



Area 8A Interplay Guidelines for 6U-19U



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish a formal standardized system of rules for Regions participating in inter-area play within Area 8A. Revisions shall be made to this document as needed and will be noted in Section 10.

1. TEAM DEFINITION

- a. Teams shall be composed of registered AYSO players in the Region represented. Official AYSO age divisions shall apply. Mixed age divisions (e.g. 16U/19U) shall play in the older division represented.
- b. Teams playing within a girls' division will be composed entirely of female players. Co-ed teams will play within the boys' division.
- c. In the event that there are not enough all-girl teams within an age division to fill a full interplay schedule, those teams will either:
 - i. Play in the boys' division
 - ii. With area approval and coordination, may play AYSO teams outside of Area A.

2. THE FIELD

- a. Regions should attempt to provide an appropriately sized field for interplay games according to the following:

Age Division	Field Size	Goal Size
6U	25 yards x 15 yards	4' x 6'
8U	35 yards x 25 yards	4' x 6'
10U	60 yards x 40 yards	6' x 18'
12U	80 yards x 50 yards	7' x 21'
14U – 19U	100-120 yards x 50-75 yards	8' x 24'

- b. **Field Markings**
 - i. Field and area markings as noted in the IFAB Laws of the Game or adjusted for small-sided games.
- c. **Technical Area**
 - i. Unless otherwise marked by the lines, the team (Technical Area) shall be ten (10) yards from either side of the halfway line and minimum one (1) yard back from the touch line. **Coaches shall remain within the Technical Area.**
- d. **Spectator Area**
 - i. All spectators are to remain on the side opposite the teams; between the penalty areas and a minimum of one (1) yard from the touch line. No spectator is allowed behind the goal line unless approved by the Referee.

3. THE BALL

- a. The standard size ball for each age division during games shall be according to the following:

Age	Size of Ball
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6U-8U	SIZE – 3
10U-12U	SIZE – 4
14U-19U	SIZE – 5

- b. The home team shall provide the match balls for each game. The Referee shall determine the suitability and safety of the match ball.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYER

- a. The standard maximum number of players for each division on the fields during games shall be according to the following:

Age Division	Players per Team on Field	Suggested Team Size	Maximum Number of Team Members	Suggested Minimum Number of Team Members
19U	11-a-side	18	22	12
16U	11-a-side	18	22	12
14U	11-a-side	18	22	12
12U	9-a-side	12	18	10
10U	7-a-side	10	14	8
6U & 8U	4-a-side No goalkeepers	6	8	5
Schoolyard	4-a-side No goalkeepers	6	8	5

b. **Minimum Number of Players for Matches**

- i. The minimum number of players on a side in the 12U to 19U divisions shall be seven (7) for a legal match. For the 10U division, the minimum number of players on a side shall be five (5).

c. **Reduce to Equate**

- i. When either team has less than the suggested minimum number of players per team, reducing from one team to equate (sharing players) is **EXPECTED** for fair play and good sportsmanship.
1. That is, when one team is short players, it is recommended that the other team share players, for instance, a player that is sitting out could play with on the other side for that quarter. In that way, all players receive more playing time, and it should not affect the full team coach's game plan. This puts the focus on Good Sportsmanship and Player Development.
 2. If the player absolutely refuses to play with on the other side, then it is **expected** the team will reduce their number(s) to equal that of the other side.
 3. Coaches should carry extra jerseys, pinnies or t-shirts of the team's color to accommodate this process.
 4. Both head coaches and the referee will determine the number of players by agreement before the coin toss.

d. **Injury Caveat**



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- i. If a player is injured, the coach has two options.
 1. They can replace the injured player with another player. The injured player cannot return to the game until the next legal substitution opportunity.
 2. The team can play short as the injury is attended to and then send the injured player back into the game at the referee's permission.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. All matches in the 12U division and younger shall be played using the approved AYSO system of substitution that being approximately midway through the first half, start of the second half, approximately midway through the second half, and injury. The referee will deem an appropriate point for substitutions about the midway point of each half. Substitutions are to be quick as the game clock will continue to run. **Under no circumstances** will monitored substitutions be allowed in matches younger than 14U.
- b. Monitored Substitution is **expected** in the 14U and older divisions. IFAB Laws of the Game for substitutions shall apply (Law 3: The Players, Section 3: Substitution Procedure).
 - i. Each region is responsible for providing an Independent Monitor to ensure that the AYSO philosophy of Everyone Plays© is still met. This is a responsibility of the Region and not the Referee.
 - ii. An Independent Monitor cannot be the head coach or any assistant coach. However, the Independent Monitor may be a player parent.
 - iii. The Independent Monitor shall sit on the team side of the field at the midway line to check players in and out. They may not sit with the team or on the spectator side of the field.
 - iv. Coaches shall confirm with each other prior to game day whether their team will have an Independent Monitor. If either team is unable to provide an Independent Monitor, then both teams will play with the approved AYSO substitution opportunities of approximately midway through the first half, start of the second half, approximately midway through the second half, and injury.
 1. Any harassment of coaches whose Region is unable to supply an Independent Monitor will not be tolerated.

6. DURATION OF THE GAME

- a. The match shall consist of two (2) halves equally divided for substitution opportunities as noted in paragraph 5, Substitutions. The length of each half for each division shall be governed according to the following table:

Age	Length of Halves
6U	10 Minutes
8U	20 Minutes
10U	25 Minutes
12U	30 Minutes
14U	35 Minutes
16U/19U	40 Minutes



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7. COACHING (From AYSO Rules and Regulations)

- a. A maximum of two (2) coaches will be allowed. They must remain in the coach (team) area.
- b. Coaches are expected to uphold the Kids Zone rules and uphold the philosophies of AYSO both during practice and games. Especially Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship. Players are watching, set a good example.
- c. Any abusive behavior towards the officials will not be tolerated and could result in ejection from the game. Repeating offenses may result in removal from volunteer positions.

8. ROSTERS AND REQUIRED PAPERWORK

- a. Coaches shall have in their possession at all games:
 - i. Roster that is laminated to be protected against the elements,
 - ii. Player medical forms for every player on their roster,
 - iii. Printed game cards to be retained by the referee crew during the game.

9. MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE STANDARDS

a. Misconduct

- i. Misconduct shall be issued at the discretion of the Referee for violations of Fair Play in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game. Misconducts shall be reported to the team's RRA and forwarded to the ARA.
- ii. A caution (yellow card) shall not/cannot warrant that the player cautioned be substituted for a "time out" period.
- iii. When a player is sent off (red card) during a match, the player's team shall play short/down for the remainder of the game. The player also may not participate in a future match (see "Sanctions and Suspensions" below).
- iv. The Referee shall file a report of the send off with the team's RRA and the ARA within 24 hours of completion of the match.

b. Sanctions and Suspensions

- i. Players receiving three (3) cautions during a half season, fall or spring, shall be suspended for one (1) future match. Sendoffs received in the last game of the season will carry over to Area tournaments.
- ii. Players or Coaches receiving a send off will serve a suspension of at least one (1) future match pending review by the RC, AD, and ARA.
- iii. Date(s) of suspension shall be determined by the AYSO Executive Members; not by the team coach; and shall be the next available opportunity in the team's schedule after review and decision.

10. MATCH SCHEDULES

- a. To avoid confusion and/or miscommunication, **the visiting team coach will contact the home team coach by Wednesday, the week of the game**, to confirm the time and location of the game.
- b. **Cancellations of Games**
 - i. Cancellations of a match for any reason requires approval of the RC. The opposing team coach and host RRA shall be notified immediately.
- c. **Schedule Changes**



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- i. A change to the published schedule requires approval of the host team's RC. The host RRA shall be notified immediately.

11. OFFICIATING

- a. Only the Diagonal System of Control will be used with three officials. At no time is the Dual Referee System allowed. At least one adult must comprise the referee team for any given match.
 - i. If a Region is short in obtaining the required three officials, they should attempt to fill the vacancy with officials from the visiting team or with assistance from the ARA.
- b. **Officials will wear proper attire**, including a jersey with patch, shorts, socks, and shoes. Exceptions will be made for cooler weather.

12. WEATHER

- a. If a Region should cancel a match due to poor weather conditions, creating unsafe playing conditions, the RC of the hosting Region must contact the RC of the visiting Regions and communicate as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travel.

13. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

- a. If the Referee stops play for an apparent head injury, the injured player must be removed from play and cannot return to practice or play that day.
- b. Any injured player who has been removed from play or practice for an apparent head injury shall be monitored for signs and/or symptoms of a concussion by the team coach.
- c. If the injured player shows signs and/or symptoms of a concussion, the team coach shall notify the player's parents or guardians. That player cannot return to practice or play until cleared by health care professional and a note is provided to the Region stating they have been cleared.
 - i. *The above protocol will also be followed if the player suffers an apparent head injury during a training session (practice).*

14. REVISIONS

Date Revised	Section or Paragraph Revised
11-09-08	Initial release
07-15-09	Addition of Section 12, Weather Conditions
06-23-10	Additions to Section 2, 3, 4, and 6 to include the 10U division. Addition to Section 8 to include player registration forms. Addition of Section 11b, referee attire.
09-19-14	Section 1: Team definition, Girls 16/19U division
11-01-14	Section 1: Team definition, Girls 16/19U division struck – no male players
08-16-16	Updated to reflect the new US Soccer Player Development Initiatives
03-15-19	Classifications
02-16-25	Updated max/min team numbers table. Updated Section 5b to include Monitored Substitutions at 14U division
08-21-25	Cleaned up wording for consistency. Updated max/min team numbers table. Changed Section 5b, Monitored Substitution, from MHSAA Rules to IFAB Laws of the Game



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