



## AYSO Challenge - Section 10 Club Program

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### GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### INTRODUCTION

AYSO Challenge is a LAB test program, approved by AYSO's National Board of Directors operating under the AYSO National tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3).

The formation of a Club structure within AYSO will provide the opportunity for players who possess the appropriate interest, dedication, skills and abilities to compete at the HIGHEST LEVEL of play within youth soccer in general, and AYSO in particular, without compromise to the AYSO Philosophies or our commitment to enriching children's lives that make AYSO unique among all youth sports organizations.

Set forth are the Section 10 Challenge Guidelines for operation of the AYSO Challenge program within Section 10. These guidelines, and suggested best practices included within, are not all-inclusive and are intended to be updated annually. It is critical to the success of the program that all Section-approved Areas and participating Regions utilize these guidelines to provide a common, consistent and positive experience for all players, coaches, parents and volunteers.

In addition, this document is intended to be used in conjunction with the Regional Challenge Guidelines of participating Regions. The supplemental Regional guidelines should be tailored to each region's established practices and take into consideration the economic, demographic and geographic differences, as well as diverse cultures of its Regional membership..

Section 10 and Regional Challenge Guidelines, and essential documents detailing the operation of the AYSO Challenge program, must be posted on each participating Region's website.

#### PURPOSE

AYSO Challenge provides greater opportunities for player development to its AYSO membership by permitting eligible teams to participate in a non-AYSO "club" gaming circuit that offers progressive levels of advanced play.

The primary objectives of AYSO Challenge are to:

- Provide additional opportunities for players who wish to commit and play at higher competitive levels.
- Provide these additional opportunities in an environment which upholds and supports all AYSO philosophies.
- Offer an advanced play program at an affordable rate for its members, making this option more accessible to a larger percentage of its membership.
- Retain and regain players, volunteers and families, allowing them to continue to participate within the AYSO culture while enjoying the opportunity for advanced levels

of play.

- Provide opportunities for valuable, skilled volunteers to continue contributing to their home Region's programs.
- Enhance and complement the primary program by creating additional opportunities for advanced play and player development, in particular, post-season programs (All-Star and Tournament) where players are exposed to higher levels of play.
- Provide programs that enhance regular season play.

**AYSO Challenge will accomplish these goals, using the AYSO philosophies of:**

- **EVERYONE PLAYS** – The program will mandate that every player in the program play no less than half (50%) of every league or Tournament game.
- **BALANCED TEAMS** – The program has established guidelines to ensure that the teams formed are balanced in the best interests of the players relative to the age and skill level in which they will compete. Unique to the AYSO Challenge program, teams are balanced at the gaming circuit level, which ensures each team is placed in appropriate level of competition.
- **POSITIVE COACHING** – Kids succeed and grow when they are built up, not when they are torn down. We train and encourage our coaches to provide positive guidance and direction in a manner that promotes player development.
- **OPEN REGISTRATION** – Any player is eligible to try out for one or more teams developed under this program.
- **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.
- **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT** – We believe that all players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as a member of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

**JURISDICTION**

The AYSO Challenge club soccer program is an AYSO LAB Test program, approved by the AYSO National President (2014) for implementation initially in Area 10-S (2014-2016) and now pending expansion to all Regions within the approved Areas of Section 10.

AYSO Challenge shall be conducted in accordance with the AYSO Challenge Program Guidelines described herein as well as supplemental Regional Challenge Guidelines established by participating Regions. In addition, this program complies with current AYSO Rules and Regulations, Bylaws and National Policies, the current FIFA Laws of the Game, as well as the applicable rules and regulations of California State Soccer Association – South (aka “Cal South”) and the club gaming circuit (currently the Coast Soccer League – aka “CSL”).

In case of conflict, the National AYSO Rules & Regulations, Bylaws and National Policies will take precedence.

**ORGANIZATION & STAFFING**

The AYSO Challenge program operates in a manner consistent with current Section/Area/Region management structure. Each Challenge Program is directly managed at the Regional Level with Area oversight, under the authority of and reporting to Section 10 leadership. All participating

Areas/Regions/Teams will operate under the AYSO Challenge name. All official board positions within the AYSO Challenge Program must be approved by the appropriate AYSO governing body noted below. All Challenge staff MUST have required volunteer, Safe Haven and Risk Management certifications as designated by the applicable governing bodies.

**Section Level**

**Overview:** Section 10 authorizes Areas within its scope to participate in the Section 10 Challenge Program. Each approved Area will become its own “club” under the AYSO Challenge umbrella (detailed further under “Area Level”).

**Structure:**

- A Section 10 board-appointed AYSO Challenge Director will oversee and facilitate administration of all participating Section 10 Challenge programs in accordance with the Section 10 General Program Guidelines and will report to Section 10 on the performance, progress and new developments of said program.
- The Section 10 Challenge Director will simultaneously hold the position of the “Affiliate” or “Club” President for the non-AYSO club equivalent, Cal South, and the Coast Soccer League gaming circuit and will be the primary liaison with those entities.
- The Section 10 Challenge Director will assemble and lead a Section-level executive Challenge team comprised of representation from participating Areas to fulfill essential non-AYSO club positions required by Cal South. These positions serve solely in an advisory role, with day-to-day Challenge program management handled at the Regional level with Area oversight:
  - Challenge Club President (Filled by Section Challenge Director)
  - Challenge Vice President(s) (To ensure representation of all participating Areas, this position(s) will be filled by Area Director, Challenge Director or other Area-appointed representative for any participating Area not holding any of the positions below)
  - Challenge Club Treasurer (filled by participating Area-level representative)
  - Challenge Club Secretary (filled by participating Area-level representative)

• AYSO Position	Equivalent	Club (Cal South) Position
• Section Challenge Director	—	AYSO Challenge President
• Area representative(s)*	—	AYSO Challenge Vice President(s)
• Treasurer	—	Treasurer
• Secretary	—	Secretary

\* — this position will be filled by any Area that is not represented in the other positions.

Note: In the event any Challenge-related issue is escalated above the Area level, upon recommendation by the Section 10 Challenge Director, the Section 10 Challenge executive team will intercede to mediate a resolution, and if necessary, amend Section 10 guidelines.

**Area Level**

**Overview:** Each Area within Section 10 that is approved to operate an AYSO Challenge Program will comprise a “club” within AYSO Challenge and under the “Affiliate” within the non-AYSO Organizations. To remain consistent and transparent, each Area must include their AYSO Area designation within its club name, but may use an additional descriptor to further identify that Area’s reach as shown below.

**Area “club” names, (subject to change)\*:**

**\*AYSO Santa Clarita Valley 10S**

**AYSO Conejo Valley 10E**

**AYSO Channel Islands 10W**

**AYSO SLO County/Coastal 10O**

**AYSO Kern County 10A**

**AYSO Tulare County 10Q**

**AYSO High Desert 10D**

**AYSO San Fernando Valley 10V**

\* — Approved Challenge Program with AYSO National. All others Areas are pending.

**NOTE:** Individual Regions may create unique team names within their Area Club to further differentiate each other. For example, Valencia United and Saugus FC could be under the **AYSO** Santa Clarita Valley 10S club. These names will appear in the club roster and standings on the Coast Soccer League website.

**Structure:**

- An Area Challenge “Club” must form an organizational structure to exist solely in an oversight role and assign corresponding responsibilities and positions required by the non-AYSO club organizations, in this case, Cal South and the Coast Soccer League.
- An Area board may choose to assume the added club responsibilities within its existing structure (primarily for escalated issues as the club is managed at the Regional level), or they may choose to appoint additional board positions. It is recommended that an Area set up its structure in a manner that provides sufficient program support, with minimal impact to its Area and Regional volunteer base. In most cases, positions can be filled from participating regions in the Challenge Program.
- Each approved Area must have an **Area Challenge Director**, who will be referred to as the **“Club President”** in the club environment. There must also be an Area Registrar who has required Club certifications. These are the **ONLY** essential positions. **HOWEVER**, Section 10 mandates the following additional positions be held by Area staff:
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<b>AYSO Position</b>	<b>Equivalent</b>	<b>Club Position</b>
Area Challenge Director	—	(Area Name) Club President
Regional Challenge Coordinator(s)	—	(Area Name) Club Vice President(s)
Registrar	—	Registrar
Area Coach Administrator	—	(Area Name) Director of Coaching
Permits Coordinator	—	Director of Fields

**Area Challenge Director (ACD)/Club President:** Area Challenge Director (ACD) oversees the Area Challenge program. The ACD will report directly to the Area Director, as well as the Section Challenge Director:

- Serve as liaison to Regional Challenge Coordinators, Regional Commissioners, Area Director, Section Challenge Director, Cal South, and the Coast Soccer League.
- Enforce and administer the bylaws, guidelines, and rules and regulations of AYSO Challenge, AYSO National guidelines as well as the rules and regulations of Cal South and Coast Soccer League and resolve any associated issues.
- Authorize and facilitate registration of teams and players, League and State Cup Tournaments and associated fees in accordance with established deadlines by AYSO, Cal South and the Coast Soccer League.

- Lead Area Challenge Committee comprised of the Area Challenge Director and Regional Challenge Coordinators to ensure consistent application and compliance of Challenge General Guidelines and to review applications of teams participating in the Challenge Program where applicable (U12 and below).
- Ensure that each participating Region provides financial accounting for its program upon request to the Area Board.

**Area Challenge Vice President(s):** As each participating Region will be responsible for management of its Regional Challenge Program, a board-appointed Regional Challenge Coordinator (RCC) or other board-approved representative will fill the Cal South club equivalent position of Area Challenge Vice President. The responsibilities include:

- Report to the Regional Board on all matters regarding the Program
- Management of Regional Challenge Program and registration
- Fiscal accountability for Challenge finances at Regional level
- Disciplinary and Challenge policy enforcement
- Serve as member of the Area Challenge Club Committee (detailed below). Provide data on program performance and associated issues to Area Board.

**Area Challenge Club Registrar:** Each Area MUST appoint or contract with a Cal South-certified Registrar for the purposes of Cal South “club” registration. These duties may be filled by one or more of the participating Region registrars, board-approved volunteer(s) or may be contracted (a per team/player fee may be charged), provided that all expenses are covered by the Challenge program. Or, each participating region may be required to provide its own registrar.

- A “club registrar” must be certified through Cal South and take required training.
- Must have Cal South Risk Management and AYSO Safe Haven certifications.
- Ensure all Challenge players are dual registered with AYSO and Cal South and take responsibility to create all player ID cards for Cal South.
- Ensure all Challenge teams are registered with non-AYSO gaming circuit (Coast Soccer League).
- Keep and maintain registration records of AYSO Challenge players and team managers.
- Verify and administer matters of player/team administrator eligibility and transfers with the non-AYSO league and the registrars of the participating regions.

**Area Challenge Club Coach Administrator:** The board-approved Area Challenge Club Coach Administrator is responsible for oversight of Challenge Program with regard to all coaching related matters.

- Responsible for escalated matters above Region level, including discipline, protests and appeals, recruiting, etc.
- Provide guidance to participating regions on coaching education, certifications, etc. in an oversight capacity.

**Area Challenge Club Secretary:** The Area Challenge Club Secretary can be an additional responsibility of the Area Board-appointed secretary (recommended) or be a separate board position. As all Challenge-related business will be discussed at an Area level, this position will document agenda items regarding the Area Challenge Club program within the regularly scheduled Area Board meetings.

**Area Challenge Club Permits Director:** The Area Challenge Club Permits Director will be responsible for securing permits for fields in accordance with established requirements by the Coast Soccer League and Cal South (where applicable). This position, whether an extension of an

established Area Board Permits Director position, or a newly created position exclusively for the Challenge Program, is board-approved and must work with the ACD to ensure fields are secured. Note: Depending on Area Club Program participation (number of teams) and geographical location of participating regions, this position may require one or more positions and may be filled at the Regional level by any Region with appropriate field capacity to meet Coast Soccer League requirements (based on number of teams).

**Area Challenge Committee (ACC):** The ACD will also chair the Area Challenge Committee, comprised of the ACD/Challenge President, Challenge Vice Presidents and Region Challenge Coordinators (see below). This committee should meet on a regular basis (recommended monthly) to review the Program’s performance, proactively make recommendations for improvement, and take corrective action.

**NOTE: It is recommended that all financials for each Challenge program be handled at the Regional level. However, if an Area chooses to manage all financials for its Challenge programs, the Area-appointed Treasurer will:**

- Maintain all financial records for AYSO Challenge clubs. Provide the Region and Area boards with financial status as needed.
- Maintain a sub account, with appropriate NAP code, exclusively for the Area AYSO Challenge registration funds.
- Issue checks to disburse funds as needed by the Challenge program in accordance with AYSO National guidelines. Two (2) signatures are required on all Area checks.
- Must ensure that AYSO Challenge funds do not comingle with the Area general account.

The Area Challenge bank account will have all the funds for the Challenge Program and each Region documented.

**Regional Level**

With the approval of the Area board in which it belongs, any Region may participate in the Area Challenge “club” program. Each participating region must have an established Standard Primary Program and ensure that the quality and performance of said program will not be compromised by the implementation of an AYSO Challenge Program. Regional AYSO Challenge programs must be operated in conjunction with a Standard Primary Program and may also be operated in conjunction with an Extra program. Note: Two or more regions within an Area may elect to operate a joint Challenge program, allowing the regions to form blended teams and share managerial responsibilities.

Below are the essential positions that each Region must approve and fill in order to operate a Challenge Program. These programs can be filled from existing positions or be newly created positions.

<b>AYSO Position</b>	<b>Equivalent</b>	<b>Club Position</b>
Regional Challenge Coordinator	—	(Area Name) Club Vice President(s)
Registrar (if no Area Registrar only)	—	Club Registrar
Treasurer	—	Treasurer
Coach Administrator	—	Director of Coaching
Coach Administrator	—	Director of Protests, Appeals & Disciplinary
CVPA	—	Risk Management

Secretary	—	Secretary
Permits Coordinator (if applicable)	—	Director of Fields

**Regional Challenge Coordinator (RCC):** A Regional Board-approved Regional Challenge Coordinator must be filled for a Region program to exist. This position reports to the Regional Board. Responsibilities include:

- Administrate Challenge Program at the regional level.
- Report to the Regional board. Act as the liaison between the Regional board and the Area Challenge Director and committee.
- Manage team registration (AYSO and non-AYSO).
- Oversight of individual team finances.
- Facilitate coach and player recruiting and selection.
- Ensure volunteer participation by Challenge teams as defined by the “Give Back” requirements.
- Ensure reporting of scores, stats and disciplinary issues to applicable organizations by individual team managers, as required.
- Review and approval of fundraising efforts and sponsorships.
- Ensure compliance with AYSO and Cal South, Coast Soccer League and Section 10 and Regional Challenge guidelines.
- Serve as a member of the Area Challenge Committee (ACC), providing documentation of program compliance and metrics of program’s performance to the ACD.

**Regional Challenge Registrar:** In the absence of an Area Challenge Registrar or to assist the ACR, each participating region is encouraged to appoint or contract with a “club” certified registrar for the purposes of facilitating Cal South and Coast Soccer League registration. It is recommended that these duties may be filled by someone other than the Primary Program’s Regional Registrar so as to not overwhelm any individual. This position reports to the Regional Board.

- This position must be certified as a registrar by Cal South.
- This position must complete the AYSO Registrar course and have appropriate eAYSO.org privileges.
- This position must have AYSO Safe Haven and Cal South Risk Management certification.
- Ensure all Challenge players are registered with AYSO as well as non-AYSO League organizations.
- Keep and maintain registration records of AYSO Challenge players and team managers.
- Verify and administer matters of player/team administrator eligibility and transfers with the non-AYSO league and the registrars of the participating regions.

**Regional Challenge Treasurer:** Each region is encouraged to appoint a Challenge Treasurer. These duties may be filled by the Primary Program’s Regional Treasurer (or Assistant Treasurer, if applicable). This position reports to the Regional Board.

- This position must take the AYSO Treasurer certification course and have appropriate eAYSO.org privileges.
- This person must have AYSO Safe Haven certification as well as Cal South Risk Management certification.

- Responsible to keep and maintain all financial records for AYSO Challenge registration fees collected as well as program expenses. Provide the Region and Area boards with financial status as needed.
- Maintain a sub account, with appropriate NAP code, exclusively for the Area AYSO Challenge registration funds.
- Issue checks to disburse funds as needed by the Challenge program in accordance with AYSO National guidelines. Two (2) signatures are required on all Region checks.
- Must ensure that AYSO Challenge funds do not comeingle with the Region general account.

**Regional Challenge Coach Director:** Each region must appoint a Challenge Coach Administrator. These duties may be filled by the Regional Coach Administrator (or Assistant Regional Coach Administrator, if applicable) or be a separate board position. This position shall:

- Coordinate and direct the framework of Regional Challenge tryouts.
- Coordinate licensing classes for the Regional Challenge coaches.
- Ensure coaches are in compliance with AYSO Section and Regional Challenge guidelines.
- Recruit, screen, schedule, and approve all trainers, volunteers, or otherwise.
- Assist in developing and teaching coaching clinics and player training.
- Assist and provide mentoring to all AYSO Challenge coaches.

**Regional Challenge Secretary:** The Regional Challenge Club Secretary is an additional responsibility absorbed by the Region Board-appointed secretary. As all Challenge-related business will be discussed at a Region level, this position will document agenda items regarding the Region Challenge program within the regularly scheduled Board meetings.

**Region Risk Management Coordinator:** This position will be filled by the Region CVPA or may be a separate Board-approved position. This position will be responsible for ensuring that all Challenge Program team officials (coaches and team managers) are in compliance with AYSO and non-Club requirements and certifications involving player safety.

- Ensure all coaches, managers and team administrators have Risk Management Screening and are registered as volunteers as required by Cal South.
- Ensure all coaches and team volunteers are registered AYSO volunteers and are Safe Haven trained as required by AYSO.

**Regional Challenge Permits Coordinator:** In the absence of an Area Challenge Permits Director, or depending on Area Challenge participation, geographic circumstances or other factors, a Region Challenge Club Permits Coordinator may be appointed and will be responsible for securing permits for fields in accordance with established requirements by the Coast Soccer League. This position, whether an extension of an established Board Permits Coordinator position or a newly created position exclusively for the Challenge Program, reports to the Region Board.

### **Team Level**

In the “club environment,” specifically within Section 10, Cal South and Coast Soccer League guidelines, it is MANDATORY that each team fill the following positions at a minimum:

- **Challenge Head Coach:** Each team must have one designated Head Coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.



- **Challenge Assistant Coach:** Though not mandated by the Coast Soccer League, Section 10 guidelines mandate each team must have at least one designated Assistant Coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.
- **Challenge Team Manager:** Each team will be required to have a Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. Team Manager will liaise with RCC and appropriate registrar and be responsible for ensuring team registration, compliance and coordination of volunteer participation within home region. (Detailed below)
- **Challenge Assistant Team Manager:** It is strongly recommended each team has a back-up Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. The Assistant Team Manager will assume Team Manager responsibilities in the absence of the Team Manager or assist/share responsibilities.

Note: While the “club guidelines” may specify that a team only needs (1) Coach and (1) Team Manager, AYSO Challenge requires a minimum of (2) appropriately certified Coaches and (1) Team Manager per team. All positions must have Safe Haven and Risk Management certifications.

## **NON-AYSO CLUB GUIDELINES & REGISTRATION FOR TEAMS & PLAYERS**

### **Eligibility**

The mission of the Challenge Program is to develop players in a highly competitive environment, but even more important, is to foster a love of the game. Therefore, it is imperative that each Area and Region takes responsibility for only allowing teams with appropriate skill level to participate in this program. The criteria are as follows:

- Any team accepted into the Challenge program should have a proven and successful performance record, such as: The core of a team had a highly successful Extra, All-Star or Tournament season the prior year, or the recruiting class of a newly formed team is so exceptional it warrants consideration.
- U11-U12 teams applying for the Challenge Program will require Area approval, with recommendation from their home region.
- U13 and above teams applying for the Challenge Program will require Regional approval only.
- Coaches must also demonstrate that they understand the AYSO Philosophies and are willing to comply with all AYSO Section 10 and Regional Challenge Guidelines.
- Area reserves the right to deny the continuation of any existing Challenge team if it deems further participation is detrimental to the team’s development and love of the game or the program as a whole as determined by Area. Such examples would be subpar performance record beyond win-loss record (i.e., heavily lopsided scores), persistent disciplinary issues, etc.
- Note: The opportunity to appeal denial of acceptance will be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner or Area Director.

Teams who want to play in Challenge for the perceived prestige, but are not equipped with skills to play at a higher level, are strongly encouraged to first compete at the Extra, Tournament or Primary level and build their skills, particularly at the U11 division and below.

### **Team Size**

The number of players on the field and roster sizes will be governed by the rules of Cal South. **However, each Region may limit team size in its Regional Challenge Guidelines and those limits are binding.**

**Minimum team size per Cal South:**

- U11 – U19 (11v11): (7) Players

**Maximum team size per Cal South:**

- U11 – U15: (18) maximum players
- U16 – U18: (22) maximum players

AYSO teams are not required to meet the Cal South-established team size maximums. However, if a team decides to add a player later, it will be subject to guidelines in the Player Selection section below as well as Regional Challenge Guidelines.

**Note: Compliance with AYSO’s 50% Minimum Play Rule must be followed in all cases.** In the spirit of the AYSO Player Development philosophy, the ultimate goal of Challenge is to provide as many playing opportunities at a high level as possible for each player, not simply meet the 50% minimum.

**Age Division Structure**

AYSO Challenge programs may include U11 through U19 teams (Note: U9 and U10 teams are, at this time, required to participate in the AYSO Primary or Extra Program, but they may petition to the Area level for an exemption, if sufficient cause exists). Divisions shall be created in accordance with AYSO Rules & Regulations Article III, including the ability to create “single-year” subdivisions.

Note: In non-AYSO gaming circuits, players are permitted to “play up” in older age divisions. Ability to “play up” is subject to Regional Challenge Guidelines and standard Region policy and approval.

Note: Only players in the AYSO competitive age group (U10 and above) are allowed to participate in the Challenge Program.

**AYSO Challenge Registration Requirements**

When AYSO Challenge Program teams are playing in non-AYSO leagues/gaming circuits it is understood that:

- Players must become dual registered within AYSO and non-AYSO club league (Cal South).
- Teams must register with a non-AYSO gaming circuit (Coast Soccer League).
- Teams and administrators must understand and comply with all rules in that league and gaming circuit. A couple of areas that deviate from AYSO standards include:
  - “Free substitution” – there are no set substitution times, such as AYSO quarter play, meaning a coach may substitute one or more of their players at the appropriate time (as defined by the league). **NOTE: AYSO Challenge mandates that each player participates in 50% of each game and this requirement supersedes non-AYSO guidelines in all instances.**
  - Different number of players at certain ages – some divisions will play 11v11 at U11/12, while others will play small-sided games. Player Registration with AYSO and Non-AYSO club organization

Once a player is chosen for a Challenge Team:

- Player/parent must sign a *Player/Parent – Team Challenge Agreement* form that outlines general terms for the Fall season, including the “Player & Coach Commitment Period” and other general team requirements, including volunteerism.
- The player/parent is responsible for paying all AYSO and non-AYSO club registration fees and other associated costs (training, uniform, etc.) as set by the host Region.
- AYSO Challenge players should expect that additional fees may be charged by the non-AYSO league and/or state associations for participation, specifically referee fees, which are NOT generally included in player registration fees (subject to Regional Challenge Guidelines and region policies).
- All players must be registered with AYSO. The AYSO NSTC player database (eAYSO) shall be the source of determining the players’ current registration status.
- All players must be registered with the non-AYSO league (Cal South) through the Area/Regional Challenge Registrar, who is certified by Cal South. Registration of the players should be handled through the Team Manager in coordination with the Registrar, as there are unique requirements for club registration that differ from AYSO.
- Each Region electing to participate in the AYSO Challenge program is responsible for compliance with all player eligibility requirements and the individual registration procedures of the non-AYSO league, as well as any requirements set forth in Regional Challenge Guidelines.
- No player may participate in any practice or game until their registration status can be confirmed by the Region. There is no requirement that AYSO Challenge players must have previously played or registered as AYSO players.

#### **Rosters and ID Cards**

- Once a player is chosen for a Challenge Team, and registered with AYSO and the non-AYSO club organizations, a Cal South ID card will be issued, which will remain in the possession of the Team Manager. The ID cards are required to be presented to officials at each game at the club level and therefore must remain in the possession of a team official.
- Use of player ID cards will be governed by the rules of the league played in.
- If a player chooses to leave a team, their ID card is returned by the team to the Challenge Registrar and the parents may obtain said card from the registrar in accordance with Cal South guidelines.
- For each AYSO Challenge program team, a team representative must have a team roster and original signed copies of AYSO or non-AYSO Player Registration Forms (medical release forms) for each participating player and ID cards for the players and coach(es) at all sponsored or sanctioned events (games, practices, scrimmages, etc.).

#### **Team Registration with Non-AYSO Gaming Circuit**

Challenge teams that are formed by a host Region will need to register with a non-AYSO gaming circuit. Funds for team registration (\$450 as of 2014) and forfeit bond (\$150) must come from player registration fees set by the host Region. Recommended procedure should be as follows:

- Ideally teams are formed by April and all player fees collected and deposited into Region Challenge account prior to May 15 Coast Soccer League application deadline.

- Participating Regions should inform the Area Challenge Director of intended number of teams a Region plans to field in the Challenge Program.
- Funds should be secured for each region to cover AYSO and non-AYSO registration costs at the Regional level and checks should be issued to cover fees. If finances are managed at Area Level, non-AYSO registration funds should be transferred to the Area Treasurer, per that Area's policies.
- Area/Regions will send all applications and payments to Coast Soccer League by May 15 deadline.
- NOTE: Any team that registers after May 15 is subject to an additional \$100 late fee (2014) under Coast Soccer League guidelines and that team must absorb those costs.

### **Uniforms**

**Use of AYSO Name Required:** All AYSO Challenge programs must include AYSO logo into their club name and logo. All correspondence, websites and other publications of the AYSO Challenge program that uses the AYSO Challenge club's name must make it clear that the club is part of AYSO. The AYSO Logo must be printed on all uniforms in the upper left front to comply with all current AYSO Uniform standards; Clubs have the option to also have their own Club Name/Logo/Shield on the uniform sleeve, with AYSO approval.

**Uniform/colors/style:** Challenge Teams will have uniform style and colors approved by the participating Regional Board and that decision is binding. To help maintain the identity and association of Challenge teams with their home region, uniform colors must align with those of the host Region. However, individual regions may wish to allow their Challenge teams to choose a different uniform style or brand, provided incremental costs are included in the Challenge program registration fees.

## COACH SELECTION

Each region must certify that each Challenge team has qualified coaches. New and returning coach applications must be reviewed by a committee led by the Region Challenge Coordinator. Selections are approved by the Regional Board. It is recommended that the committee be a cross-functional team, including the Coach Director and Regional Referee Administrator, among others. Approval as a coach will be based on the applicable criteria including, but not limited to, what is outlined below.

### AYSO:

- Be a registered AYSO volunteer.
- Be Safe Haven certified.
- Possess appropriate AYSO Coaching Certificate for the division in which they coach.
- Added consideration will be given to coaches who have a certification above the level they wish to coach and for those who have successfully completed the CDC Concussion Awareness course.

### Non-AYSO League:

- Current Risk Management certification.
- Possess a Non-AYSO Club “E” license or higher.

### General:

- **Must commit to playing each player a minimum of 50% of each game, with the understanding that non-AYSO leagues allow “free substitutions” and that a player should play more than 50% in each game to eliminate any doubt that a coach is meeting his obligation to the team.** Note: A coach may be subject to disciplinary action at the Region or Area level for repeated noncompliance.
- Coaches must be committed to the AYSO Philosophies in all facets of coaching and administration of the team.
- Coaches must gain an understanding of all pertinent Cal South and Coast Soccer League rules and regulations. (Each coach will be provided a Cal South Handbook.)
- Must be in good standing with Region and Area, as well as with the non-AYSO league and organizations.
- Must commit to uphold and support all established “Give Back” Region Challenge Volunteer Requirements, which may include refereeing, field setup, painting and other operational duties.
- Must commit to continuing education, such as attending coaching clinics or attaining a higher certification.
- Must sign a *Coach/Team Manager—Challenge Agreement* form.

**Coach interviews:** New coaches are required to attend a sit-down interview process per Regional Challenge Guidelines. It will be at the Region’s discretion as to whether to interview all or some of the returning coaches based on prior year’s performance.

All new Challenge coach applicants must submit the following in writing or email to the Challenge Program Coordinator:

- Coaching Application/Resume/Profile
- Two letters of recommendation from parents of past players.

**Note:** If a coach does not have the necessary certifications, he/she must make every effort to get to those levels as quickly as possible (based on the best practices of the National Coach Advisory Commission and non-AYSO club organizations). If a non-AYSO coach does not meet the above requirements, he/she may still be considered after completing cross certification, based on the AYSO-USSF Reciprocity policy in place. A Region should make every effort to allow good qualified volunteer coaches (AYSO or non-AYSO) to coach in the AYSO Challenge program.

## **PLAYER SELECTION**

It is recommended that each region utilize the Region Challenge Coordinator and Coach Administrator to administer their tryouts. This will ensure consistency. Each region must ensure tryouts will be staffed with an adequate number of administrators to check in and move players through the session.

Not all players who tryout – including current Challenge players – will be selected to a team. No player is guaranteed a roster spot prior to tryouts. Any coach or other administrator who violates these guidelines is subject to disciplinary action.

Tryouts, whether following the Challenge Program’s general recommendation or following Region Challenge policy, must comply with the guidelines 1-5 set below:

1. **Program Overview:** A document outlining the scope of the Challenge Program and its final fee structure, including detailing what the fees encompass (uniform, training costs, club and AYSO fees, included Tournaments, etc.), should be posted on the Region’s website. It should also be available in printed form at tryouts.
2. **Field Availability:** As early as possible, each region participating in the AYSO Challenge program should procure field permits and necessary equipment needed for tryouts.
3. **Advertising:** The dates, times and places for AYSO Challenge tryouts should be posted on the Region and Area websites at a minimum. Flyers, emails, banners, press releases, etc., may be distributed in each regional local area, as well.
4. **Open Tryouts:** Any child whose age is between U9 and U19 as of July 31 is eligible to try out for an AYSO Challenge team. **All players must try out each year.** In order to participate in a tryout, players must either be currently registered with AYSO, complete the Non-AYSO Registered Participants Form, or sign an Emergency Authorization, Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk & Waiver, or Acknowledgement & Consent Agreement.
5. **Evaluators:** AYSO Challenge programs shall use player selection procedures that are designed to be impartial, fair and are considerate of the players and their families. Use of neutral, qualified evaluators, as well as coach is required at each age division/gender at a minimum. It is recommended that the Regional Challenge Coordinator or Regional Coach Administrator approve evaluators.

### **Tryout Guidelines**

Note: Below are recommended guidelines for player tryouts. Regional Challenge guidelines that deviate from these recommendations and follow a Region’s general practices are acceptable, provided all tryouts are open, include neutral evaluators and have no guaranteed player spots prior to tryouts.

- Two or more neutral evaluators will be used, in addition to the coach.
- Players will be rated on multiple levels (skills, speed, aggressiveness, game awareness, etc.) in accordance with Regional practices used in Core, Extra and All-Star programs.
- All participation and ratings must be documented by the Region and be available to the ACD/Area upon request.

- Based on ratings and observations of evaluators, a pool of “Challenge-caliber” players will be selected. The pool size will be approximately 1.25 times the size of the maximum amount of players allowed on a team in that age division. (e.g., if the maximum roster size is 18 players per Region Challenge Guidelines, the pool would be 23 players, rounding up). This formula is a guideline for the pool, but if circumstances warrant, an exception to expand or contract the pool, with sufficient justification and RCC approval, is acceptable. Having a pool approximately 1.25 times larger than the team maximum will give coaches latitude in creating a team to fit their coaching style, while also ensuring that only qualified players will be considered. **NO player is guaranteed a roster spot on any team.**
- Following tryouts and within a designated time period, the Coach will select a team from the approved “Challenger-caliber” pool of players and submit selections to the RCC for Region approval.
- Player selection will be submitted to the RCC who will review and route for approval. Approval of the RCC, Regional Commissioner and Regional Coach Administrator are required at a minimum. Regions may implement alternate procedures consistent with their Region policies.
- Coach is notified of approval or selection denials and the reasons for such denial.
- Players selected are notified immediately, followed by those not selected. Notification of all players not being assigned to a team is mandatory and always handled in a professional and caring manner. Coaches who violate this requirement are subject to disciplinary action including suspension. Players not selected should be encouraged to participate in other AYSO programs offered by the Region.
- Players initially placed on a roster on an AYSO Challenge program team must make this team their top priority and must not be permitted to participate on Primary or Extra teams, without Area approval and a valid rationale for exemption.

**Multiple teams in one age division:** In the event there are two teams in a given division, the balancing of teams, or designation of a Primary and Secondary team will be determined per Regional Challenge Guidelines.

- A Primary/Secondary team scenario is recommended. This scenario entails a returning team which has earned a higher league distinction (silver, gold, etc.), and the second, presumably new team, which is accepted at the entry level (bronze). It is strongly recommended that a region should adhere to non-AYSO league requirements of allowing a team to retain the minimum numbers of returning players so that this team may maintain its earned team ranking and compete at a higher level designation (as designated by Coast Soccer League). However, these players must be required to try out annually and should not be guaranteed a roster spot in advance of tryouts.
- If no such distinction exists between the teams, a Region may choose a blind or open draft to balance teams in accordance with its Regional practices. However, it is strongly recommended that Regions DO NOT field two teams of equal skill level and instead field one team with the strongest chance to advance to a higher level within the club circuit.

Note: In the case of a Primary/Secondary scenario, if a player selected for the Primary team declines an invitation to join the primary team, it is recommended that they remain eligible to be selected for the Secondary team, should the secondary coach elect to offer an invitation to the player, as well. This should be the case even if a player declining an invitation jeopardizes a team’s ability to maintain its ranking within the non-AYSO gaming circuit. The Challenge

Program's goal is to retain top players and volunteers and coach/player chemistry is a vital factor in creating a positive experience.

**Area-wide Teams:** An Area may choose to create an Area-wide Challenge program comprised of players from multiple regions. Any Area choosing to do so, must consider the following:

- Necessary staffing needed that complies with Section 10 and non-AYSO organization guidelines
- Whether Area will host the team(s) or a Region will be designated as host
- Agnostic Area uniform colors and name
- A mechanism for coach and player selection process
- A mechanism for player registration
- A mechanism for management of finances

**Accepting non-AYSO teams:** Given the abundant benefits of the AYSO Challenge Program, there exists the possibility that a complete team from another non-AYSO club or AYSO Region may wish to join a Regional Challenge Program for a variety of reasons, most notably that their home Region does not offer a Challenge Program. While adding to our membership, each case will be unique and perhaps complex. **Each Area "club" and Region is strongly encouraged** to develop a policy to manage such situations in a clear and consistent manner, taking into consideration several factors such as:

- AYSO Challenge requires publicized open tryouts.
- The team's current level within the non-AYSO league (bronze, silver, gold, etc.).
- Team officials (coaches and managers) must obtain necessary AYSO certifications.
- AYSO-mandated playing time requirements and Challenge roster size limitations.
- Does the inclusion of an additional team compromise or adversely affect a given Challenge age division?
- Does inclusion of an additional team adversely affect Coast Soccer League limits on a club at a specific division level?
- AYSO and non-AYSO league deadlines and requirements (including late fees).

**Note: Although AYSO offers Open Registration, no team or player is guaranteed a spot in the Challenge Program, just an opportunity to play within AYSO.** If tryouts have not yet been held, it is recommended that a non-AYSO league team seeking to join a Challenge program participate in open tryouts. Therefore, if there are multiple coaches in the division, both coaches will have equal access to the players and players will have more choices of teams. If an incoming team is at an elevated level of play (silver or above), the region will need to set policy on whether to establish primary and secondary teams or a method of allowing balanced teams. Non-AYSO league policies governing a team's playing level should also be strongly considered. If a team is accepted after tryouts have concluded and teams selected, it should be made clear that the team will need to participate in tryouts in the following year AND, that Challenge teams are barred from recruiting within the club until the Region-established Player Commitment Period has been completed.



### **Replacement Player & Supplemental Tryouts:**

If a Challenge team loses a player(s) (after the initial selection of the team) or the Challenge Team coach wants to add player(s) to the team after tryouts are concluded, the Challenge coach has the option to schedule supplementary open tryouts. Note: Additional guidelines may be included in Regional Challenge guidelines.

- This secondary tryout must be published through the Region's website two weeks prior to tryouts.
- This supplemental tryout may be in accordance with Region policy with evaluators if multiple players are involved.
- A supplemental team tryout may be more informal such as having a single player participate in a practice or scrimmage to be evaluated.
- If the player(s) are not registered with either AYSO or Cal South, they must have their parent/guardian sign the Emergency Authorization, Disclaimer, Assumption of Risk and Waiver, or Acknowledgement and Consent Agreement form at the tryout.

### **Eligibility and Restrictions for Replacement Players:**

- A replacement player must comply with all AYSO and Cal South player eligibility requirements, particularly with regard to periods where rosters are "frozen" during Fall league play or "cup-tied" prior to State Cup or other Cal South-sanctioned Tournaments.
- A replacement player may come from the team's home region (including the Primary or Extra programs), provided it does not negatively impact the Region or their Primary team.
- A replacement player may come from another Challenge team, provided that team is from the same "club" and the player complies with all Cal South eligibility requirements AND it does not adversely affect the primary Challenge team. This must have Area and Region approval.
- A player may also come from outside AYSO, provided the player subsequently meets AYSO and non-AYSO league registration, age and eligibility requirements.
- If a replacement player from another AYSO Region is selected, consent must be given by both Regional Commissioners and the player must commit to make the primary Region team for which they initially registered to play as their top priority until the designated conclusion of that season. This means in the event of practice or game conflicts, the player must fulfill their obligation to their initial team before any participation in Challenge activities. The team in which the player initially plays for must not be impacted.
- If a player is chosen and added from the Primary program before those teams are drafted and balanced, that player should not be allowed to continue in the Primary program and should make Challenge their sole priority. Refer to the Regional Challenge Policy for further guidelines on players playing Challenge and in Extra or Primary programs.

### **Transfer of Players Within and Outside of the Area "Club":**

- All transfers of any manner are subject to Regional Commissioner approval, and possibly Area approval in escalated cases.
- Any player transfer from WITHIN an Area Club may only be completed once a player's commitment to their initial club team has been fulfilled in accordance with Region Challenge Guidelines. For example, if a Region's Challenge season ends at the team's conclusion of play in League Cup, the player is free to transfer. If a Region's Challenge season extends further, for example to the conclusion of play in State Cup, then the player

is bound to their initial team until that time. This supersedes non-AYSO organizational guidelines, which permit transfers after the Fall roster season period has ended.

- Any player transfer from WITHIN an Area Club outside of Regional Challenge Guidelines and established commitment periods can only be completed with the consent of both coaches and the Regional Commissioner and, in escalated cases, the Area Challenge Director.
- Any player transfer from an OUTSIDE club to an Area Challenge Club team must comply with all Cal South and Coast Soccer League guidelines restrictions. Any outside transfer must also be AYSO registered per Regional Challenge Guidelines.

**Recruiting:** Although all tryouts are open, and Regions are free to publicize their programs, direct solicitation from other regions in a manner that adversely affects their teams or the region as a whole is not permitted. All suspected “poaching” should be brought to the immediate attention of the Area Challenge Director and Area Director. Any team or team official found to be recruiting beyond reasonable means of contact are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from a team.

NOTE: A coach who ASKS a player or parents of a player to be a “Guest Player” (prior to getting the other coach’s approval) for a Tournament is not considered to be poaching. Also, a coach “chatting” with parents is not considered poaching, unless it can be undeniably substantiated. Regions and Areas cannot be expected to and will not police private conversations between coach, player and families.

Note: As AYSO Challenge is playing in a non-AYSO league, there are additional rules and regulations governing the addition of replacement players.

### **INDIVIDUAL TEAM REQUIREMENTS AND THE “GIVE BACK” PROVISION**

In addition to having a minimum of (2) Coaches and (1) Team Manager, all appropriately certified, including Safe Haven and Risk Management certifications, teams must not lose sight that they are part of their AYSO Region and AYSO as a whole.

It must be understood that it takes additional volunteer support to operate the Challenge program at multiple levels, and in turn each team is expected to support the region in multiple ways.

#### **“GIVE BACK” Volunteer Service to the Home Region**

A key component by which the AYSO Challenge program will enrich the Standard Primary Program is that ALL teams (coaches, players and parents) must “GIVE BACK” to their home Region’s Standard Primary Program in ways that benefits the players and the program as a whole.

Each Region is required to develop and track a formal program to ensure teams are integrated with the core program and continue to GIVE BACK to their home region. The program should be reasonable in scope and involve parents, and even players, and should not put the sole burden on the coaching staff.

For example, coaches could perform tasks that make the program and overall experience better for players. These tasks could include:

- Assisting with a team or mentoring a coach in the primary core program
- Conducting skills nights for primary core program players
- Being a coach instructor

- Being a certified referee
- Being a member of the Regional staff or Board

Team parents and players must be required to provide volunteer hours, for example:

- Field painting and setup
- Game monitoring and other game-day duties
- Assisting at picture day, registration, or concessions
- Assisting in region fundraisers
- Being a member of the Regional board
- Certified refereeing
- Being a member of the Regional staff or Board

### **Team Communication**

It is highly recommended that the coach, in the first team meeting after the team has been formed, should go over his or her expectations of the players/parents/guardians and share their expectations of themselves. This may include:

- Practice schedule and expectations
- Playing time and positional play
- Need for an Assistant Coach and Team Manager, appropriately certified
- League participation, home and travel play
- Fees and other outside expenses (referee fees)
- Duration of season (start and end)
- Region “Give Back” Volunteer Program
- Sideline decorum and sportsmanship
- Safe Haven and Concussion standards
- Supplemental training expenses (if applicable)
- Post-season play opportunities (e.g., Tournament play at coach’s invitation)

Going over such information PRIOR to the start of the season will help ensure team compliance, unwanted complications and unrealistic expectations for the families, the team, the Region and Area Challenge program.

### **Team Finances**

- All team/player registration fees are collected, deposited and disbursed by the host Region as required for participation in Fall non-AYSO club play. A team may NOT set up a separate account for Fall Registration fees.
- The AYSO Challenge players (parents/guardians) are responsible to provide auxiliary funds as needed or participate in fundraising efforts.
- Any team funds collected for the purposes of referee fees, supplemental training, equipment, team events, etc., must be handled by the team itself, either by the Team Manager or Team Treasurer, unless specified otherwise by the host Region. Note: A region may choose to include referee funds in their registration fees as noted in Regional Challenge Guidelines.
- The AYSO Challenge teams may raise money through sponsorships (and approved by the Region ACD to ensure that all conflict of interest policies are maintained) in accordance with AYSO’s Rules & Regulations, Bylaws and National Policies. Any outside sponsorship must also be approved by the host Regional Commissioner.

- Donations are allowed from the player's family, individuals, or businesses. A player's family may elect to donate funds to the team, but a coach may not require families to make a donation.
- A coach MAY NOT insist that all parents just "WRITE A CHECK" to fund team expenses outside those outlined in the Fall Season registration fees. There MUST be a fundraising alternative. For example, if a team chooses to procure additional training at an added expense to the team during the Fall season that goes beyond the scope of the Fall registration fees, any player who **cannot** afford the incremental expense must not be held responsible for those fees. The team must find a fundraising alternative or absorb those expenses. And in cases of teams continuing during Tournament season, such incremental expenses must be outlined at the time the Tournament team is formed and made clear to all parents in writing (email or flyer).
- Remaining team funds should be redistributed to team members at the conclusion of the season, particularly for those not continuing with the team. Team fund-raising funds should remain with the team. For players continuing through Tournament season, those funds may remain in the team account.

### **Tournaments**

After the conclusion of the Fall Season and playoff Tournament, Challenge teams may continue playing in Tournaments as they enhance the player's experience and development. Each team's coach is responsible for setting player expectations for participation in Tournament play as this is beyond the scope of standard Fall Registration fees:

- A coach extends invitations to players, and adds additional players to the roster who did not participate in the Fall Season.
- No Fall Season player is automatically included on a Tournament team as the non-league Tournament season is outside the scope of the Fall Season and is not bound to the Fall Season tryouts.
- By the same token, no player is required to participate in the Tournament season for the same team they played for in the Fall.
- It should be understood that this is an opportunity for coaches to recruit new players and for players to perhaps try new teams.

Each Tournament has its own rules of eligibility and those rules will determine if the AYSO Challenge program team may participate – whether they are AYSO or non-AYSO Tournaments.

All Challenge teams will be eligible for Cal South-sanctioned Tournaments, Class 1 or Class 2.

Typically, AYSO Open Invitational and International Tournaments have open or flight opportunities for club teams. However, it will be at the discretion of the AYSO-sanctioned Invitational Tournament to recognize that AYSO Challenge teams meet the criteria of being an "AYSO-registered team that competed in the Fall season." Coaches or team managers are encouraged to confirm this with Tournament officials prior to registering for an AYSO Invitational Tournament.

Participants in AYSO Challenge programs are not eligible for the AYSO National Games, All-Stars or Extra League Cup at this time.

## **MISCONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

In addition to the Regional guidelines and policies governing player, coach or spectator misconduct, each Region is encouraged to develop supplementary procedures in their Regional Challenge Guidelines for submission of reports of misconduct and disciplinary practices consistent with their Region policies.

### **In-Game Player/Coach/Spectator Misconduct Reporting and Sanctions**

It is expected that players in the Challenge program will hold Good Sportsmanship in high regard as it is a staple of the AYSO Philosophies and each Challenge team represents the AYSO organization as a whole within the club environment.

Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated in a Challenge player, coach or spectator. Reports of misconduct will be handled in accordance with the Region's disciplinary policies. At a minimum, coach, player or spectator transgressions must be documented, reported and reviewed with the Region Challenge Coordinator and, if warranted, be addressed at the Region level, or in escalated cases at the Area level.

Because of the high visibility of the Challenge program, if any player, coach or spectator is sent off the field or expelled by a game official (shown a red card):

- Coach or Team Manager MUST report this to the Region Challenge Coordinator with 48 hours with a full report of what happened. The RCC will report the misconduct to the Area Challenge Director.
- Player/Coach/spectator MUST automatically serve a one-game suspension, unless Coast Soccer League dictates a longer suspension. The suspension shall be served in the first game (not a scrimmage) that is played following the game of the incident (even if that game is in the following year.) If the sendoff (red card) is for "Violent Conduct" or "Serious Foul Play," the player will automatically be suspended for a minimum of 2 games or longer and the incident will be reviewed by the Coast Soccer League Disciplinary Panel as well as the Region Challenge Coordinator and Regional Coach Administrator (to verify/review the circumstances of the sendoff) and reported to the Area Challenge Director.
- Any suspension may be increased and other disciplinary measures applied if deemed warranted by the Regional Commissioner and/or Area Challenge Director.
- A second sendoff will result in a suspension that will not be lifted until a Region investigation and hearing determines that the player may return to the Challenge program.
- Area Director retains the right to remove any approved coach or player from any Challenge Team, with just cause.
- It must be understood, that as the AYSO Challenge program is playing in a non-AYSO League, there will be rules and regulations that will address such issues as well, and must be adhered to.

### **Non-Game Player Suspensions**

A player may be suspended from playing in a game OR removed from a Challenge Team (and be placed on a regular season team provided space is available) only if:

- The player's behavior presents a significant conduct and discipline problem and is disruptive to the team.

- The player fails to show a good faith effort to attend scheduled team practices, games, or otherwise participate in soccer-related activities.
- The action of any player's parent who attempts to undermine the discipline of the team and/or the coach's control of the team.
- Coach has provided ample notice to the player and parents verbally and in writing that they are in violation of team and/or Challenge/Region policy.
- The head coach must document, in writing, and submit in advance to the RCC the rationale for taking the disciplinary action. It must be demonstrated how the player(s)' behavior is presenting a significant problem. Or, in the case of missing team practices, must have documented proof that the player has missed OVER ½ of the scheduled practices (minimum of 3 weeks of normally scheduled practices must have passed).
- After reviewing the documentation provided, the head coach must meet with the Region Challenge Coordinator to confirm all other possible remedies have been exhausted. If after the meeting, the Challenge coordinator and the team's head coach agree, the player may be suspended from the team for a game, pending Regional Commissioner approval.

Note: The same criteria as mentioned for player suspensions above, apply to parents or spectators whose behavior becomes disruptive or detrimental to the team. Suspensions are at the host Region's discretion.

#### **Removal from Team**

- The head coach must document, in writing, and submit to the Region Challenge Coordinator, Regional Commissioner and the Area Challenge Director the rationale for taking the disciplinary action.
- A hearing, involving parents, coach and third party (Challenge Coordinator Referee Administrator, or Coach Administrator) should be held in accordance with Region/Area policy.
- Based on findings, a recommendation should be submitted to the Regional Commissioner, who will either accept or reject the recommendation and route to the Area Director, who has final approval for removing a player from a Challenge Team.
- If a player is removed from the team, any request for a refund will follow Region policy.

Note: If a player is dismissed from an AYSO Challenge program team, they may be placed on a team in the "home Region" (Primary or Extra, if available) if there is capacity and it does not disrupt the "team balancing" of that home region; otherwise, they will be ineligible to play in any AYSO program for the balance of the season.

#### **REFUND POLICY**

- Each AYSO Region Challenge program shall identify and publish refund policies in their Regional Challenge Guidelines relating specifically to the AYSO Challenge program that are in accordance with AYSO rules, established Region policy, state association and/or local club league guidelines. Refund policies may deviate from those of the Primary AYSO Program due to the uniqueness of the AYSO Challenge program but the same level of spirit of the rule must be maintained. The Refund Policy must be included in the Regional Challenge Guidelines, which must be posted on the Region website.