

An Open Letter to AYSO Coaches, Referees, Parents, and Spectators:

From: AYSO Region 1447, Regional Referee Administrator:

Welcome to AYSO Region 1447. As the Regional Referee Administrator, I would like to invite you to become more involved in our region. AYSO is an all volunteer organization, unlike most of the youth sports organizations in town, from the coaches and referees to the regional board of directors. We don't even have a paid file clerk or secretary, so we rely on the parents of our players to make the organization work. Our parents are our coaches, administrators and referees. We mark our fields, buy our uniforms, and set up our nets. All of these volunteers are necessary to allow our children to play soccer.

AYSO is not a win-at-all costs organization; we are a youth development organization which uses soccer. AYSO is built upon five philosophies: **Positive Coaching, Balanced Teams, Everyone Plays, Open Registration, and Good Sportsmanship**. These five philosophies encompass everyone who is involved with AYSO: parents, players, coaches, referees and spectators. Everyone is expected to follow these philosophies.

As a volunteer organization, we rely on the parents, family and friends of the players to contribute to the organization. Some are so fortunate to coach or become team parents. Others have schedules that are not as flexible. Even if you are busy and only have one or two opportunities to attend a game over the course of the season, we invite you to become involved. One manner to support you children is to become a certified referee. Referees have the best view of the games. Not only can you see your player in action, you get to become involved in their development on and off the field, truly a unique experience.

AYSO referees are all volunteers. We expect them to be treated in a courteous manner by coaches, players and spectators. We also offer training and uniforms for all certified referees, at no charge. The best time to become a referee is when you child is in their first year, that way you can learn and grow with them. Being a referee is not limited to soccer savvy individuals. We invite all parents, even soccer moms, those with little to no soccer experience, and even grandparents and older siblings to help us provide a safe, fair and fun environment for the player, and volunteer to become a referee.

We are all interested in the development of the children as players and people. Through AYSO our children are learning, developing and growing into wonderful contributors to our communities. We wish to work with you and continue that development well into the future.

Sincerely,

Trevor Rohm

Regional Referee Administrator – AYSO Region 1447