

A black silhouette of a soccer player in mid-air, kicking a ball. The player has spiky hair and is wearing a jersey and shorts. The ball is positioned near the player's right foot.

AYSO Region 778  
Spring 2008  
Player~Parent





Dear Parent:

It is great to have you as part of the AYSO team! The information contained in this handbook is provided to help answer some of the more common questions about how we do business. Each team is assigned a team parent to help the coaches to communicate to parents more quickly and effectively. Volunteers are needed on a daily basis, but especially during Saturday games and tournaments. Team parents are not in place to do all the work, but rather to help coordinate and communicate important information to the team members and you. Please assist them in any way you can.

We are always eager to hear any suggestions and comments.

Please visit our website at <http://www.aragayso.org>.

## ***Five Philosophies of AYSO***

### ***\*Everyone Plays***

Our program's goal is for kids to play soccer – so we mandate that every player on every team must play at least half of every game.

### ***\*Balanced Teams***

Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible – because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play.

### ***\*Open Registration***

Our program is open to all children between 4 and 19 ages who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing. (Region 778 – All kids that register during the set registration dates will play; regardless of race, nationality, religion or physical ability.)

### ***\*Positive Coaching***

Encouragement of player effort provides for greater enjoyment by the players and ultimately leads to better-skilled and better-motivated players.

### ***\*Good Sportsmanship***

We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

## Tools for Parents

*The following ideas may be helpful for being a supportive AYSO parent.*

### **Conversations before the games**

- Tell your child you love him/her regardless of the outcome.
- Tell him or her “Go for it, give it your best shot and have fun!”

### **During the game**

- Understand that kids are over-stimulated during games. The coach may be giving instructions, opponents and teammates are talking, the crowd is cheering, and the referee is blowing the whistle. To a youth sports participant, the atmosphere is much like that of a fighter pilot with enemy jets racing all around. Do not yell instructions to your child during the game because it only adds to the confusion. Sometimes the best thing you can do as a parent is to be quiet.
- Cheer and acknowledge good plays by *both* teams.

### **After the game**

- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.
- Thank the coaches for their efforts. After a difficult loss, recognize that it is not a good time to question a coach.
- Thank your opponents for a good game.
- Congratulate your child and his or her teammates for their efforts.
- Compliment individual players on good plays they made in the game.

### **During the car ride home**

- Point out a good play your child made during the game.
- Avoid criticizing or correcting mistakes.
- Ask open-ended questions about how the game was played rather than how many points were scored. Here are examples of open-ended questions that might apply:

Did you have fun?

What did you learn from the game?

What was the best play you made and how did it feel?

*AYSO recognizes the efforts and advancements made by the Positive Coaching Alliance in Honor of the Game. The Kids Zone Parent Pledge is adopted by from Positive Coaching Alliance's Parent Pledge. (www.positivecoach.org)*

## BOARD MEMBERS AYSO REGION 778

POSITION	MEMBER	PHONE	CELL
Regional Commissioner	Sheryl Rizk	931-5317	527-1988
Asst. Regional Commissioner	Brian Moses	738-7706	
Registrar	Sherry Berry	931-4830	
Asst. Registrar	Patricia Venegas	931-2996	506-6289
Treasurer	Betsy Holt	931-4483	673-1063
Asst. Treasurer	Lea Walsh	931-5162	
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Asst. Coach Administrator	Tim Hayes	753-1002	486-1213
Equipment Manager	Brit Frank	931-5590	
Asst. Equipment Manager	Mike Walsh	931-5162	
Uniform Manager	Tammy Hayes	753-1002	486-1210
Asst. Uniform Manager	Stacey Vaughn	498-6718	
Scheduler	Paul Brown	586-5955	426-1695
Asst. Scheduler	Sheryl Rizk	931-5317	527-1988
Head Team Parent	Menia King	586-8754	
Assistant Head Team Parent	Missy Flack	931-4282	506-7094
Referee Administrator	Tim Hayes	753-1002	486-1213
Asst Referee Admin	Tim Holt	931-4483	468-3361
Regional Instructor	Clint Green	5738-3774	



POSITION	MEMBER	PHONE	CELL
VIP Director	<b>OPEN</b>		
Asst. VIP Director	Deana Tomey	531-3974	
Safety Director	Tim Holt	931-4483	468-3361
Asst. Safety Director	<b>OPEN</b>		
Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA)	Lea Walsh	931-5162	
Asst. CVPA	<b>OPEN</b>		
Field & Facilities Manager	<b>OPEN</b>		
Asst. Field & Facilities Manager	Scott McBrayer	531-6537	
Concessions Manager	Tracey Payne		550-1433
Asst. Concessions Manager	<b>OPEN</b>		
Volunteer Coordinator	<b>OPEN</b>		
Web Keeper	Betsy Holt	931-4483	673-1063
Assistant Web Keeper	<b>OPEN</b>		
Regional Secretary	April McBrayer	339-7293	
Asst. Regional Secretary	<b>OPEN</b>		
Publicity Manager	Craig Dunn	658-3012	
Asst. Publicity Manager	<b>OPEN</b>		
Regional Auditor	<b>OPEN</b>		

*\*Please contact our Regional Commissioner if you are interested in serving as a board member.*

### Kids Zone Parent Pledge

**Please read, initial each item, sign at the end, and return to the coach or the appropriate AYSO volunteer.**

1. I pledge to be on time or early when bringing my child to his/her practices and games. I understand that it may be uncomfortable for my child to be late to a game or practice and that he/she is subject to physical risk if not provided with adequate time to warm up. I understand that I am encouraged to stay during practices and games, but if I do not, I will be there when he/she is finished. Being punctual shows respect for the coach, who has other time commitments, and it tells my child that he/she is my top priority. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids, and I will encourage my child to have fun and keep sport in its proper perspective. I understand that athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive. \_\_\_\_\_

3. I will redefine what it is to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child. Winners are people who make the maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, discourage them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure of success is not how my child compares to others, but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self. \_\_\_\_\_

4. I will "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example of sportsmanship for my child. I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and referees. I understand that officials, coaches, and players make mistakes. If the referee makes a call I do not agree with, I will refrain from questioning, insulting or making personal attacks against him or her. \_\_\_\_\_

5. I understand that games can be exciting for my child as he/she deals with the fast-paced action of the game, responds to opponents, referees, teammates, and listens to coaches. I will not yell out instructions. During the game, I will make only sportsmanlike comments that encourage my child and other players on both teams. \_\_\_\_\_

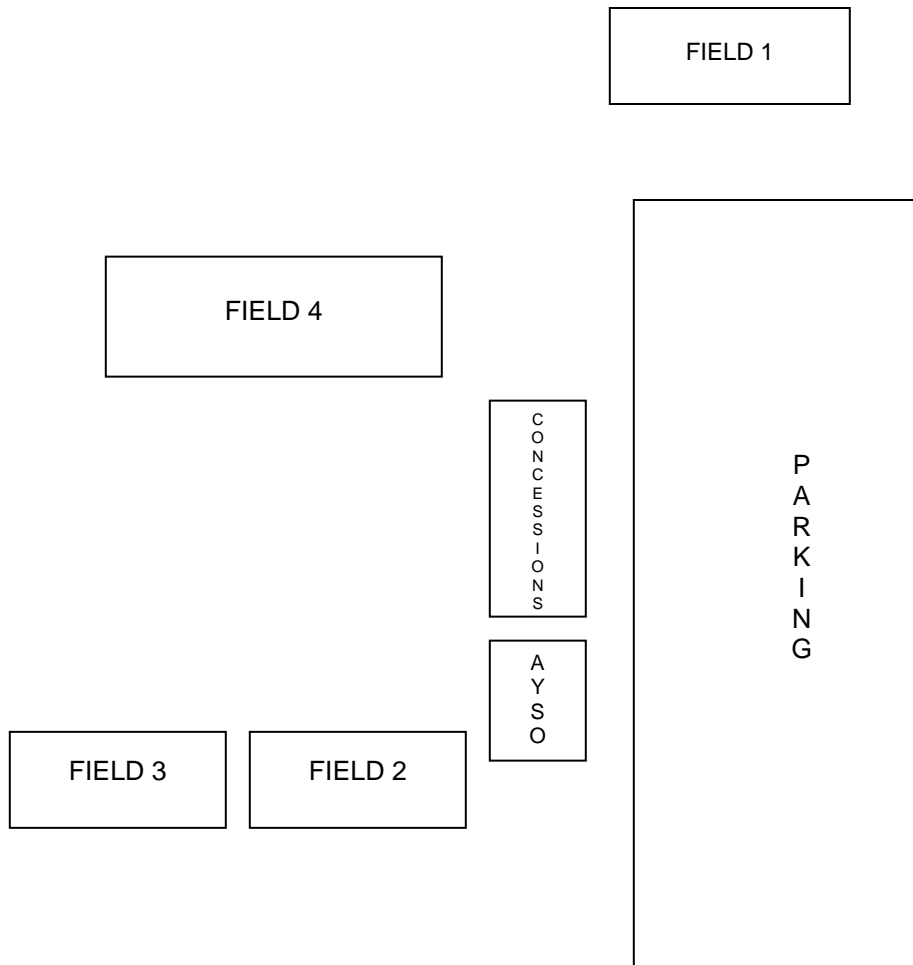
6. I will not make negative comments about the game, coaches, referees or teammates in my child's presence. This sets a bad example, which can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. I agree to act in a sportsmanlike manner and make every effort to foster a friendly and nonviolent atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to honor the AYSO Parent Pledge in my words and actions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Child Name

**ARAB SOCCER COMPLEX  
REGION 778  
ARAB, AL**



**Uniforms**

Each team will be responsible for obtaining team uniforms. Coaches will be provided with AYSO requirements. Players will also be responsible for socks, shin guards, soccer cleats and short.

**Jewelry**

Players are not allowed any jewelry. Nothing containing metal (includes hair accessories) will be allowed on the field. Please help the coaches to look for this before games. Help look for uniform infractions as well, BEFORE each game.

**Refreshments**

Refreshments are very important to our players. Team parents should make a schedule for each game and assign a different parent each week. Water and fruit are best for half-time and maybe fruit or sports drink for after the game. Please stay away from sugar and caffeine during games.

*NOTE: Only registered volunteers are allowed on the field during quarter and half-time breaks to deliver drinks and/or snacks.*

**Clean Up**

Please help keep our fields safe and clean for all our players. Players and parents are required to put all garbage in the trash cans. Please make sure clean up is conducted after each practice and game. First team on the field brings out the cans and the last team off the field for the day brings in the cans.

## **Sideline Limits**

Parents, coaches and non-playing players and spectators are to be located on the opposite side of the field from the player benches and not less than three yards outside the touchline and no closer than 20 yards from the goal line. No one is permitted behind the goal are. Only **registered volunteers** are allowed on the field with members of any team.

## **Code of Conduct**

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In AYSO, young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat - all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

Supporting your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory - that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!

\*HANDBALL is short for "Handling the Ball", and does not mean "The hand touched the ball". It is not automatically a handball if a player's hand or arm accidentally comes in contact with the ball.

## **Soccer Basics** (continued)

\*OUT OF PLAY mean the ball must completely cross the outside plane of the touchline to be considered out of play. The ball is out on whoever touched the ball last.

\*OFFISDE (Simplified explanation) is called only if two conditions are satisfied. (1) If an offensive player(s) is past the second to the last defender (usually between the goal and keeper and the second defender), **and** (2) if that person(s) participates in the play (i.e., is passed the ball or distracts the goal keeper), then offside is called. It's okay for a player to be in an offside position, as long as he/she does not enter the play. Offside is generally not considered for U8 and younger teams.

## Soccer Basics

Soccer is played by two teams of players. Goals are scored when the ball crosses the goal line into the opposing team's net. Teams compete to score the most goals. Referees enforce rules to ensure that the game runs smoothly.

\*GOALKEEPER is the only member of each team who can use his/her hands.

\*DEFENDERS (also called fullbacks) defend the goal and try to take the ball away from the opposing team.

\*MIDFIELDERS (also called halfbacks) are usually the busiest players on the team. They are the important link between the defenders and the forwards.

\*FORWARDS (also called strikers) score most of the goals and try to delay the offensive team's drive up the field.

\*THROW-IN is the way the ball is put back into play after it crosses over the touchline. When a member of one team kicks the ball out, a member of the opposing team throws the ball in to resume play.

\*PENALTY KICK is called when a player commits a serious foul within the penalty area. Fouls may include a dangerous tackle or touching the ball with a player's hand(s).

\*FREE KICK is called when a foul has been committed outside of the penalty area.

\*GOAL KICK is called when the ball crosses over a goal line and was last played or touched by an attacker. A goal kick is awarded to the defenders.

\*CORNER KICK is called when the ball crosses over a goal line and was last touched by a defender. A corner kick is awarded to the attackers.

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them.

Don't put too heavy a burden on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winning team. Children play for the fun of playing.

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your child achieve their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your child does make one, remember it is all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support too. That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there's

usually always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!

**All referee decisions are final – whether they are right or wrong.**

### **Line Referees**

We are always in need of referees. Sometimes a shortage may result in parents being asked to help with line judging in the lower age groups.

Anyone who may want to volunteer to be a line judge will be provided training. However, in order to volunteer, you must complete an AYSO Volunteer application. If you are interested, you can register online at <http://www.eayso.org> or contact the CVPA for Region 778 listed (page 2). For information regarding training, please contact our Referee Administrator (page 2).

### **Pictures**

Please have all players present for the team photo, even if they are not having individual pictures taken! Team parents will assist by helping with forms, lining up players, keeping order and taking role.

### **Trophies**

Trophies will be the responsibility of the coach and team parent. Each team will choose their design, order and purchase their own trophies.

Please keep the price and size modest.

### **Team Party**

At the mid point of the season, team parents should start planning you end-of-season party. Make reservations, collect money and make reminder notices.