



Pass Area AYSO – Region 641  
Adult Soccer League  
Regional Rules & Regulations

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# Pass Area AYSO Region 641 Adult Soccer League – Regional Rules & Regulations

Pass Area AYSO Region 641 Adult Soccer league is about providing a safe, positive environment for players to play soccer and stay healthy.

The following Rules & Regulations shall be used for Pass Area AYSO Region 641 Adult Soccer League. Some flexibility in these rules may be allowed for other forms of match play with the approval of Pass Area AYSO Region 641 Adult Soccer League Coordinator and Regional Commissioner.

## I. Match Conduct

AYSO Adult Soccer matches shall be conducted in accordance with the current IFAB / FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in effect on August 1 each calendar year and within the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) guidelines and practices, with the following exceptions and clarifications:

### A. Competition

While there is always some level or degree of competition involved in soccer, **the spirit of the game is intended to be FUN, FAIR, and SAFE for all of the participants**. This is a recreational program. Participants also lead adult lives with jobs and responsibilities.

1. Coaches, officials, and spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the referee.
2. Substitutes shall only enter field of play when given permission by the referee.
3. Except for small-sided matches (Article I.H), a scheduled match shall not commence nor be continued unless both teams can field at least seven eligible players.
4. All eligible players must be over the age of 18 (2000 or earlier DOB), and be a registered member for the current year.
5. All players must have proper equipment including proper jersey, shorts, socks, footwear, and shin-guards. Shin-guards must be proper size to provide adequate protection and be worn at all times during play.
6. Slide tackling (sliding and tackling a ball and an opponent) is not permitted at any time, except for goalkeepers, as long as it is in their penalty area and is not feet-first.
7. Infractions result in an indirect kick.

### B. Match Duration

1. Matches shall be of two equal halves, not to exceed the following maximum durations:

### Regular Match Time Format of Play

Format of Play	Maximum Duration of Half
6 v 6 / 7 v 7	25 minutes
9 v 9	30 minutes
11 v 11	30 minutes

2. Half-time periods shall be a maximum of five minutes as designated by the referee.
3. Over-Time will only be used in elimination play (tournament advancement rounds, special competitions) and shall not exceed the following maximum durations for the halves.

### Elimination Over-Time

Format of Play	Maximum Duration of Half
6 v 6 / 7 v 7	10 minutes
9 v 9	30 minutes
11 v 11	30 minutes

4. Player Safety is paramount. Water breaks are allowed at the referee's discretion when heat conditions warrant this consideration.
5. Where necessary due to scheduling time constraints, the duration of the two halves is to be reduced by an equal amount.

## C. Playing Time & Substitutions

As one of the basic philosophies of AYSO we believe that EVERYONE plays, again the spirit of the game is for EVERYONE to have fun and get a chance to play regardless of age, skill level, or any other qualification. Except as noted in Article I.C.3 **all eligible team members in attendance shall play at least one half of the match**, excluding overtime.

1. Substitutions may occur on an unlimited basis at any time during the game provided the player entering the field and the player leaving the field do not simultaneously participate while they are on the field of play.
2. Players leaving the field must be at the player's bench and out of play before any change is made. Being

at the player's bench is defined as within an arm's length of the touch line.

3. If, in the course of making a substitution, either the player entering or leaving the game deliberately plays the ball or makes any physical contact with an opposing player while the retiring player is actually on the field, then a foul for "too many players" will be given.

4. Substitutions for Injury:

a. If a player is injured, the coach/team may provide a substitute for the injured player, in which case the injured player may not return until the next stoppage of play.

b. The coach/team may choose to not substitute and "play short" thereby allowing the injured player to return at the next stoppage of play. NOTE: if play was stopped as a result of the injured player, and the player received attention from the Coach or a Team Official, then the player must be removed from the field of play. If substitution occurs, the substitute player may enter the field immediately, if the coach chooses to "play short" then the injured player may not return until the next stoppage.

c. The player must receive a signal from the referee in order to return to the field of play.

## D. Officiating

1. Referees shall officiate in accordance with the current version of the IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game, decisions of the IFAB, guidelines and principles of USSF, and the AYSO Adult Soccer Rules and Regulations. In Accordance to Law 5 all decisions shall be made in the opinion of the Referee and the call on the field is final.

2. Referees shall officiate in a manner inducing clean competition and good sportsmanship, placing emphasis on the welfare of the players and the spirit of the game. If a player is conducting their self in an unsporting manner, or if a player is injured, the referee, at his/her discretion, may stop play to ensure the welfare of the match participants even if the ball has not gone out of play.

3. The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that matches should be played with as little interference as possible, and it is the role of the referee to penalize only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches intrudes on the flow of the game, produce bad feelings, and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators. Again, in accordance to Law 5, the Referee is the match official and his / her decisions are final.

4. Regardless of their age, experience, or "perceived performance" on the field the Referee's decisions are final. There will be a ZERO TOLERANCE for any profane or discouraging remarks or action (regardless if they are directed at the Referee or not.) Any profane or discouraging remarks or action will result in a match misconduct and may result in a dismissal or send-off.

5. Adults that are signed up to participate as players in Pass Area AYSO Adult League will be allowed to be Referees in the league. Pass Area AYSO Adult League Referee Administrators will evaluate all requests to be a Referee for Pass Area AYSO Adult League. The ability to Referee in Pass Area AYSO Adult League may be revoked at any time. Any players that are currently serving a game suspension for a send off during a match are also unable to Referee for Pass Area AYSO Adult League until they have served their match suspension.

6. Adults that are no longer able to participate in Pass Area AYSO Adult League for any verbal or physical conduct, will also be unable to be a Referee in Pass Area AYSO Adult League.

## E. Code of Conduct

1. It shall be the duty of each player, coach, team manager, referee, official, other volunteer, or spectator to:

- a. Conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming a member of AYSO and consistent with the AYSO Six Philosophies and highest standards of conduct.
- b. Work together as a team in support of all participants involved in the match and in alignment with the Stewards of the Game program to promote a FUN, FAIR, and SAFE environment.
- c. Comply with and promote compliance with Rules & Regulations and policies including those related to registration, facilities, certification and training.
- d. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
- e. Prohibit and abstain from the use of profane or negative comments or actions involving officiating, opponents, adult league staff, other spectators, or any volunteers.
- f. Present a healthy and safe athletic environment for all, including but not limited to: consumption of alcohol, use of drugs, tobacco products or smoking or simulating smoking or use of such products during practices or matches or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.

2. It shall also be the duty of each coach or team manager to:

- a. Present themselves as a trained coach, knowledgeable in AYSO Philosophies, IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game, and training techniques and practices. Train and coach the team to the best of his/her ability.
- b. Remain within the coaches' technical area (Article I.G.2.) during the match unless actively participating as a player. A maximum of two coaches and one team manager is permitted for each team.
- c. Limit his/her sideline participation during matches to comments that are positive, instructional, and or encouraging (PIE) with limited supportive direction. A coach may participate as a player, however when on the field of play as a player the coach is counted as a player and may not have more than the maximum number of players on the field (Article I.H.)
- d. Upon team formation, and during all subsequent team gatherings and matches, the Coach and Team Manager will be responsible to verify that all team members are registered for the current program year and confirm team member qualifications. The use of an ineligible player will result in the team manager being disciplined.

3. All players understand and agree to conduct themselves in accordance with all AYSO's National and Regional rules and guidelines.

4. Pass Area AYSO Region 641, at its sole discretion, can suspend – temporarily, for the entirety of the season or permanently - any player that violates any rule or regulation set forth, including violations under AYSO's National Policy Section 2.12 AYSO Code of Conduct Policy Against Harassment, Abuse or Violence, subsection Acts of Violence:

An intentional act of physical violence directed at or upon an individual, for purposes of this policy, includes an act intended to cause the individual targeted to be fearful of injury to himself or herself, to a member of his or her family or to said individual's property or the property of said individual's family members. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

Acts of violence also include, but are not limited to, the following acts committed upon an individual: hitting, kicking, tripping, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into an individual; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at an individual that could inflict injury; damaging the individual's clothing or personal property, e.g., car, equipment, etc. Acts of violence also include what is considered to be any type of criminal assault or battery by law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over the location of the incident.

5. Registration fees are not refundable due to suspensions.

## **F. Foul Play & Misconduct**

1. The Referee has the responsibility and authority to ensure that matches are played in a Fun, Fair, and Safe manner. In accordance to Law 12, if a player, coach, team official, or spectator behaves in such a way that the Referee opines is a breach of Law 12 the participant may be warned, cautioned, dismissed, or sent-off.
2. Any player who is dismissed or sent-off from a game by the referee, whether shown the red card or not, shall, in addition to not participating for the remainder of the game, be suspended automatically for the next game for which that player would be eligible.
3. Any coach who is dismissed or sent-off from a game by the referee shall, in addition to being required to leave the field and being barred from coaching or observing the remainder of the game, be suspended automatically for the next game in which that coach's team is participating and for all practices of the team occurring prior to that game. If the coach is suspended as a result of ejection in the last game of the season, the suspension shall apply to the coach with respect to the next team to which he or she may be assigned.
4. Any spectator who is required to leave the field of play by the referee shall, in addition to being required to leave the field and being barred from observing the remainder of the game, be suspended automatically for the next day of games. The next day of games means, in the case of a spectator who is a member of a player's family, a day on which that player is participating in a game. In any other case, it means the next day of regularly scheduled games organized by the region.
5. Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator or Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner may, upon reviewing the report of the referee (and any report made by an assistant referee) and any regional board member in attendance at the game or any law enforcement report, increase or decrease suspension provided under this Article I.F. or may impose alternative disciplinary measures. Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator or Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner may act solely on the basis of such reports.
6. All suspensions and other discipline imposed under this Article I.F. shall be communicated promptly to the person involved. Except in the case of an automatic one game suspension imposed on a player or coach, communication shall be in writing and shall indicate briefly the reason for the suspension or discipline and the means by which such suspension or discipline may be reviewed.

7. For the sake of clarity, a referee may treat a player, coach or spectator as having been dismissed or sent-off even though the referee did not communicate this to the player, coach or spectator during or immediately following the game, if the referee believes that such lack of communication is necessary or appropriate to protect the safety of players and others in attendance at the game.

8. In the case of any game where the referee is less than 18 years old (Youth Referee) and a mentor is in attendance (whether acting solely as a mentor or as an assistant referee), any reference to the referee shall also include a reference to the mentor.

9. While there may be disputed calls, the Referee has full authority over the match and his or her decisions are the final word on the field. Any and all post game discussion or request for appeal shall be handled by Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator and/or Pass Area AYSO Adult League Referee Administrator.

10. Any player receiving a caution must be immediately substituted out of the game. They may return after the team manager informs the referee that they have settled down and are ready to play.

## G. Size of Ball

Consistent with Law 2, all matches will be played with a Size 5 Soccer Ball. The ball shall be properly inflated and be considered in match condition with no divots, tears, or rips. Match balls will be provided by Pass Area AYSO 641 Adult League and must be returned at the conclusion of each match.

## H. Field of Play

1. The dimensions and markings of the field of play and goals shall be at the discretion of the Region and whenever possible, conform to IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game, USSF Guidelines and Principles, and AYSO National Rules & Regulations. The following guidelines are recommended for each format of play:

**Field Sizes by Format of Play**

	3 v 3	6 v 6 / 7 v 7	9 v 9	11 v 11
Length (Yards)	60 to 65	70 to 80	100 to 130	100 to 130
Width (Yards)	35 to 45	45 to 55	50 to 100	50 to 100
Center Circle Radius (Yards)	8	8	10	10
Goal Area Length/Width (Yards)	4 by 8 (arch)	5 by 16	6 by 20	6 by 20
Penalty Area Length/Width (Yards)	None	14 by 36	18 by 44	18 by 44
Goal Line to Penalty Spot (Yards)	None	10	12	12
Goal Size Height/Width (Feet)	4 by 6	6.5 by 18	8 by 24	8 by 24

2. A coaches' technical area on each side of the half line shall be defined by two lines off the field of play 10



yards from the center line and perpendicular to the touch line. The area should be 1 yard off from the touch line.

3. A spectator control line shall be defined by a line parallel to the touch line at a distance of at least three yards from the touch line. Coaches and officials should assist the referee to keep spectators behind the spectator control line and between the top lines of the penalty area.

4. No participant, team official, or substitute shall be allowed behind the goal lines, with the exception of match officials, regional staff, or photographers who have received authorization from the referee prior to the match, and who shall remain quiet and at least 3 yards back from the goal lines.

## **I. Small-sided Matches**

1. USSF has authorized its member associations small-sided matches as part of the Player Development Initiatives as well as AYSO Adult Soccer. Match play shall be governed by the IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO Adult Soccer (with permission) and these Rules & Regulations.

2. Small sided games are permitted for all divisions.

a. 6v6/7v7: This is an extremely popular way for adults to play soccer in a fun, recreational way. Playing 6v6/7v7 is a great way to play, while maximizing field space by playing across the width of a full-sized field. Play short halves, maximum of two 25-minute halves with a rest in-between. Minimum of four players to start a match, a Maximum of ten players will be allowed per team with only six or seven players on the field at any one time.

b. 9v9: This is another popular way for adults to play soccer in a recreational way. Playing 9 v 9 allows play to be closer to full size soccer, while maximizing field space by playing across the width of a full sized field. Play short halves, maximum of two 30 minute halves with a rest in-between. Minimum of five players to start a match, a Maximum of twelve players will be allowed per team with only nine players on the field at any one time.

3. Some things to be mindful of when playing this way:

a. Make sure that there are enough subs to keep the game moving and fun for all participants.

b. Rotate substitutions often – (Article I.C.1.)

c. Switch out player positions. Not everyone dreams of growing up to be a left full back. Let's face it, everyone wants to score once in a while!

## **J. Restarts (i.e. Throw-ins, Goal Kicks, Corner Kicks)**

1. All restarts are direct, except a throw in. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw in.

2. There is no off-side infringement on these restarts.

## **K. Goalkeeper Punts**

1. For 7v7 format of play, the goalkeeper shall not punt the ball. The goalkeeper shall release the ball by either

rolling, throwing, or passing the ball into play.

2. An indirect kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the offense if a goalkeeper deliberately punts the ball during a 7v7 match.

3. An indirect kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area must be taken on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the goal keeper punted the ball.

## II. Teams

### A. Team Names

Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion, race, ethnicity, nationality or political, or otherwise be considered offensive.

### B. Team Participation

1. Teams shall participate only in matches approved by Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator and/or Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner. Registration and Membership fees only apply to AYSO Adult Soccer sanctioned matches.

2. Participation in tournaments requires Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator and Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner's authorization. Participation in tournaments may require additional tournament fees not included in the AYSO Adult Soccer Membership Fee.

3. Participation in non-sanctioned AYSO or AYSO Adult Soccer matches requires Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator and Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner's authorization.

4. To be eligible to participate in playoffs, a player must play in at least 5 matches during the season.

### C. Team Size

1. The following are the recommended team sizes:

Format of Play	Players on Field	Maximum no. of team members	Minimum no. of team members	Coed (Men)	Coed (Women)
7 v 7	7	15	5	5	2
9 v 9	9 a-side	18	7	5	2
11 v 11	11	20	7	8	3

2. All divisions may play optionally with teams of smaller sizes for futsal, indoor soccer, or small- sided

matches.

3. The maximum number of team members listed in Article II.C.1. may be increased with the approval of Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator, but no more than would allow each team member to play at least half of each match.

### III. Registration

A. The standard age divisions for Men's and Women's programs are as follows:

**Age Division** All individuals age 19 or older as of December 31<sup>st</sup> Open

B. The effective date of age determination shall be December 31st in the same year of the beginning of AYSO Adult Soccer Membership Year. Any variance requested by participants must have Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator's approval.

C. Individuals who shall reach the age of 18 by December 301st of the Membership Year are still eligible to participate in the AYSO Youth Program. If the participant wishes to play Adult Soccer the player must receive Approval from both, Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator as well as Pass Area AYSO Regional Commissioner.

D. If there are not enough registrants to make any or all of the standard divisions, divisions may be combined to allow teams to be formed, as well as format of play may be modified to allow short- sided matches.

E. No potential team member may participate in any AYSO Adult Soccer match or training without completing the registration process.

F. A registrant becomes eligible as a team member upon:

1. Payment of the National Membership Fee and payment to the Region of its required Registration Fee, and;
2. Placement on a team by Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator or a designated representative.

G. Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator with the assistance of the Regional Registrar, Team Managers and Coaches are responsible for assuring the eligibility of all participants or teams within a division. Upon Request of Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator, a team member must present his/her birth certificate or other legal proof of age (such as a driver's license or state issued identification.)

H. Men and Women may play on the same teams where there is an insufficient number of registrants to establish separate teams with reasonable application of Article III.D. It is recommended, however, that separate men's and women's teams be formed and maintained wherever possible.

I. No guest players are allowed, whether the game is a forfeit, or not.

J. Team members must present a photo ID to check in each week. No ID will mean no playing.

K. Each team captain must present a game card at check in with all players listed in numerical order.

Game cards will be provided by the league. No team can play without a completed game card.

#### **IV. Transfer of Team Members**

A team member may transfer from one team to another after the following three conditions have been met:

- 1) Acknowledgement of both coaches/team managers of the teams involved.
- 2) Approval of Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator or his/her designee.
- 3) Approval of team member(s) involved.

NOTE: Transfers are not allowed after the 4<sup>th</sup> game of the season has been played.

#### **V. Duration of Membership Year**

A. The period of official membership shall be from August 1st through the following July 31st each year.

B. AYSO Adult Soccer competition year or soccer calendar coincides with the Membership Year. Competition may begin on August 1st of the Membership Year and ends on July 31st of the Membership Year. The competition schedules may include multiple sessions or seasons, tournaments, and / or special competitions held through-out the year.

#### **VI. Player's Equipment**

A. No person, company or business entity may use any of the AYSO trade names, trademarks or logos for any use other than AYSO-authorized activities without the prior written consent of the National Office. This includes, but is not limited to, having the AYSO Traditional logo stamped on soccer balls, soccer shoes or other equipment, or used in association with the products or services of any person.

B. Athletic footwear (with or without cleats) are permissible in all competitions subject to the referee's approval regarding their safety under Law 4.

C. Team members MUST wear shin-guards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any training or match.

D. Team members shall not be allowed to participate in any training or match with any type of cast or splint. Braces will be permitted subject to the Referee's approval under Law 4. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area in order to participate shall disqualify the team member from participation.

E. Players shall not wear anything that is considered dangerous to either themselves or other players subject to the Referee's approval under Law 4.

F. Uniforms must have numbers, or pinnies will be needed to be worn by the entire team.

## VII. Ownership and Responsibility of Uniforms and Equipment

The custodianship and disposition of uniforms and equipment purchased by an individual team member (including uniforms or equipment provided by the Region) shall be the responsibility of the individual team member.

## VIII. Incident and Injuries

A. All incidents, injuries or property damage involving an AYSO participant or occurring at an AYSO event shall be reported to, and by, the Pass Area AYSO Adult Soccer Coordinator or Regional Commissioner on the AYSO Incident Report Form in accordance with the directive of AYSO Report Forms with the appropriate attachments shall be delivered to the Risk Management Department of the National Office at the earliest possible opportunity.

B. Subject to the terms and conditions from the current carriers of AYSO's insurance policies, there is a limited time for filing claims. It is the responsibility of the claimant to initiate and complete the process.

## IX. Refund Policy

A. Any player who withdraws prior to participating in the first game of the season may be considered for a full refund of their registration fee minus the National AYSO Membership Fee of \$30.00.

B. Any player who withdraws after participating in the first game of the season or beyond will not be entitled to a refund of the registration fee.

C. Player registration transfers are allowed provided that the new player is properly registered and has paid the non-refundable and non-transferable National AYSO Membership Fee of \$30.00.

D. Procedure:

- 1) Players requesting a refund must fill out the refund request form, sign and mail this form (PDF) to the address stated in the form.
- 2) Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for a refund (if approved) to be processed.