



Annual Referee Update

Bringing the World's Game to Communities Everywhere

EVERYONE PLAYS® BALANCED TEAMS OPEN REGISTRATION POSITIVE COACHING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



What Are We Doing Today?

- *Share information valuable to all referees*
 - Discuss how to be an AYSO referee
 - Discuss national program updates
 - Discussing recent USSF Guidance on Referee Abuse Prevention
 - Discussing 2026-2027 IFAB Updates to the Laws of the Game
- *All participants are encouraged to share in the Q&A*

Be an AYSO Referee!

Know AYSO core values:

AYSO Vision:

- To provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives.

AYSO Mission:

- To develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on AYSO's Six Philosophies.

Be an AYSO Referee



- Be the best referee you can be
- Understand your responsibilities
- Know the Laws of the Game
- Facilitate the game for the kids
- Keep the game Safe, Fair, and Fun

Be an AYSO Referee

Present a professional appearance...



versus



Be an AYSO Referee

Emphasizing learning and growing...
Continuing Education



Mentoring



AYSO Requirements

- *Annual registration with a Region (no later than 1 Aug)*
- *Background check (annually based on your expiration date)*
- *AYSO's Safe Haven*
- *Concussion Awareness Training*
- *Sudden Cardiac Arrest*
- *Safe Sport (annually based on your expiration date)*
- *Live Scan(Fingerprint background check) (required by CA, FL and PA for non-10-year residents)*

Benefits of Current Membership

The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 provides legal immunity to volunteers working for nonprofit organizations and government entities, protecting them from personal liability for harm caused while performing their volunteer duties.

Secondary medical insurance for injuries incurred while performing volunteer duties.

How to check your training status?

Renew when Compliance is yellow!

My Roles & Certificates

FR

Frederick Roberts
ID Number:
Board Member 2024-2025 Board And Referee Referees 2024-2025

AYSOU

Region 92 Area 1D

☐	Certification	Expiration Date	Status	Compliant
☒	Risk Status	06/06/2025	Green	
☐	Concussion Awareness	None	Verified	
☐	Fingerprinting CA + FL Only	None	Verified	
☐	Sudden Cardiac Arrest	None	Verified	
☐	AYSOs Safe Haven	None	Verified	
☐	SafeSport	06/04/2026	Verified	
☐	Coaching License	None	Intermediate (14U) Coach	
☐	Referee Grade	None	National Referee	

Renew & Update

Your National Referee Council

EVERYONE PLAYS® BALANCED TEAMS OPEN REGISTRATION POSITIVE COACHING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



National Referee Council

Mission Statement

The mission of the National Referee Council is to work collectively and cooperatively with the AYSO Office and our Volunteer professionals to produce high quality products that support the AYSO referee community in their efforts to provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives.

National Referee Council: Membership

- ***AYSO Section Referee Administrators (SRAs) or their designee***
- ***National Referee Program Administrator***
- ***National Board of Directors (NBOD) Liaison***
- ***Section Director Liaisons***

National Referee Council: Core Mission

- ***Referee Training Material***

- Annual review and update of course material for LOTG changes
- Passwords for exams are available through your SRA or SDRI

- ***Referee Reference Materials***

- Annual review and update of National Referee Program Manual, Referee Guideline, Referee Mentor Handbook, Regional Referee Administrator, Area Referee Administrator, Referee Instructor Resource Book, Introduction to Instruction Student Handbook , Recruiting and Retaining Referees, Developing and Maintaining a Youth Referee Program

- ***Quarterly Council Meetings***

National Referee Council: New Spanish Content

- *National Referee Program Manual*
- *Referee Guideline*
- *8U Official Course*
- *8U Official Online Course*
- *Regional Referee Course*
- *Online Regional Referee Companion Course*
- *Intermediate Referee Course*
- *Advanced Referee Course*

Documentation

- ***IFAB Documentation may be found at***
 - www.theifab.com/log-documents
 - 2026/27 Law updates become mandatory on July 1, 2026
- ***AYSO Documentation may be found at***
 - <https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>
 - AYSO National Program
 - AYSO Reference Book (National Rules and Regulations, pg 37)
 - AYSO Referee Guideline
 - AYSO Referee Instructor Resource Book
 - Whistlestop

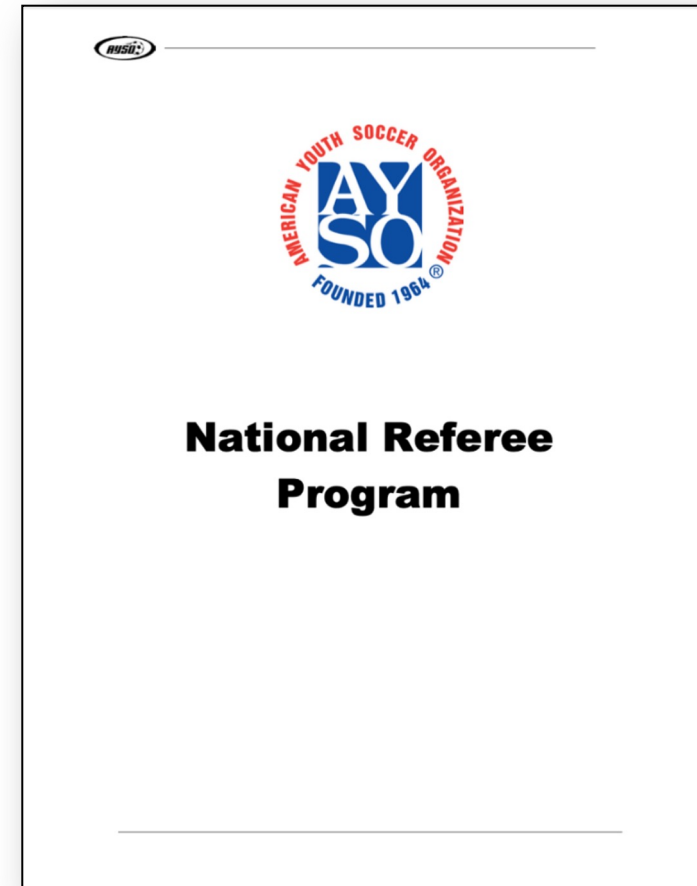
AYSO National Referee Program Manual

Being Updated for 2026

Everything you need to know about the AYSO Referee Program

- Organization
- Administration
- Instruction
- Mentoring & Assessment
- Training Matrix
- Certification Requirements
- Physical Fitness Test Requirements

<https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>



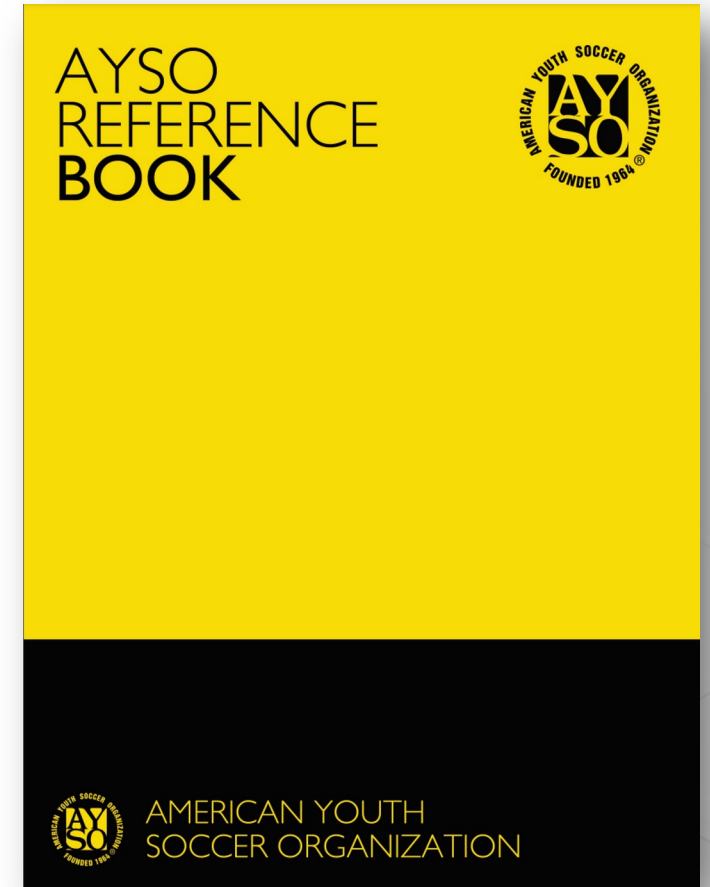
AYSO Reference Book

Being Updated for 2026

**AYSO National Rules & Regulations
(Chapter 2, starting on page 37)**

- EXTRA Rules
- National Policies, Chapter 3.
- Regional Guidelines, Chapter 4.
- Region Best Practices, Chapter 8.

<https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>

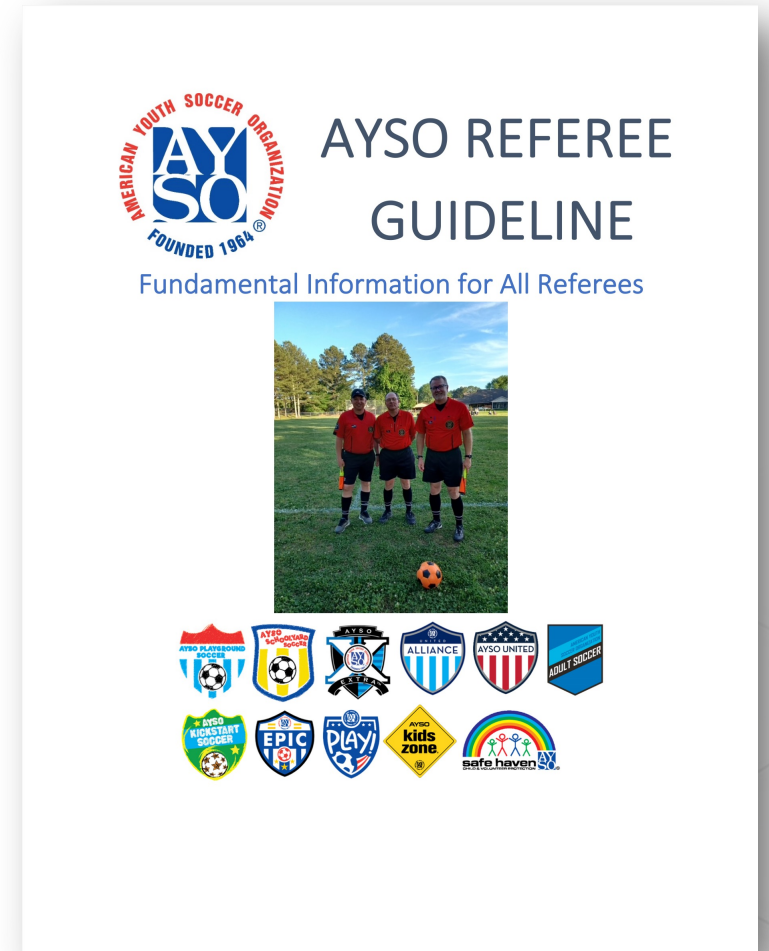


AYSO Referee Guideline

Being Updated for 2026

- AYSO Philosophies
- Overview of the current LOTG
- AYSO Modifications to the LOTG
- Pre-Game & Post-Game Duties
- Frequently Asked Questions – New FAQ in 2026
- Referee Summary Sheet
 - All the things expected of new (and old) referees

<https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>

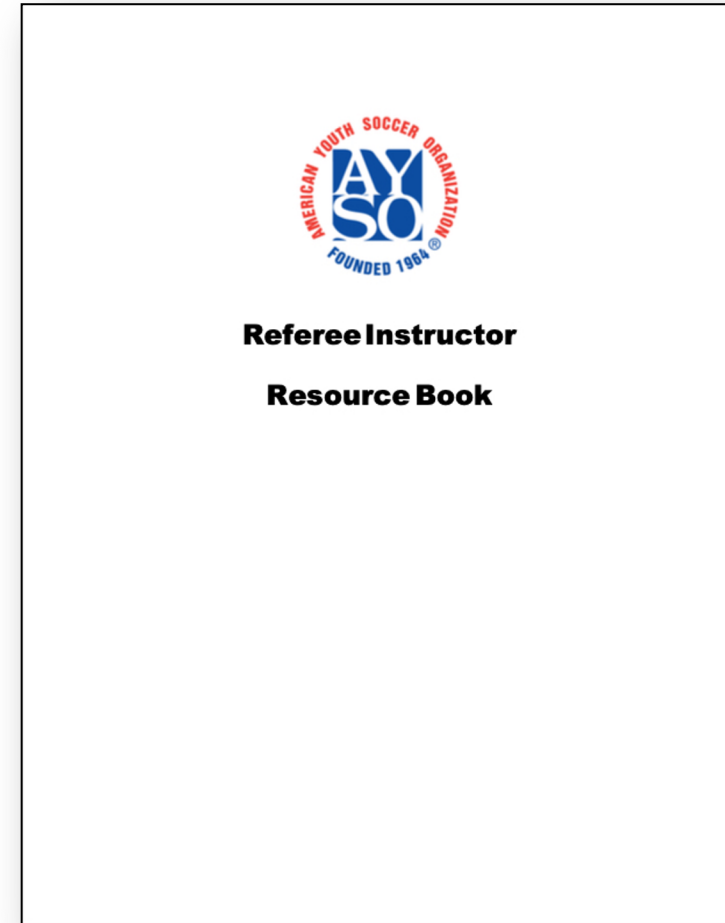


AYSO Referee Instructor Resource Book

Being Updated for 2026

- Instructor as Role Model
- Teaching in:
 - Classrooms
 - Outdoors
 - Groups
- Teaching techniques
- Administering exams
- Sample timelines and checklist
- AYSOU Tutorial for Instructors

<https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>

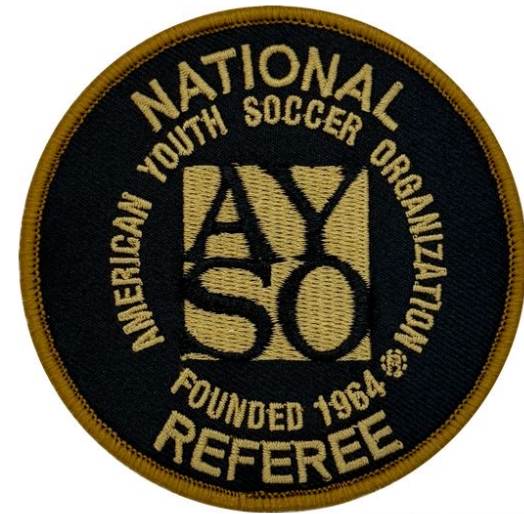


Additional Documentation

- ***AYSOU Resource Library – Learner Role***
 - Regional Referee Administrator Manual
 - Recruiting and Retaining Referees
 - Referee Mentor Handbook
- ***AYSOU Resource Library – Instructor Role***
 - Certification Course and EXPO Workshop Instructor Materials.

Referee Program: Certification Process

Sections manage the process for Intermediate, Advanced and National referee upgrades as well as Instructor and Assessor upgrades.



Badges are provided by your Section. Green youth badges available for 8U Official, Regional and Intermediate Referees

Program Initiatives



AYSO's Stewards of the Game

- Coaches and Referees are asked to work together as the team of **Stewards of the Game** to ensure that both physical and emotional player safety, is the #1 priority on the field.
- Everyone is asked to role model the principles of sport, create kids zone sidelines and promote good sportsmanship and player safety.



National Policy 2.12

AYSO commits fully to its founders' legacy of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Providing fun and enriching soccer programs is what we do.

We welcome everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social-economic position, ability or disability.

Differences are respected and embraced. AYSO is proud to be at the heart of communities where all feel that they belong.

What is Implicit Bias?

Be aware of Implicit Bias...

Implicit bias refers to **the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.**

Implicit bias may make it difficult to keep an open mind (dispute resolution), inadvertently create disparate treatment of participants (player development, officiating, selection to teams or volunteer positions).

Referee Abuse Prevention Policy

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Referee abuse is an issue on the rise – one that threatens the future of soccer.

90% of referees
report that abuse
has increased over
the last 5 years.

60% of referees
choose not to
recertify due to
harassment and
threats.

Youth soccer needs
referees to grow –
without them,
games can't happen

Source: U.S. Soccer Refereeing Department

Referee Abuse Prevention

- Working group is developing a universal reporting tool for Referee Abuse (est. Fall 2026)
- Process for any referee abuse is for the local region/area to conduct the review and issue the sanction
 - Report final decisions to the NRPA (email) – Include Misconduct/Incident report and disciplinary action
 - Note that any incident reports must also go to Risk Management

2

Reporting and disciplinary action are important to preventing Referee Abuse!

Updates to Laws of the Game

(25/26 Law Changes, 26/27 Law Changes)

Law 3: The Players

Law 3.10 (Team captain), guidelines have been introduced into the Laws for any competitions wishing to apply the principle of only the captain approaching the referee in specific situations.

AYSO will not require communication with the referee to only be made by the Captain(s)

Law 3: The Players (Cont'd)

Time-limited substitutions

- To further streamline match flow, substituted players must leave the field of play within ten seconds of the referee's signal. Should the player fail to leave within this time, they must still exit the field but the substitute will not be permitted to enter until the first stoppage after one minute (running clock) has elapsed following the restart.

This applies to Monitored Substitutions

Law 3: The Players (Cont'd)

Off-field treatment and assessment

- Where a player other than the Goalkeeper receives on-field assessment for an injury, or their injury causes play to be stopped, the player will be required to leave the field of play and remain off it for one minute (running clock) once play has restarted.

Used to be the player could reenter with the referee's permission as soon as play restarted

Law 4: The Player's Equipment

Non-dangerous items will be permitted if safely and securely covered.

For AYSO, jewelry will continue to be considered dangerous.

Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

Law 8.2 (Dropped ball): If the ball is outside the penalty area when play is stopped, it is dropped for the team that had or would have gained possession if this is clear to the referee; otherwise, it is dropped for the team that last touched it. The ball is dropped at its position when play was stopped

Law 9: The Ball in and out of Play

Law 9.2 (Ball in play): An indirect free kick with no disciplinary sanction will be awarded if a team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player or player who is temporarily off the field of play touches the ball as it is leaving the field of play and there was no intention to interfere unfairly

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct (Cont'd)

Law 12.2 (Indirect free kick). If a goalkeeper holds the ball for longer than eight seconds (with the referee using a visual five-second countdown), the referee will award a corner kick to the opposing team (rather than the current indirect free kick for more than six seconds).

Please use your voice to encourage the keeper to put the ball back into play

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

Where the referee applies the advantage for an offence that would have been deemed to be denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player will not be cautioned if a goal is scored, as the offence did not prevent a goal.

Law 15 & 16: Throw-Ins and Goal Kicks

- If the referee considers that a throw-in or goal kick is taking too long or being deliberately delayed, a five-second visual countdown will be initiated.
- If the ball is not in play at the end of the countdown, the throw-in will be awarded to the opposing team.
- A delayed goal kick will result in a corner kick being awarded to the opponents.

Please use your voice to encourage the players to put the ball back into play

Get Familiar with Updated Laws



Download documents from the IFAB

<https://www.theifab.com/documents>

Recommend using the official app of the IFAB

<https://www.theifab.com/logapp/>

News to Know About

EVERYONE PLAYS®

BALANCED TEAMS

OPEN REGISTRATION

POSITIVE COACHING

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



Support your Referee Program – Rebates provided to your Section

A horizontal banner with a light blue background. On the left, it says "OFFICIAL PARTNER" above the "SCORE" logo and the "AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION" logo. To the right, it says "OFFICIAL AYSO" above "REFEREE STORE" and the URL "scoresports.com/estore/aysoref". At the bottom, it says "Making **REFEREE SHOPING** for *regions easy!*".

OFFICIAL PARTNER

SCORE

AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
FOUNDED 1964

OFFICIAL AYSO

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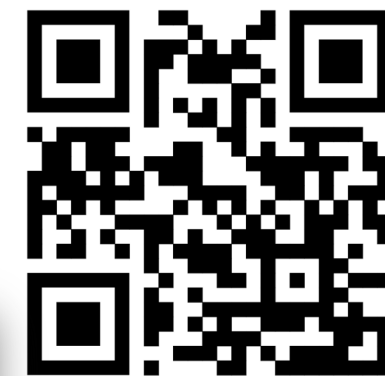
Upcoming Events: Ken Aston Cup



May 2-3, 2026

<https://kenastoncup.org/>

Upcoming Events: Ken Aston Camp



**2026 KEN ASTON
REFEREE CAMP**

VISIT: [KENASTONCAMPS.ORG](https://kenastoncamps.org)

EARLY BIRD PRICE	AFTER MAY 1ST
\$275 / \$300*	\$325 / \$350*

ENHANCE
Take part in an overnight Referee Camp to expand your referee knowledge!

TRAIN
Receive training by a Professional Referee. Bond with other Referees!

NETWORK
Network with volunteer Referees from all across the Country!

JUNE 26-28, 2026
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY | ORANGE, CA.

*Class prices vary. Please check website for more information.

The graphic features a collage of images: a soccer game in progress, a referee in a green shirt, a group of referees posing for a photo, and a large group of people seated in stadium bleachers. The AYSO logo is also present in the top right of the collage.

<https://kenastoncamps.org/>

Upcoming Events: 2027 National Games



JULY 5-11, 2027

MERRIMACK SOCCER COMPLEX
HUNTSVILLE, AL
WWW.NATIONALGAMES.AYSO.ORG

<https://nationalgames.ayso.org/>

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**



HELP WANTED

ALL REFEREES INVITED

EVERYONE PLAYS® BALANCED TEAMS OPEN REGISTRATION POSITIVE COACHING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

