



DIVISIONAL GUIDELINES - AYSO SPRINGFIELD

ALL DIVISIONS

- All players should play a minimum of two quarters, and no player should play a fourth quarter until all players have played three quarters.
- All divisions switch sides at halftime.
- Home team wears blue, supplies game ball, and a Volunteer Referee.
- Visiting team wears white, kicks off first half
- No use of hands
- No heading, or slide tackles
- All players must wear shin-guards and soccer cleats. Socks need to be worn over shin-guards, not under.
- **No earrings or jewelry.** No casts or splints.
- Players should bring a ball to practice, marked with their name several times
- Practices twice per week

BALANCING GUIDELINES

When the score is unbalanced by:

- 3** - losing team adds a defender
- 4** - winning team removes a forward
- 5** - losing team adds a defensive midfielder
- 6** - winning team removes a defender

Additional balancing strategies:

- Shuffle scoring players into non-scoring positions.
- Non-dominant players shoot on goal.
- Dominant players pass only.
- Player swaps can be highly effective and can be done pre-game or at the quarter.

6U CO-ED (Kindergarten)

To be eligible to play in the 6U Kindergarten Division, your child is enrolled in Kindergarten.

- 4 vs 4 players (8 on the roster, 5 vs 5 can be played if both coaches agree)
- Ball size 3
- Games are four 10-minute quarters with a 5-minute halftime break. There is no rest-period after a quarter has passed, but substitutions are encouraged.
- No goalkeepers
- Out of bounds - ball is returned to play by a "kick-in" (opponents 10 feet back).

8U CO-ED (1st-2nd Grades)

To be eligible to play in the 8U Division, your child is enrolled in 1st or 2nd grade.

- 6 vs 6 players (9 on the roster, may play small-sided game if both coaches agree due to short roster)
- Ball size 3
- Games are four 10-minute quarters with a 5-minute halftime break. There is no rest-period after a quarter has passed, but substitutions are encouraged.
- There are no goalkeepers. There can be a player positioned near the goal, may NOT use hands.
- Out of bounds - ball is returned to play by a "throw-in" (opponents 10 feet back). Pick foot up on throw in? → give second chance weeks 1-4, lose possession on week 5 onward.
- No offside will be called.
- No corner kicks or goal kicks, instead players throw the ball in.

**EVERYONE PLAYS, BALANCED TEAMS, OPEN REGISTRATION,
POSITIVE COACHING, GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**



10U BOYS or GIRLS (3rd & 4th Grade)

To be eligible to play in the 10U Division, your child is enrolled in either 3rd or 4th grade.

- 7 vs 7 players (10 on the roster, may play small-sided game if both coaches agree due to short roster)
- Ball size 4
- Games are four 12.5-minute quarters with a 5-10 minute halftime break. There is no rest-period after a quarter has passed, but substitutions are encouraged.
- Pick foot up on throw in? → give second chance week 1 & 2, lose possession on week 3 onward.
- Goalkeepers may use their hands
- **Goalkeepers may NOT drop-kick.** Opponents must be behind the “build-out line.”
- Corner kicks.
- Goal kicks may be taken by any defender, not just the keeper. Opponents must be behind the “build-out line.”
- Offside is not called, but the concept is introduced with the “build out line.”

12U BOYS or GIRLS (5th & 6th Grade)

To be eligible to play in the 12U Division, your child is enrolled in either 5th or 6th grade.

- 9 vs 9 players (12 on roster, may play small-sided game if both coaches agree due to short roster)
- Ball size 4
- Games are four 15-minute quarters with a 5-10 minute halftime break. There is no rest-period after a quarter has passed, but substitutions are encouraged.
- Subs on **any** dead ball.
- Any foul in the penalty area → penalty kick
- Reckless/purposeful foul → direct kick (**can** directly score), anything else → indirect kick (**can't score** directly), other team at least 10 yards from **any** kick location
- **Offside is called.**
- Pick foot up on throw in? → give second chance week 1 & 2, lose possession on week 3 onward
- Goalkeepers may use their hands
- Drop kicks are allowed.
- Corner kicks and goal kicks. Goal kicks may be taken by any defender, not just the keeper. (Opponents must be at least ten yards from the ball).

AYSO COACH'S PLEDGE

1. Enthusiastically support and practice the AYSO mission to “enrich children’s lives” by embracing AYSO’s Six Philosophies (see footer!).
2. Stay informed about sound principles of coaching, child development, and creating a safe haven.
3. Respect the game and know the Laws.
4. Emphasize to players that they must abide by the Laws of the Game at all times.
5. Develop a true respect for all referee decisions.
6. Develop a team respect for opponents and each other.
7. Ensure a safe environment for players.
8. Never yell at or ridicule a player, referee, or opponent.
9. Always set a good example.
10. Remember that soccer is a game, and all games should be fun.
11. Let the players play without constant instructions or commentary from the sidelines.
12. Role model good sporting behavior.

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