she was assigned during the regular season, except in the situation where the player is assigned in time to meet this requirement but is unable to play because of illness, injury, or a change of residence which causes a change of region. All-Star players may not participate on an EXTRA team.
- F. Where not in conflict with Section V, paragraphs A-D above, the provisions of Sections I-IV of these Rules & Regulations shall apply.

IV. OFFICIATING

- A. Referees and/or assistant referees for regional competitions shall be assigned by the respective commissioner or their appointed designee.
- B. Referees and/or assistant referees for exhibition and Section Playoffs and Western States Championship games shall be assigned by the Section Director or designated representative.
- C. In all Section championship playoffs, all officials must, wherever possible, be chosen from regions, not in the contest being played.
- D. Any Area failing to identify officials to cover their allocated matches later than 48 hours before the opening day of the competition shall be ineligible for wildcard positions for that competition for one (1) year.
- E. All volunteers must be registered in the current membership year to be eligible to officiate.
- F. In all Section championship playoffs, all officials must be certified as Intermediate Referees or higher.
- G. All officials must be identified no later than 48 hours before the opening day of the competition or be subject to the sanction of Section V, D.
- H. All officials must be in proper uniform and display the highest badge earned to be eligible for match assignments.

V. DURATION OF SEASON

- A. The official playing season of Section 1 shall be from August through the end of playoffs. Dates of season(s) other than the above shall be approved by the respective Area Director and by the Section Director.

VI. HEADING THE BALL

- A. Heading for players in 14U is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers, per player. There is no restriction on heading in matches. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a 12U or below player, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game.
 - i. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

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- ii. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area must be taken on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.
- B. Neither cautions nor send-offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity related to the heading infractions.

VII. INCIDENT & MISCONDUCT REPORTING

- A. The Tournament Director of all Nationally sanctioned tournaments held in Section 1 must submit written Misconduct Reports (form available on Section 1 website <https://ayso1ref.com/misconduct-report>) for all incidents of serious foul play or violent conduct to Area and Section Staff within 72 hours.

VIII. INJURIES

- A. Each site will have all insurance forms & incident reports as well as any emergency phone numbers. A first aid kit should be available as well.

IX. AMENDMENTS

- A. These Rules & Regulations may be amended by a majority of the executive members of the Section voting in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose by the Section Director or by any ten (10) executive members. A majority of the executive members, present either in person or by proxy shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual or Special Meeting.
- B. Prior written notice of a special meeting of the executive members called under the provisions of this Section specifying the time, date, location, and purpose of the special meeting shall be furnished to each executive member electronically or by deposit in the United States mail service postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days before the date of the special meeting.

Revised July 2023