



# **AYSO Region 665 Victorville, California**

## **Parent & Player Policy Handbook 2008**

**AYSO REGION 665  
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**INTERNET ADDRESS  
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## **Welcome to Region 665 Victorville, California**

Our Parent & Player Handbook has been designed to assist the families in our program in better understanding AYSO and Region 665, as well as explain the responsibilities and expectations of parents, players and volunteers.

### **A Bit of History**

AYSO Region 665 was chartered in 1990 and began with a handful of volunteers and teams. Supported by a growing community, and a developing network of tireless volunteers, the region continues to expand and flourish each year. The 2007 fall season boasted more than 100 teams and approximately 1,300 players.

### **Current Events**

One of the most exciting programs offered by Region 665 is its VIP team. VIP stands for Very Important Player, and this division provides an opportunity to disabled youth to participate in organized soccer. We are looking to grow this program into a multi-team division and encourage our families to share its existence with all potential VIP players.

The Regional Board is very proud that the Region has earned the Platinum Award for the 2003 season, the highest regional assessment program award. Hundreds of manpower hours and teamwork resulted in this honor, which evaluates the management of the region.

Region 665 is also proud of its annual invitational tournament. We will be hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Coyote Classic in February 2009. Our tournament not only helps support the region, but also the community, as many participating teams from cities throughout California patronize the area's hotels, restaurants and shops.

### **Looking to the Future**

The Board of Directors, along with dozens of volunteer coaches, referees and team parents, was able to successfully run the 2007 season while maintaining a profitable status. The Region intends to actively pursue options for additional field space, both for fall and spring seasons.

### **Regional Guidelines 2008 – 2009**

Each year, the Region is charged with adopting and implementing Regional Guidelines. These guidelines contain specific information regarding registration fees and refunds, as well as division guidelines post-season opportunities and a host of other pertinent information. A printed version is available at board meetings, on our website at [www.ayso665.org](http://www.ayso665.org), and, during the season, at the information tent. Every family is highly encouraged to take the time to review the guidelines and become familiar with them.

### **Registration Disclaimer**

Because of the expected large number of sign-ups and due to the shortage of fields available in the Victorville area, Region 665 may be forced to limit the number of registrations for the upcoming season. **Priority** would be given to players whose families volunteer their time to our program. There will not be a "first-come first-serve" advantage, so signing up the first registration day will not guarantee a player a spot on a team.

## Letter from the Commissioner

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to the new 2008 fall season for AYSO Region 665. There is a wide variety of returning players this year joined by those that are new. My name is Robert Olivarez and I am your Regional Commissioner. Together with my Executive Board and other regional staff, I am responsible for running the day to day operations of the region within the five founding philosophies of AYSO:

- Everyone Plays
- Open Registration
- Balanced Teams
- Positive Coaching
- Good Sportsmanship

These philosophies are the cornerstone of all our efforts and the focal point for volunteering all of our time. The volunteers from the commissioner to coaches and referees to even the executive staff are just that...All Volunteers and nobody is paid. This means the region volunteers are out there for the kids and for you as customers to ensure that your AYSO experience and memories impact you and your children positively so that you can PASS IT ON to others.

Accordingly Region 665 embraces other behavior models such as AYSO Kid Zone in conjunction with National Rules & Regulations and Regional Guidelines. It is how we act as leaders, parents, coaches, and spectators that influence children and that impacts how they interact socially as we are a child development league with soccer as our tool.

Our program has grown over the last few years to exceed over 1,300 players in the fall season and over 100 teams for our annual Coyote Classic tournament. The region is especially proud of the VIP program for those Very Important Players with unique skills that has grown from 11 players to 44 in just one year. Everyone is strongly encouraged to come out and watch our VIPers play every Saturday or join them as a Buddy player.

The core program offers boys and girls an environment that is conducive to positive reinforcement through coaching soccer fundamentals and sportsmanship and involving the entire family. So in closing I would like to thank you all in advance for participating as parents, spectators, and volunteers and most importantly for supporting your kids!

Yours in Soccer,  
Robert A. Olivarez  
Regional Commissioner  
AYSO 665 Victorville, CA  
zoso72@verizon.net  
760-927-9097

## Vision Statement

### **American Youth Soccer Organization:**

To provide world-class youth soccer programs that enriches children's lives.

## Mission Statement

American Youth Soccer Organization's mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on the AYSO philosophies:

**Everyone Plays**  
**Balanced Teams**  
**Open Registration**  
**Positive Coaching**  
**Good Sportsmanship**

The core values guiding AYSO are:

Fun for all  
Education for all  
Ethics for all  
Accessible to all

The mission is accomplished by providing these essential services:

Coaching and referee programs including quality delivery systems  
Quality administrative and operating systems with a support network  
Strong financial position  
Special network for volunteers, supported by a national staff  
Program research and development

## Character Counts

AYSO is a coalition member of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, and is committed to supporting the Character Counts program.

Its Six Pillars of Character are:

Trustworthiness  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Fairness  
Caring  
Citizenship

## Child Protection

AYSO is committed to providing a "child safe" program, where children can develop in a safe, fair, and fun environment.

## AYSO REGION 665 Preliminary 2008 – 2009 Calendar

May	Planning Meeting	August 16	Team Parent Meeting - times and location TBD
May 10	1st registration 10:00 to 2:00 at Village Elementary School	August 22 – 24	Intermediate Coach Class - tentative
May 11	Info booth at San Bernardino County Fair	TBD	Coach Meeting
May 23-26	NAGM - San Francisco, CA	September 6	Opening Day - Week 1
June 11	Board meeting	September 13	Week 2
June 14	Registration 10:00 to 1:00 at Village Elementary School	September 20	Week 3
June 21	Beginning Coach Class - times and location TBD	September 26	Fundraiser Turn in - times and location TBD
June 28	Beginning Referee Class - times and location TBD	September 27	Week 4
July 12	Registration 10:00 to 1:00 at Village Elementary School	September 28	Picture Day (Sunday)
July 16	Board meeting	October 4	Week 5
July 19	Beginning Coach Class - times and location TBD	October 11	Week 6 BANNER COMPETITION 8:00AM - 2:00 PM - Pick up banners at 3:00 PM
July 20	Beginning Referee Class - times and location TBD	October 18	Week 7
July 21 - 25	AYSO Soccer Camp at Hook Park - Register at <a href="http://www.aysosoccercamps.org/">http://www.aysosoccercamps.org/</a>	October 25	Week 8
July 26	Draft for U10-16 - times and location TBD	November 1	Week 9
July 26	AYSO Soccer Camp - Striker, Keeper, Coach Clinic - Register at <a href="http://www.aysosoccercamps.org/">http://www.aysosoccercamps.org/</a>	November 3	Volunteer Appreciation Day - details TBA
August 1	Season officially begins - Practices start for U19- U10 teams with certified coaches	November 8	Week 10
August 3	Beginning Referee Class - times and location TBD	November 15	Week 11 - Last Day of Regular season
August 8 – 10	Intermediate Referee Class - tentative	November 16	Post Season Begins – Regional Playoffs for Qualifying Teams ONLY
		November 22	Regional Playoffs for Qualifying Teams ONLY
		November 23	All-Star Drafts U10-U14 Boys and Girls - Location / Times TBD
		February 21-22 2009	13th Annual Coyote Classic (tentative dates)

**Please check our web site ([www.ayso665.org](http://www.ayso665.org)) for classes pertaining to coaching and refereeing, coach and team parent meetings or events that may be added after publication of the handbook. Be advised that some scheduled dates may change due to various reasons, such as room availability, low enrollment, inclement weather or other factors.**

# General Information

## Equipment

**Uniforms:** A uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts and socks is provided for your child's use at the beginning of the season and is yours to keep when the season ends. You are responsible for taking care of the full uniform.

**Shoes:** Although not required, it is strongly suggested that players wear soccer shoes - the low-sided "football" style shoes with rubber or plastic molded cleats (no metal). Shoes with toe cleats are **not** allowed.

**Shin Guards:** Shin guards can and do protect the player. A National Rule makes shin guards mandatory. They may be purchased from local sporting goods stores and stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Target. New lightweight shin guards provide freedom of movement without being heavy and cumbersome. **A PLAYER MUST WEAR SHIN GUARDS AT ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES.**

**Ball:** Each player is encouraged to practice with a ball and it is recommended that a "real" soccer ball be obtained. A player needs to practice with a ball to develop skill and coordination. Any time spent with the ball makes for a better player and active parent participation is a great encouraged. It is strongly recommended that the player's name is put on the ball for identification. Balls come in various sizes and the guide below will help you choose the proper size for your player:

Division	Ball Size		Division	Ball Size
Under 6	3		Under 14	5
Under 8	3		Under 16	5
Under 10	4		Under 19	5
Under 12	4		VIP	4

**Jewelry:** Players may not wear rings, watches, chains, necklaces, earrings, or hard pony tail holders or barrettes, or any other item that is hard or sharp, as these items may cause injury during play. Covered in this policy is new piercings (ear or body). All jewelry must be **removed**. Simply covering the jewelry with a bandage or other covering is not acceptable. **This is a policy mandated by AYSO National and may not be compromised or overridden by anyone.**

## Coaches

As a parent, you can help your child's coach by introducing yourself and thanking them for their interest in coaching a team. Support the coach's request that your child be on time for practices and games. If you do not stay for the entire practice session, pick up your child promptly at the end of practice. Be positive with your comments and remember that a coach has a reason for his selection of player positions. Don't criticize the coach because you think your child should play a different position. Offer help at practices. Remember that coaches volunteer their time and energy to instruct and help your child, and they need your cooperation and support. Any time you are not able to stay for practices or games, make certain your child's coach knows before you leave.

## Referees

AYSO Referees are entitled to the highest respect from coaches, players and spectators. The referees' mistakes (and there will be mistakes) shall be accepted without complaint. Many of our referees have no children playing in our Region and all of them gladly give their time to help us. Others are PRO (Player Referee Organization) referees. Most of these youths are players in our program and understand the rules of the games better than many adult spectators. Please **show all of our referees the respect they deserve** - they are volunteers, and without them, our program suffers.

The region is always in need of referees. If you are interested in learning the fine art of officiating soccer, please contact the Regional Referee Administrator. Class information may be obtained from our website, [www.ayso665.org](http://www.ayso665.org).

## Team Parent

The position of team parent may well be described as the team manager. This person normally prepares the team's roster, makes the team snack assignments, handles the fundraiser for the team, recruits volunteers for snack bar duty, orders the banner and plans the season-end party. The team parent is usually most appreciative of offers of assistance, especially for telephone trees.

## Parent Participation

THE REGION AND THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION. Attend practices and games. PARENTAL SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL. Learn about the rules of the game by reading "The Rules of Soccer: Simplified." Above all, show tolerance of the players' mistakes and weaknesses. When attending games, cheer for all players on both teams as well as your own child. Every parent is requested to volunteer in some area of the program and there are various jobs available. Before your team's meeting, read the section on volunteering in this handbook and offer to help.

## Regional Philosophy

The goal of Region 665 and the AYSO organization is to encourage the growth of soccer and promote positive child development. Although everyone engaged in sporting competition should have a desire to win, this desire should not be pursued to the exclusion of good sportsmanship, fair play and participation. AYSO is a parent based volunteer organization providing a soccer program for all children regardless of experience or skill level. Registration of your child in our program implies responsibility to the team and adherence to the five principles of AYSO: **Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Positive Coaching, Open Registration, Good Sportsmanship.**

Each player is guaranteed to play at least half of every game, regardless of his or her level of skill or aptitude, **if the child:** ARRIVES ON TIME AT THE PLAYING FIELD FOR SCHEDULED GAMES PREPARED TO PLAY IN THE PROPER COMPLETE UNIFORM, SHOES, SHIN GUARDS, ETC. AND IS NOT PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY.

## Practice Location and Attendance

As all of the coaches in AYSO are volunteers, practice times are scheduled at the coach's convenience and coordinated with the Region for field availability. Practice fields for the '07-'08 season were located at **Hook Park**. The region hopes to secure this, and possibly other, fields for the '08-'09 season. Each player must arrange to arrive on time and be picked up on time. Shorts are better suited for the game of soccer than long pants. In cold weather, sweatpants are recommended as jeans can restrict motion. Cleats are best suited for most fields and should be worn at practices. It is recommended that each player bring an appropriately sized ball to practices. It is highly recommended that all players bring a water bottle to all practices.

## Game Schedule

Games are to be played according to the schedule and will not be canceled due to inclement weather except at the game site shortly before game time. For most divisions, all games are scheduled on Saturdays at Hook Park. Some of the upper divisions may need to travel to other regions for some games. Due to field availability, some games may be scheduled at night during the week or on Sundays. A diagram of field locations at Hook Park is shown at the back of this handbook.

## Sideline Etiquette

AYSO soccer encourages positive self-esteem, discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, acceptance of and learning from disappointment and success, as well as perseverance. It is also an enjoyable game to watch as well as to play. We believe that quality soccer can and should be developed, and that it can and should be fun. Therefore, the emphasis of our program is not on who wins but how the players and teams develop, and most importantly, did they have fun in doing so? We want all participants to reach their full, *age-appropriate* potential and to enjoy themselves in the process.

As spectators, we must realize that the players are trying their very best and deserve *our very best* in the way of support and encouragement. Negative comments have no place on the field or on the sidelines. We need to recognize that the effort of each player is 100% well intended and encourage each player to maintain that effort. It is also important to recognize all good play being demonstrated *regardless of which team the player is on*.

The area off the field that the spectators occupy is on **your own team's side**, no closer than three yards from the touchline, and between the penalty areas. Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed behind the goal lines. Familiarize yourself with these field markings and remain within the area defined.

Allow the coach to be the sole source of coaching during the match, communicating tactical or technical adjustments to the players. As a coach, be sure that your coaching during the match is limited to positive, instructional or encouraging comments. Giving play-by-play instructions to all players thwarts their ability to put into effect the lessons that have been stressed in practices and disallows them the opportunity to think on their feet.

The area of the field that the coaches occupy is called the "technical area" and is on your own team's side, no closer than one yard from the touchline, and up to ten yards from either side of the halfway line. The "technical area" is limited to the head coach and one assistant coach for that team. Not only are these to be the only persons occupying the "technical area," they are the only persons who may coach (give tactical or technical information) during the course of the match.

An important aspect of the AYSO program is *Sportsmanship*. Our children need to experience:

1. The fun of hard fought but fair competition
2. Winning graciously
3. Losing graciously
4. Improving one's abilities through practice
5. Learning the social skills involved in being a member of a team, *and*
6. Acknowledging good play by teammates as well as opponents

One of the ways in which our children can learn and continue to have these experiences is by our demonstration of good sideline behavior. *Our children learn by watching, and imitating our conduct*. Keep a positive outlook and demonstrate it by supporting the coaches, players and referees, in spite of any mistakes they may make during the course of a match.

## Volunteering

AYSO is a national non-profit organization established in 1964 to teach the game of soccer and develop positive character traits in children through their participation in a quality sports program. Our local region administers this program strictly through the efforts of volunteers. In order to provide the quality program our kids deserve, we need YOU! Following is a list of opportunities for you to consider. All volunteers will receive instructions for selected jobs.

Remember: **No Previous Experience is Necessary!**

**Coach:** One of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities. First time AYSO coaches must attend clinic. Continuing classes may be required to participate in post-season play, determined by division coaches. The regional board must approve appointment of all coaches.

**Assistant Coach:** Assists the team coach during practices. You will learn a lot about soccer and coaching, and enjoy working with the players.

**Referee:** Must attend free referee training class. The Region provides full uniform. Contact the Regional Referee Administrator, or any other board member, if you are interested. You will learn the rules of soccer and how to conduct the game, and enjoy participating in the game with the players.

**Assistant Referee:** Assists the referee, calling the ball in and out of play, and offside. Must attend free Assistant Referee training class, one evening. Uniform provided by the Region.

**Team Linesperson:** This person would, after brief instruction from the referee, signal the referee from the sideline with a flag if the whole of the ball crosses the touchline. This person is needed if there are not enough referees or assistant referees available for the game. A team linesperson who has not passed the Referee or Assistant Referee course will not contribute to the team's earned referee points.

**Team Parent:** Administrative assistant to the coach. The Team Parent is the primary communicator between the coach and the parents. Oversees and coordinates other parents in several areas: Refreshments, Parties, Newsletter articles, Banner making, Telephoning information, and anything else that pertains to the specific team. Team Parent Meeting provides pertinent information necessary to perform duties. Coaches greatly appreciate a committed volunteer to fill this position.

**Assistant Team Parent:** Assists the Team Parent in his/her duties.

**Snack Bar Worker:** Each team is assigned to staff the Snack Bar for 1-2 hours on **one** day during the season. Be prepared to pitch in and help when the Team Parent requests volunteers!

**Uniforms, Awards, Picture Distribution:** Assists the Team Parent in picking up and distributing to players and parents.

## What Does Sponsorship Mean to AYSO 665?

Sponsorship in Region 665 has been an integral part of our soccer program since its inception in 1990. We have been successful in obtaining donations from the valley and surrounding community businesses; however, rising costs have made this part of our income more important than ever.

This program begins with a sponsorship chairman and embraces all of our team parents and coaches who help in locating businesses willing to make a sponsorship donation to our Region. As a non-profit organization, these sponsorship donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. For your information, our tax identification number is 95-6205398.

Please remember that no one in our region gets paid for his or her efforts as a volunteer with the American Youth Soccer Organization. As you read this message, think about businesses or individuals you might know who could help our organization this coming season.

## 2007 – 2008 Sponsors

Regional & Team Sponsors greatly enhance the quality of AYSO's program in our community. Special Appreciation is extended to last season's sponsors:



### VIP Trophy Sponsor

Victor Valley Trophy & Engraving

Benevolent Order of Elks #1877, Victorville - VIP Team sponsor

Powell Framing - via BU6 #11 Godzillas

### Region Banner Sponsors

American Trans

Aloha Liquidation Systems

Daily Press

Steve Fox for Assembly

High Desert Federal Credit Union

Papa John's

American Security Bank

High Desert Primary Care

***To all of our generous sponsors!  
Your thoughtful support truly makes a big  
difference to our program.***

## Fundraising

In addition to the sponsorship program, our region raises additional funds through fundraising activities. These activities help keep registration fees at a reasonable amount. Our region depends on each family's active participation in our fundraising activities to provide a quality soccer program for the kids. Some families choose to make a cash donation. This type of donation to the region is a tax-deductible charitable contribution that greatly helps our region.

## VIP Program

The VIP Program carries the AYSO philosophy of "Everyone Plays" to a new height, including all children. The mission of the AYSO VIP Program is to provide a quality soccer experience for children whose physical or mental challenges make it difficult to successfully participate on regular AYSO teams. In the American Youth Soccer Organization, these children are Very Important Players (VIP). AYSO recognizes that all children need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, and offers that acceptance through its VIP soccer program. Region 665 embarks on its eighth year of offering a VIP program, which operates within the existing structure of our region.

The VIP Division offers an opportunity for players and parents alike to participate in a supportive environment, to be a part of a team, to learn about the game of soccer, to make new friends, and most of all, to have FUN!

Wherever you live, there are potential VIP players in our schools and our community. With your help, these kids can have the benefits of sports participation in our VIP soccer program. If, as you read about the AYSO VIP Program and think of someone who might meet the criteria of a VIP player, please share this information with them. If you or they have any questions about this very exciting and rewarding part of our program, just call the AYSO Hotline.

## Graduating High School Senior Scholarship Program

Beginning with the 2003-2004 season, Region 665 has made available scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. Two young men and two young women will be selected to share the annual scholarship. The criteria for being considered for this scholarship include:

1. 2.0 GPA
2. Two (2) years participation in AYSO, at least one (1) of which with Region 665
3. Volunteering of time to the AYSO program
4. Plans to pursue a college education

Individuals who meet these criteria are requested to mail a completed application, available in person or on our website, to the Scholarship Committee of Region 665 by April 15, 2008 in order that recipients may be announced at the May Regional Board Meeting. Presentation of the scholarship awards may be made at the high school awards ceremonies.

## Board Members 2008 - 2009

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

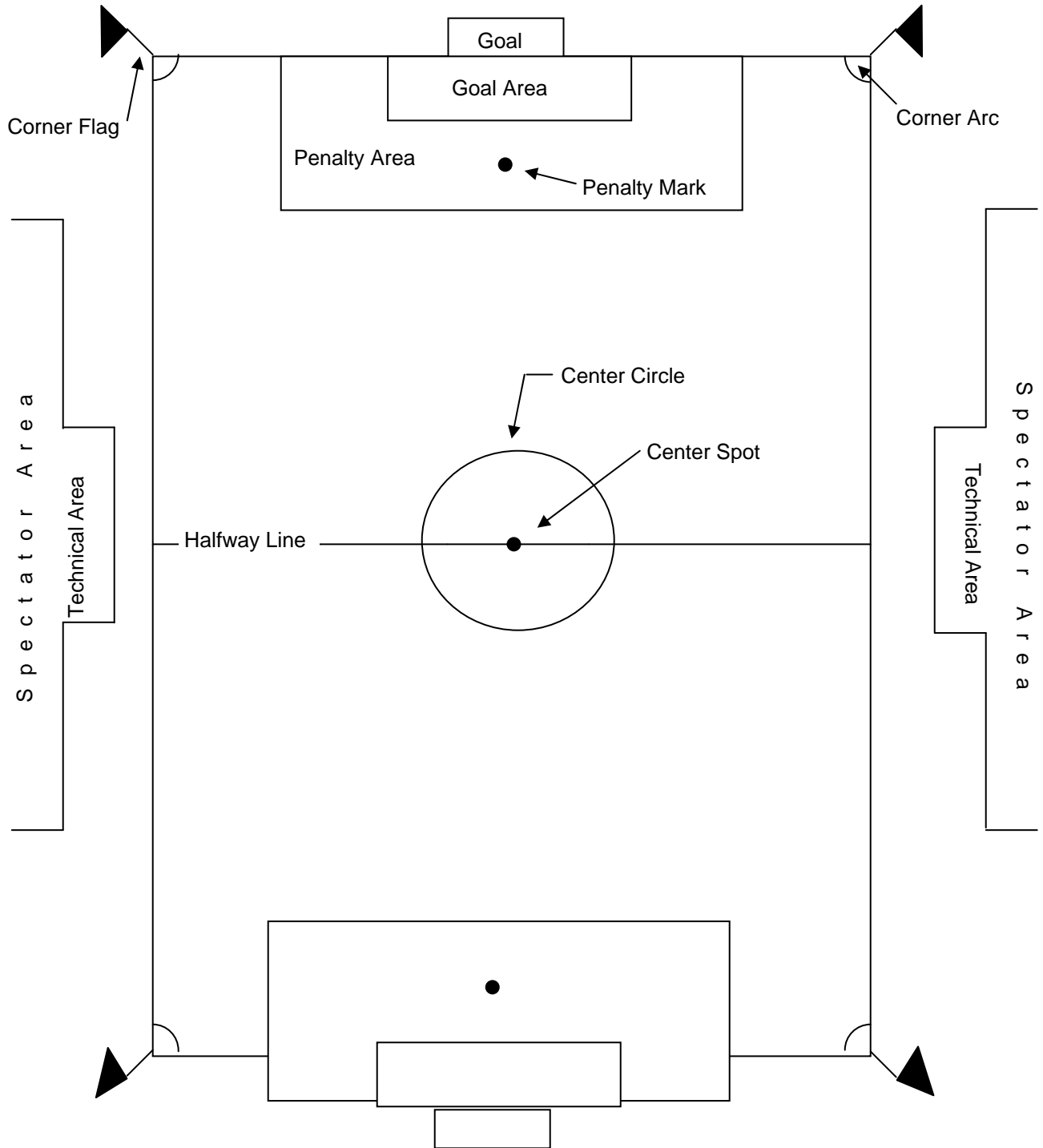
Commissioner	<b>Robert Olivarez</b>
Assistant Commissioner	<b>Greg Stanfill</b>
Assistant Commissioner	<b>Al Jimenez</b>
Coach Administrator	<b>Sean Hemstedt</b>
Referee Administrator	<b>Chevelle Brewer</b>
Registrar	<b>Trinity Hemstedt</b>
Treasurer	<b>Karen Williams</b>
CVPA	<b>Cinnamon Ollivarez</b>
Safety Director	<b>Vince Rubio</b>

### REGIONAL STAFF

Secretary	<b>Rachel Valentin</b>
Assistant Coach Administrator	<b>Scott Kearns</b>
Assistant Coach Administrator	<b>OPEN</b>
Assistant Referee Administrator – U19/U16 Program	<b>Bill Griffith</b>
Assistant Referee Administrator – Youth	<b>Roger Suders</b>
Fundraising Chair / Sponsor Coordinator	<b>Angela Brewer</b>
Fundraising Coordinator	<b>Maria Ramirez &amp; Sal Ramirez</b>
Equipment Coordinator	<b>Anthony Munoz</b>
Concessions	<b>Jennifer Stanfill</b>
U16-U19 Area Coordinator/Director of Referee Instr.	<b>Jack Cheney</b>
Team Parent Coordinator	<b>Marcie Campos</b>
VIP Coordinator	<b>Regina Jimenez</b>
KidsZone Coordinator	<b>Jackie Macan</b>
Data Entry	<b>Kristen Huff</b>
Assistant Registrar	<b>Martha Munoz</b>
Assistant Safety Director	<b>Olivia Rubio</b>
Photo Day Coordinator	<b>Deborah Kearns</b>
Webmaster	<b>Karen Williams</b>
Uniform Coordinator	<b>Stephanie Williams</b>
Sunshine Coordinator	<b>Lindsay Saruwatari</b>
Newsletter Editor	<b>Dina Sherrick</b>
Regional Staff	<b>Ramon Sierra</b>
Sponsorship Coordinator	<b>OPEN</b>
Chief Division Coordinator	<b>OPEN</b>
Division Coordinators:	
U19/U16	<b>Open</b>
BU14	<b>Open</b>
GU14	<b>Open</b>
BU12B	<b>Open</b>
GU12	<b>Open</b>
BU10	<b>Open</b>
GU10	<b>Open</b>
BU8	<b>Open</b>
GU8	<b>Open</b>
BU6	<b>Open</b>
GU6	<b>Open</b>
Coach Trainers	<b>Greg Stanfill / Sean Hemstedt</b>
Referee Trainer	<b>Jack Cheney</b>

If you would like to see your name here, please contact a board member to inquire about open positions.

# Soccer Field Diagram



Not drawn to scale

# The Game of Soccer – An Overview

## The Basics

Soccer is a relatively simple game. The field will be marked as indicated on the previous page. The game is played in two, timed halves of equal duration. The halves are further broken down into “quarters” to allow for player substitutions. The number of players on the field varies depending on division, but the maximum is eleven.

## Ball Skills

*Dribbling* is moving the ball on the field with one’s feet. The object is to control the ball by keeping it closer to the player, maintaining control.

*Passing* is transporting the ball by kicking, heading or otherwise sending the ball to a teammate or area where a teammate may obtain the ball.

*Heading* the ball is controlling or passing a ball that is too high to kick or control with one’s chest.

*Shooting* the ball to attempt to score a goal by kicking the ball with force to the opponent’s goal.

*Trapping* the ball is to stop the ball in flight or on the ground before continuing to play the ball by dribbling, passing or shooting the ball.

## Positions

*Forward* or striker: This player’s main responsibility is to score or assist other forwards in scoring.

*Midfielder* or halfback: This player will help forwards score and the defenders prevent goals. Midfielders “control the middle” of the field to progress the ball towards the opponent’s goal, and will often be in a position to score.

*Defender* or fullback: This player’s primary responsibility is to prevent an opponent from obtaining a scoring opportunity. The defender will attempt to gain possession of the ball and send “up the field” to a teammate.

*Goalkeeper* or keeper: The “last defender” is charged with protecting the team’s goal and preventing the opposing team from scoring. The goalkeeper is the only player on the field who may handle the ball while it is in play. The keeper wears a jersey of a different color from the team so as to allow easy identification by officials.

## Referees

AYSO recommends the use of three (3) officials – one referee and two assistant referees. The referee is the ultimate authority before, during and immediately after the game. The referee enforces the **Laws of the Game**. The assistant referees record substitutions, signal possession for balls that have traveled out of play, indicate offsides and may signal fouls.

## The Laws

Rules in soccer are called Laws and there are seventeen (17) of them. Generally, the Laws require that referees stop the game when something has happened which is unfair or unsafe.

## The Object of the Game

The object of soccer is for players to get the ball into their opponent’s goal using any part of their body except their arms and hands. Only goalkeepers may use their hands while inside their own penalty area.

## The Elements of the Game

**KICKOFF:** A kickoff is taken from the center circle at the beginning of the game, the beginning of the second half and after each goal.

**THROW IN:** After the ball has completely crossed the side boundary lines – called touchlines - a throw in is awarded against the team that last touched the ball. The throw in is taken from where the ball left the field and must be thrown with two hands from behind and over the head, while both feet are on the ground and on or behind the touchline.

**GOAL KICK:** The goal kick is taken by the defending team each time the ball crosses the goal line and was last touched by an attacking player. The ball may be placed anywhere in the goal area and is not considered back in play until it has been kicked out of the penalty area.

**CORNER KICK:** The corner kick is taken by the attacking team each time the ball is kicked by the defense over its own goal line. The ball is placed within the three-foot arc in the corner of the field (nearest to where the ball went out of play) and kicked into play by the attacking team.

**PENALTY KICK:** The penalty kick is awarded when a defending player commits one of the 10 penal (major) fouls within their own penalty area while the ball is still in play. A player takes the penalty kick from the offended team from a spot 12 yards from the goal. All players must remain outside the penalty area, 10 yards from the ball and behind the penalty-kick mark until the kick is taken, except for the kicker and the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper's feet must remain stationary on the goal line until the ball is kicked. At the referee's signal, the kicker attempts to kick the ball into the opponent's goal and the goalkeeper tries to stop the ball from scoring.

**MISCONDUCTS:** There are two kinds of misconduct:

1. Actions resulting in a caution (yellow card) from the referee.
2. Actions resulting in a player being sent off or ejected from the field (red card).

A referee may also warn a player to improve his or her conduct (or unsportsmanlike behavior) before a caution is issued.

**OFFSIDE:** A player is offside if they are ahead of the ball, except if they:

1. Are positioned in their own half of the field; or
2. Have two opponents even with or between him and the opponent's goal line. The referee's "moment of judgment" is the instant the ball is played, not when it is received; or
3. Are the first to receive the ball from a throw in, corner kick or goal kick; or
4. Are not involved in active play by interfering with play, interfering with and opponent, or gaining an advantage by being in that position.

**FOULS:** There are two types; Penal (Major) Fouls and Non-Penal (Minor) Fouls.

**Penal Fouls:** There are 10 penal fouls that result in a direct free kick and from which a goal may be directly scored against the opponents. To be a penal foul, the offense must be, in the referee's judgment, intentionally committed.

The 10 Penal Fouls are divided into two groups:

These six require that the foul be committed carelessly, recklessly or with disproportionate force:

1. Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent.
2. Striking or attempting to strike an opponent.
3. Pushing an opponent.
4. Charging an opponent.
5. Tripping an opponent.
6. Jumping into an opponent.

These four require only that they be committed:

1. When tackling an opponent, making contact with the opponent before the ball.
2. Spitting at an opponent.
3. Holding an opponent.
4. Handling the ball deliberately.

There are five (5) Non-Penal fouls that result in an indirect free kick. At least one additional player of either team must touch the ball before a goal can be scored from an indirect kick.

1. Dangerous Play: including high kicking near another player's head or trying to play a ball held by a goalkeeper.
2. Fair Charge Away from the Ball: fairly charging when the ball is not within playing distance.
3. Impeding the Progress of an Opponent: getting between an opponent and the ball when not playing the ball.
4. Charging the Goalkeeper: shoulder-to-shoulder contact within the penalty area.
5. Goalkeeper Infringements: Taking more than six seconds while controlling the ball with their hands or otherwise intentionally disrupting the flow of the game or playing ball with hands when ball is kicked by a teammate.

Full explanation of the Laws of the Game may be learned in any Regional Referee course.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **What does AYSO stand for?**

AYSO stands for American Youth Soccer Organization. For more information about the national organization, please visit their website at [www.soccer.org](http://www.soccer.org).

### **In what division will my child play?**

Divisions are separate by age based on your child's birth date. The following chart gives a breakdown of ages:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Birthdate between</u>
U19 (under 19)	08/01/89 and 07/31/92
U16 (under 16)	08/01/92 and 07/31/94
U14 (under 14)	08/01/94 and 07/31/96
U12 (under 12)	08/01/96 and 07/31/98
U10 (under 10)	08/01/98 and 07/31/00
U8 (under 8)	08/01/00 and 07/31/02
U6 (under 6)	08/01/02 and 07/31/04

### **Can my child play up a division?**

In some circumstances a player may play in one division higher than his or her age. Requests must be made in writing and approved by the Regional Commissioner.

### **Can my child play down a division?**

Children are not allowed to play in a division beneath his or her age. This is a policy mandated by our National organization.

### **Where and when will the games be played?**

For all teams in U14 and below, all regular games are played at Hook Park in Victorville. All U6 and U8 games will be played on Saturdays. Other divisions may have a limited number of games on Sunday or other days during the week. U19 and U16 divisions are part of Area 10D play and will require travel to other cities.

**How long is the season?**

The regular season lasts from August to November. Each team will play ten (10) games, barring any unforeseen reason to cancel games, such as unhealthful air quality or dangerous field conditions.

**When will my child's coach contact us?**

Depending upon the coach's availability, players in divisions U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19 will normally be contacted in early August after the division draft. Teams in our U6 and U8 divisions may not be formed until mid-August, so coaches will be calling these teams the third or fourth week of August.

**When will teams begin practicing?**

The earliest that a team may hold a practice is August 1<sup>st</sup>. However, some of our divisions will be drafted after that date, so practices will begin later.

**I have not yet been contacted by my child's coach. What should I do?**

First of all, don't panic. In all likelihood, you will receive a call for our competitive divisions by August 13, 2007. For U6 and U8 divisions, coaches should call by August 25, 2007. If you have not received a call by then, please email our registrar at registrar@ayso665.org for information. Please do not contact the registrar for this information prior to these dates.

**Do I have to volunteer?**

AYSO Region 665 is a volunteer organization, which would not exist if not for the efforts of parents and community volunteers. The Board of Directors would like to see a member of each player's family volunteer time to the organization, whether it is a position on the board, a field painter, a shaved ice maker, a activity day worker or any other of dozens of jobs that require manpower. The Region urges you to be involved and will honor the level to which you would like to participate. Volunteering is not mandatory, but it is essential to the program. Because of the expected large number of sign-ups and due to the shortage of fields available in the Victorville area, Region 665 may be forced to limit the number of registrations for the upcoming season. **Priority** would be given to players whose families volunteer their time to our program. There will not be a "first-come first-serve" advantage, so signing up the first registration day will not guarantee a player a spot on a team.

**I don't know a thing about soccer. Can I still volunteer?**

Yes, yes and YES again! We provide FREE training for our Coaches and Referees, and hold information meetings for them and Team Parents. We were all new at one time and are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas.

**How do I receive a refund for a child who is not going to participate in the season?**

There are specific procedures to follow for obtaining a refund that are fully explained in the Regional Guidelines, along with a refund request form. The request form may be obtained from our website, www.ayso665.org or may be obtained from the registrar or treasurer. Please complete the request form according to its directions and mail to the treasurer **before** the deadline date.

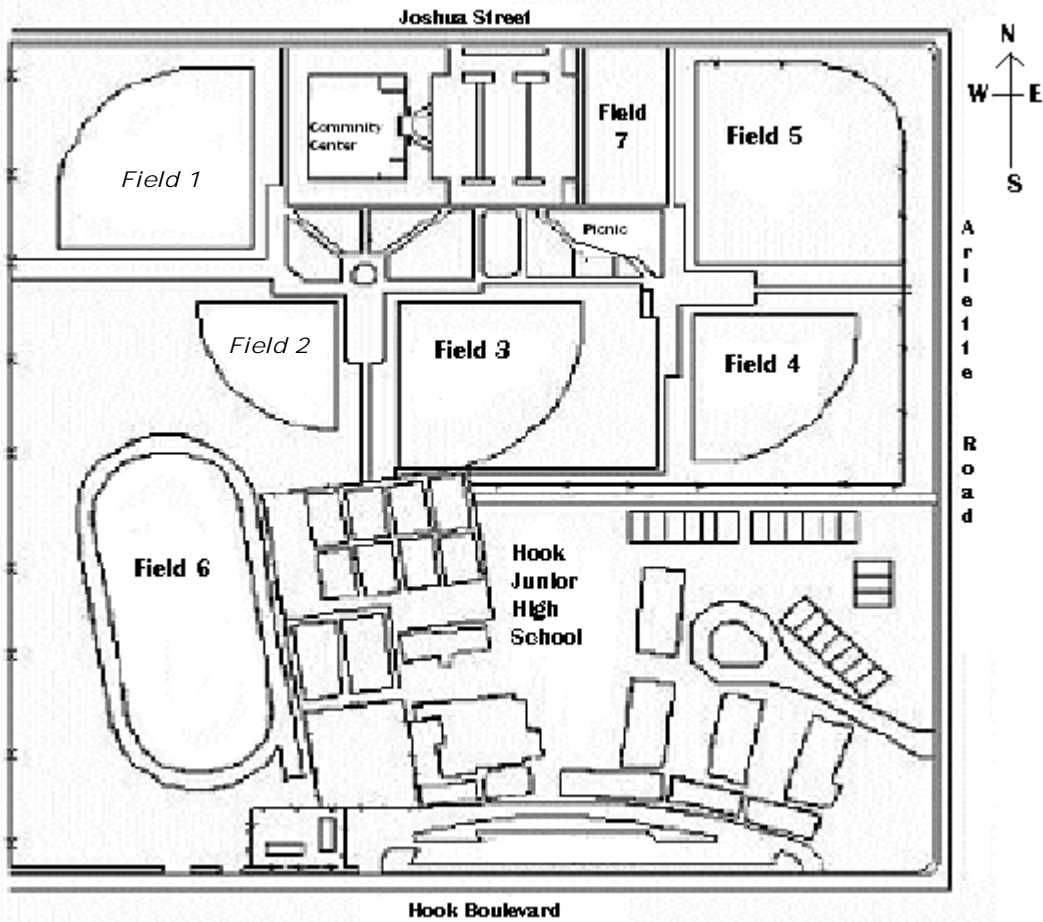
**My child would like to play on his or her best friend/neighbor/cousin's team. How can I ensure this?**

Due to the AYSO philosophy of Balanced Teams, we are not able to honor requests in our competitive divisions, U10 through U19, where coaches draft their teams. We will make every effort to place siblings on the same team, when their ages and gender permit, however those who sign up after teams have been drafted may not be placed on the same team. We do our best to accommodate requests in the U6 and U8 divisions, but we are not able to make guarantees.

**We got a call from a coach that we don't know, but Coach Buddy says his team has room. Can I move my child to Coach Buddy's team?**

No. Team assignments are final and may not be changed by coaches or parents. Our goal in forming U6 and U8 teams, and in drafting U10 through U19 teams, is to ensure balancing teams. The region will not make changes to teams based on car pool, day care or any other criteria other than our goal for balanced teams.

# Map of Hook Park & Field Locater



Numbered fields may house more than one soccer field. (Example, fields 7A and 7B will both be found on the field 7 area of the map.)