



AYSO EXPO 2024

Workshop Descriptions

Not all workshops will be offered at all meetings. Please check your Section agenda. All workshops are 1-hour and 15 minutes, unless otherwise noted.

Where stated “AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor” refers to situations where there is new course material, updated content, SME requirements, or courses presented by partners/sponsors. The office will work with the section instructor to review the course and delivery.

Coaching and Player Programs

11v11 Strategy: Coaching the Modern Defender

No other position has changed more in recent years than that of the defender. From playing out of the back to the role of the wingback, this workshop brings the demands of defenders in the modern game to the forefront. Attendees should preferably have the Intermediate Coach Certification.

4v4 Training for 6U & 8U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 4v4 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

7v7 Training for 10U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 7v7 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

9v9 Training for 12U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 9v9 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

Updated! AYSO Continuing Coach Education – Destination...or Journey.

Introduction to the importance of a structured mentoring program and how to implement it in your Region.

Age-Appropriate Training: Environments and Expectations

Children learn in ways that differ from adults, especially when learning involves both intellectual and physical activity. This session focuses on creating a healthy and stimulating learning and training environment to meet the needs of the children. Fun and excellence, responsibility and freedom, worth and recognition, giving and receiving are all addressed as we look at optimal environments for youth development.

Alternative Play Models – “Just What the Dr. Ordered?”

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Has the game become too mechanistic? Too organized? Too structured? And at the expense of the players? This session presents a foundation and suggestions for a more organic playing environment. For all volunteers who are interested in the “big picture” of youth soccer. Are we adding players? Improving their talents or genuinely improving the game in the USA? Is there an alternative? Let’s discuss!

New! Annual Coach Update

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

From updates to the National Coaching Program to valuable resources and protocols this workshop includes general updates from the AYSO coaching world, partners (and beyond). A must for all AYSO coaches.

Attacking Technically and Tactically

This session will expose any coach to the theory of possession, from the standpoint of clean first touch, receiving the ball away from pressure, and what that means. We will introduce them to the phases of play dependent on thirds of the field from goal to goal (build up from the back with using goalkeeper, moving through midfield looking for final pass through, and attacking the goal) that will help them understand how to use first touch and receiving away from pressure to attack properly.

AYSO Competitive Programs

An overview of EXTRA, Alliance and United and how we maximize the experience for our players, volunteers and families while stepping into the “competitive cauldron” of club soccer.

AYSO Goalkeeping 1 – CERTIFICATION (requires 2 time slots)

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

For 10U and 12U coaches. Certification class that provides an introduction to the practical and theoretical aspects of training 10U and 12U goalkeepers. The class will cover the three principles of being a successful goalkeeper: positional play, handling, and distribution. The class will also focus on: the build-out line for 10U goalkeepers, integrating the goalkeeper into your weekly practice, and providing structure to your pre- game warm up.

AYSO Playground Soccer 101 – Classroom Introduction

Playground Soccer, the exciting program for introducing three-year-old children and their parents to the wonderful world of AYSO. Learn about the importance of fundamental motor skill development, the integration of prop-based activities and how this program can boost your entire Region.

AYSO Playground Soccer – Field Demonstration

An EXPO favorite, the ‘live’ field demonstration of a typical AYSO Playground Soccer session. Complete with three-year-olds and their moms, dads, or grandparents. We’ll run you through best practices learned, exciting new games (what do you do with that parachute?), and even introduce some new fun and exciting sessions. You’ll walk away pumped for the upcoming season, refocused on a very special fun family experience.

Note: Workshop requires field space (indoor or out); at least 6-8 three-year-olds with their guardian; a Playground equipment pack and a certified Playground Program Leader.



AYSO Playground Soccer and Schoolyard Soccer Program Leader – CERTIFICATION

A certification class for AYSO Playground and Schoolyard Program Leaders. We will discuss what the AYSO Playground, AYSO Playtime and AYSO Schoolyard programs are; who should be the lead volunteer; how the programs are run; and why the programs are so important to AYSO.

AYSO Adult Soccer 2.0

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

How can hosting an Adult Soccer program benefit your Region? Learn how easy it is to give your parents and volunteers the opportunity to play soccer in a safe, fair, fun, and family-friendly environment. Currently hosting Friday friendlies? Support the youth program and formalize an insured adult program.

Coach Administrator Training – CERTIFICATION

Arguably one of AYSO's most important roles, this session is a necessity for all Regional Coach Administrators to learn and enjoy their duties and responsibilities. Topics include an overview of the AYSO National Coaching Program, the importance of our accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation for Coaching Education (NCACE), implementation of US Soccer Player Development Initiatives, how to manage coaching courses, managing your coaching budget, working with the Region Board to create an environment that supports coach and player development, the Stewards of the Game format, the importance of a coaching calendar, and much, much more! Experienced coach administrators are encouraged to attend and to add their experience to the discussions.

Coaching Female Players

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Building upon our commitment to further support women coaches and athletes, this workshop identifies fundamental differences, methodology, and approaches to coaching, supporting and developing female players in AYSO.

Effective Session Planning and Implementation

Become a better coach now! Coaches will learn how to plan and conduct a successful training session. This includes efficient time management, what a complete training session should look like and how to develop and progress the session to fit the needs of both the individuals and the entire team.

Foundations of Futsal 1 – CERTIFICATION

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Certification class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format. Learn about origins, culture, rules, coaching methodology and how to start a futsal program in your Region.

Foundations of Futsal 2 – CERTIFICATION

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Part 2 of 2 Certification class that focuses on the specific techniques and skills required to coach Futsal. The workshop will introduce training plans to help better support the development of future players and look at key areas relating to the Futsal Laws of the Game.
Prerequisite: Foundations of Futsal part 1.



Get to Know Their Mindset

To really develop the player, you must get to know the person. How well do you know your players? This workshop introduces growth and fixed mindsets as well as the traits and points for discussion as they relate to players reaching their potential. Based on the research by Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Intermediate Course

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

A more detailed look into teaching the new Intermediate Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content and grading. NOT a certification class.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Advanced Course

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

An overview of the new Advanced Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content, and grading. This is not a certification class.

Instructor Overview for the 2022 Coach Instructor Course

An overview of the newly designed 2022 Coach Instructor Course including pre-course online content, assignments, classroom content, and field requirements. This is not a certification class.

Instructor Overview for 2023 Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor Courses

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Instructor insight into the newly designed courses which split the prior Advanced Coach Instructor Course into two separate courses: Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor. A must for all Advanced Coach Instructors. This is not a certification class.

Match Analysis using Principles of Play and the 5 W's

Learn how to easily read the game and transfer your match observations into clear training objectives through functional use of the principles of play and the "5Ws." For 12U coaches and up.

Periodization 101

Insight into the game's current "hot topic" and what it means to the AYSO coach. A summary of periodization elements dripped throughout the AYSO coaching program; insight to current global trends; and some practical applications for everyday use. For 12U coaches and up.

Social and Emotional Learning – "The Missing Link"

Want to really make a difference with your sessions? Maximize your time with your players? Create holistic playing environments and learn to teach social and emotional lessons making AYSO the most holistic youth sports program in the US. For All forward- thinking coaches who want to maximize their own development while truly enriching their players' lives.

Tactical Formations and Systems of Play 11 v 11

Different tactical formations and how to use them in a match. In this session, Systems of Play are broken down into tactical areas explaining, for example, when to defensively use a flat back four versus a diamond formation, and the best tactical formation to counter with based on what system your opponent is using. This would highlight why it might be time to switch formations in the middle of the match. This session will also explain the difference between a 3-line system and a 4-band formation.

United Soccer Coaches Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

An interactive workshop that introduces six key principles of effective youth coaching. Through discussion, first-time and novice coaches will be introduced to helpful ideas to make a training session more purposeful and enjoyable for coach and player alike. Each principle will be explained using training games that can immediately be applied at the coach's next session.

Women Coach Recruitment and Retention – “You Can Be it if You Can See it”

From recruitment to developing and retention, this workshop aims to reenergize our commitment to encouraging and supporting women coaches at all levels of AYSO.

New! Program Overview for Kickstart Soccer: the combined Playground/Schoolyard Option

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

A programmatic overview of the newly designed program which combines Playground and Schoolyard into one easy innovative and to launch program. Includes Fundamental Motor Skill development, Game-like Activities and Social and Emotional Learning skills. Each session progresses into 3v3 games.

New! Cedar Sinai Kerlan-Jobe presents Female Athletes: ACL Injuries and Beyond

CSKJ representative or AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor (may be virtual)

Injuries to young female athletes are on the rise in the U.S. The world-renowned Kerlan-Jobe Fellowship doctors, trained in orthopedic sports medicine, address some of the most common injuries to female youth soccer athletes, how to reduce them with a practical prevention plan, and the role you can play to advocate for their health and safety on the pitch.

TCM's Top Five Age Group Activities (and how to make them work for your team)

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

The AYSO Coaching Manual team curate their favorite 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 14+ age group activities and walk through the design, organization, progressions and how to adapt them for your own team.

Chicago Fire FC presents – Social and Emotional Learning and how to close the “Gap” in Youth Soccer

Chicago Fire representative or AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Only 37% of American youth play team sports regularly, while youth soccer experiences a 25% drop in participation once players turn 12 years old. What can we as coaches do differently to help children stay in the game? Learn how Chicago Fire FC integrates Social and Emotional Learning into its soccer curriculum and helps youth learn to become their best SELf.

New! Chicago Fire presents – Beyond the X's and O's SEL and Soccer – How to practically implement SEL into practice and games.

Chicago Fire representative or AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

A practical workshop on how to effectively implement Social and Emotional Learning into soccer practices and games. This interactive session will use real life situations where presenters and attendees will discuss and collaborate on incorporating best practices on implementation.

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACT CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

USC-MHS representative or AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Learn the signs and symptoms of a mental health challenge and/or crisis, how to de-escalate a situation to avoid harm to oneself or others, and what pathways are available for additional professional support. Certifications include a segment on mental health resources that can be found in your local Region.



New! US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)
US Soccer Foundation representative.

Evidence-based practices for creating an inclusive team environment where every youth feels welcome and supported. A sports-based mentoring framework designed to instill mentorship in coaching pedagogy. A step-by-step approach to create lasting, positive connections, and to positively impact the physical, social, and emotional health of the youth we serve.

EPIC – Everyone Plays In our Communities

Welcome to EPIC!

Significant updates to the VIP Program, including identity/branding, methodology and guidelines. A must for all VIP/EPIC administrators, coaches, buddies, and volunteers.

EPIC Volunteer Training (2½ hours) – CERTIFICATION

This course provides the training needed for all coaches, referees, administrators and buddies who volunteer with your EPIC division.

Marketing & Development

Updated! Advanced Social Media

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Understand the basics but want to know how to implement multi-channel and multi- platform campaign strategy? In this session, we will learn how to advertise on social media, strategize your content and the best platforms to use through the building of a campaign. We will also further explore how social media can play a pivotal role in your Region’s branding.

Updated! Best Practices for Sponsorship and Fundraising

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Sponsorships and fundraising can seem like a lot of work, but the truth is there are local businesses and community groups that would love to support what you do if only they were asked! In this session, we will discuss how you can target local sponsors for your Region, how to think about delivering value in exchange for their support, as well as how you can benefit from national sponsors on a local level. We will also discuss fundraising best practices and examples of how to build a campaign.

Updated! Building & Marketing the AYSO Brand in your Community

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

What is a Brand? Why is your brand important? Brand, branding, and brand identity...they are words that are thrown around in the marketing and communications space all the time, but they often go undefined when it comes to the world of youth soccer. Come learn what makes a brand, how to leverage the power of the AYSO brand and how to think about your own Region as a brand.



New! Introducing AYSO Play!

AYSO PLAY! Team Members will be on hand at each Expo to deliver this workshop.

Come learn about AYSO's newest initiative, AYSO PLAY! designed to bring more soccer to more kids in more communities. Hear about how we're expanding AYSO's footprint nationally, learn how you can help support this initiative, and how you can use the principles of AYSO PLAY! to spark growth in your player numbers while enhancing the world-class soccer training you're already giving through your program.

Updated! Tips for Enhancing Your AYSO Website

You spend a lot of time and energy making sure your Region website is set up to take volunteer & player registrations, properly display your programs, show your schedules, etc. But your Region's website is so much more than that – it is the digital face of your Region in your community. How do we think about creating a powerful, motivating, and useful place for parents and families shopping around for soccer for their kids? This workshop will explore the types of content you want to include, how to create it, what's great for search engine optimization and how to use the Sports Connect platform features to customize the templates to your liking. Create the Region website of your dreams! Familiarity with your Region website is useful, but technical knowledge is not necessary.

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Social and digital marketing is a vital part of promoting your Region, but how do you go about it? How do you choose the right mix? Where can you go to find assets and resources to help you? This session is for those who've been involved in marketing and promoting your Region but want to know how to take it to the next level with multi-channel and multi-platform marketing and communications. In this session, we will discuss the pros and cons of various platforms, some often-overlooked foundational best practices, and work through the important process of designing a communications plan that shines a spotlight on your program for all your community to see.

New! AYSO + SOCi: Amplify your Search, Listings, and Social Media Efforts

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Your online presence is one of the most important assets in ensuring your Region has a strong and vibrant image in your community. Managing your entire digital footprint can be a daunting and time-consuming task but it's crucial to making sure families looking to sign kids up for soccer can easily find you...which is where SOCi comes in! SOCi is an industry leader in local marketing services and as an AYSO Region, it is available to you at no cost. Come learn how to take advantage of this powerful and time-saving platform.

New! AYSO + MOJO: The Premium Mobile App with White-Glove Onboarding

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Meet MOJO – the mobile app with customized features for AYSO. It handles all your necessary team communication needs but does so much more. With MOJO, your coaches have access to AYSO session plans that they can build and customize plus scheduling and schedule change management right from the app. Parents can customize their player's profile, track progress, keep up on all team announcements and offer real-time feedback. Best of all? MOJO will do all the setup work for you at no cost. Send your team rosters, training and game schedules to MOJO and MOJO will configure it all for you so your volunteers and families can start using the tools with zero setup time!



New! Microsoft Teams For Communities – Simplify Region Management & Communications
AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Microsoft Teams for Communities is a no-cost-to-you solution that can connect your entire Region Board and volunteer bases to engage in conversations, video calls, file and photo sharing, membership management and more. Whether you are looking to manage meetings, information flow or documents, Microsoft Teams provides a secure space with management tools that centralize operations. Put an end to searching through emails and local folders for files and notes -- come see how this powerful product can make running your Region more efficient.

New! Membership Has Its Privileges: Three Premium Services Available to Your Region
AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Think you know everything there is to know about the services provided by the AYSO Office? Think again! This workshop will introduce you to 3 premium services available to you at no cost that can help take your Region to the next level:

- MOJO – the team communication app that offers premium content and will do ALL your team and schedule configuration FOR you.
- SOCi – a high-powered yet easy to use digital marketing platform that delivers better search engine results, social media performance and scheduling tools, and unprecedented visibility into all the online conversations and reviews happening about your Region.
- MICROSOFT TEAMS FOR COMMUNITIES – more than just video conferencing, Teams for Communities is built to help you streamline and manage all manner of Region operations and communications.

Come learn the basics about how to take advantage of each of these high-value services.

Officiating

Advantage - When and Where?

Designed for the more experienced referee, this workshop reviews the proper use of advantage and how to signal it properly in different situations. Using scenario training, this workshop provides guidance to help the referee decide when to apply advantage based on the age and skills of the players, the location on the field, the nature of the match and other relevant factors.

New! Annual Referee Update

Attendance is essential for all AYSO volunteers in the referee program including referees, instructors, assessors, mentors, schedulers/assignors, and administrators. This workshop covers the latest changes in the Laws of the Game, review of program changes, points of emphasis for 2023/24.



Avoiding Trouble

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage younger players' games. Designed for the less experienced referee, this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know well in order to be a good referee.

Be a Great Mentor

Learn, understand, and effectively use the mentoring process. Interactive session to present, discuss and use the Elements of Mentoring which referee leaders can use to influence the referees' ability to learn, retain information and modify behavior.

Establishing a Mentoring Program

The workshop is designed for Referee Administrators as well as Intermediate and above referees with at least two years of refereeing experience interested in developing and maintaining a successful mentoring program in the Region. The workshop helps the referee program administrators understand the importance of mentoring and how to set up and run a Region Mentoring Program. It also defines the attributes of a quality mentor. The workshop describes ways that Areas and Sections can enhance the Region Mentoring Programs or help when Regions lack the staff to run such a program.

Fouls and Misconduct Review for 14U Games & Above

This workshop will provide a review of Law 12; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 14U games and above to facilitate a discussion based on the video clips presented. The correct decision for each video clip presented will be provided along with tips and recommendations on how to manage fouls and misconduct.

Fouls and Misconduct Review for 12U Games & Below

Workshop will provide a review of Law 12 with an emphasis on the Direct and Indirect Free Kicks; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 12U games and below to facilitate a discussion/decision based on the video clips presented.

Free Kicks & Restarts

Restarts matter: statistics indicate that more than 60% of goals result from restarts in the attacking third of the field. This session focuses on how to manage free kicks and other restarts and provides recommended (and alternate) referee positioning. It also addresses the role of the referee team in directing restarts.

Foundations of Officiating Futsal

Introductory class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal officiating, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format.

Game Reports

This is a workshop to teach participants the components of a game report and how to prepare one. It will include an interactive exercise where every participant will complete a report with a focus on preparing correct game reports. Administrators have a consistent challenge with reports that are submitted before they are reviewed and correctly completed. 90% of referees around the world don't like to do paperwork so this workshop provides a creative, fun way to get participants to practice and learn how to develop good reports.



How to Be a Lead Referee Instructor

This workshop shows why Lead Instructors are important in the AYSO Referee Instructor program and discusses the administrative and leadership roles that Lead Instructors play in AYSO courses and other instructional activities.

New! Introduction to Referee Communication Systems

Introducing the expectations and appropriate use of electronic communication (comms) systems to augment the standard IFAB signals; not to replace them. Discuss best practices for what and when to communicate over comms.

Newer Ideas in Referee Positioning

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage older players' games. Designed for the more experienced referee; this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know well in order to be a good referee.

Nurturing and Retaining Youth Referees

With an emphasis on the development and retention of youth referees, this workshop explores techniques for establishing and running a successful youth referee program. Intended primarily for referee administrators, this workshop explores the who, what, when, where, why and how of a youth referee program. Participants share their experiences and ideas, learning best practices that are known to make such programs effective. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area, and Region experiences in growing and retaining youth referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (This integrates the round table workshop to make this session more effective).

Officiating as a Team

Refereeing as a team begins with the pregame conference and goes on to include clear delegation and execution of duties, proper positioning by the referee and assistant referees, eye contact between officials, and signaling per the USSF Guide to Procedures. More experienced referees will learn skills to enhance their performance and communication both as the referee and as an AR. The workshop emphasizes the communication subtlety required when refereeing older players. Attendees should bring assistant referee flags.

Offside Review

A review of Law 11: Offside basic components. This is a simple Law per the text content but very challenging because of the physical and mental requirements. In this session, we'll review the basic concepts; provide tips and advice to help the assistant referees and referees evaluate offside incidents; and review diagrams and video clips with simpler offside scenarios.

Proactive Refereeing - Reading the Game and Taking Action

This workshop focuses on techniques that help referees anticipate game-control challenges they will face when refereeing older players. Referees learn that anticipation comes from "reading the game" – that is, understanding specific keys to the players' objectives revealed in their actions and behaviors. Referees also learn techniques to adjust the balance of flow and control in response to their reading of the game, especially in high-risk situations.

Recruiting & Retaining Referees

The workshop focuses on methods/techniques for recruiting and retaining referees, an essential but challenging aspect of our soccer program. This workshop covers proven approaches to recruiting, developing, and retaining referees across the country, and mentoring is emphasized as a retention and development technique. Attendees exchange ideas and effective methodologies and best practices in recruiting and retaining referees. Workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area and Region experiences in recruiting and retaining referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (This integrates the round table workshop to make this session more effective.)

Refereeing is Thinking

Intended for experienced referees, this workshop emphasizes the importance of avoiding "book refereeing" in older players' games. It uses scenario training to explore real game situations in which rigid application of the Laws is not the best remedy. Referees learn practical techniques and specific referee behaviors – rooted in the Spirit of the Laws but mostly unwritten – to maximize player enjoyment through flexible game management.

Refereeing with Fewer Than Three

The workshop addresses the all-too-common problem of officiating a game with fewer than three trained referees. The mechanics of the diagonal system of control (DSC) are reviewed with an emphasis on the responsibilities of the three officials. The workshop focuses on how to redistribute those responsibilities when there are fewer than three trained officials. Compromises and variations are examined to deal with the loss of field coverage. The workshop emphasizes the application of these techniques in younger division matches, but it also addresses referee positioning for older players' matches when fewer than three officials are available.

Regional Referee Administrator – CERTIFICATION

We will review the responsibilities of a Regional Referee Administrator focusing on the activities that are key to managing a Regional Referee Program. Topics include Referee: Budget, Recruitment and Retention. Resources, methods, and recommendations will be shared with the students to help you be successful in carrying out the RRA duties.

Stopping Referee Abuse

Adapted with permission from presentations by Matthew Buckman, Director of Referee Development for the California-North Referee Association of USSF and National Assignor for U.S. Soccer. This workshop covers strategies and techniques for identifying and addressing abuse, what to say and when to say it, and promoting zero tolerance for referee abuse.

Women's Referee and Coach Forum

Experienced women referees and coaches answer questions and lead discussions on the challenges and opportunities for women in this male-dominated arena. Attendees at this session will discuss their secrets of success by sharing questions, suggestions, and ideas for dealing with difficult situations in order to feel more comfortable on the field. All are welcome.



New! Why Can't We Be Friends?

This workshop explores ideas for promoting greater cooperation between coaches and referees starting with Stewards of the Game. Discuss the AYSO Team's expectations and steps for building understanding, common ground and ultimately, improved cooperation.

You Make the Call I

You make the call in this workshop that presents scenarios that may occur in 12U games and below. Newer and younger division referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or not. You're the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.

You Make the Call II

You make the call in this workshop that presents difficult scenarios that may occur in older players' games. Experienced referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or apply advantage, determine how to handle gamesmanship and misconduct and more. You're the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.

Regional Management & Operations

It is highly recommended that all required board member job certification courses be taken online prior to taking the job specific roundtables and Q&As listed below. Roundtables will be focused on sharing information, best practices, scenarios, and Q & A's.

New! Annual Management Update

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Updates to the National Management Program including any Bylaw, Rules & Regulations, Policy, and Program updates.

Auditor – CERTIFICATION

This workshop provides basic training for Fiduciaries and the Section and Area Auditor to independently ensure fiscal management in all levels of AYSO, helping to identify potential problems before they occur. Learn how to spot a "red flag" and what to do if improprieties are uncovered. Learn about AYSO's audit procedures and about AYSO's audit checklist. No financial background is required for this course. It's a good way to get started with the tools needed for an independent review of the Section, Area, or Region finances.

New! Auditor Guided Q&A

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Auditor Certification Course. Did you know how to get access to the data you need for doing an audit? Do you know where to find and how to use the Auditor Checklist? The answers to these and other questions will come from attendees through a guided discussion. Area/Section Auditors, Executive Members, and Treasurers will benefit from attending.



Advanced Dispute Resolution

Build upon your knowledge gained in the Dispute Resolution workshop. Dive deeper into situations that may arise in your Region and understand additional solutions. This course provides practical application of the strategies learned in both Dispute Resolution and Dispute Resolution Review workshops.

New! Avoiding Landmines

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Presented by AYSO Office staff, this course will guide Regional Board Members through the minefield of policies, procedures, and guidelines, to ensure your Region is effectively compliant with AYSO and U.S. Soccer requirements, focusing on participant safety and protecting the players, volunteers, the Region, and the Organization. Learn about *the rules and tools* available, and when and how to effectively use them when reacting to incidents requiring rapid management response.

Creating a Culture of Volunteer Willingness and Appreciation

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Providing local soccer programming relies on the willingness of volunteers to donate their time and effort. Creating a volunteer-focused culture starts with educating the families of the community about what being a volunteer-organization entails. This includes setting realistic expectations for our families (and potential volunteers) about the benefits and challenges of a volunteer-run organization, vital compliance & legal aspects of the process that protect their children, and the benefits to the training and certification programming. This workshop will focus on looking at approaches that can be leveraged during the registration, volunteer recruitment, and during the season to improve the volunteer alignment.

Developing a Regional Calendar

A Regional calendar is a clever and useful tool that can productively assist Regions to prioritize, stay on track, advertise, and organize events. This workshop will walk through the steps of creating and personalizing a Region calendar. These techniques address how to create a Regional calendar and cover the steps needed to plan a calendar that meets Region needs: helping with recruiting volunteers, improving communications, and creating a historical timeline of the Region. Included are various online tools to help automate processes.

Dispute Resolution

This course is designed for Region and Area Board Members and will cover recommended approaches for dealing with conflict and resolving difficult issues. It will help volunteers work through challenging situations before they escalate to the point of needing Due Process.

Dispute Resolution Review

After taking the Dispute Resolution Course, this workshop allows attendees to review scenarios dealing with difficult people and common difficult situations which if left to smolder, can turn “sunny Saturdays” into “manic Mondays.” Attendees practice recognizing potentially explosive situations and how to deal with them before they flare up.



Division Coordinator – CERTIFICATION

The Division Coordinator is a vital member of the leadership team in any size Region. All the basics of the Division Coordinator position are covered including roles and responsibilities and the importance of functioning as an intermediary between the Region Board, Coaches, Referees, and parents. See how a Division Coordinator can be effective in different scenarios and learn how to have a real impact on the success of the Region.

Due Process

This workshop provides more detail and information for Regional Boards and Disciplinary Review Panel members when handling difficult situations with volunteers. Learn the process to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a volunteer (Non- Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO. This workshop will review the many tools available to properly deal with serious personnel problems and examine the procedures when offering the volunteer due process, the right to be heard and appeal protection.

Due Process Review

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees, after taking the Due Process Course, to discuss real-life scenarios and apply the process to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a volunteer (Non-Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO.

Financial Transparency

In the new world of digital banking options there are new ways to ensure Regions are being fiscally responsible and financially transparent. Attendees will learn best practices to remain transparent with the new AYSO banking tools, understand the red flags that come with digital banking, and how to stay fiscally responsible. While this course is for Regional Commissioners, Area Directors, Treasurers and Auditors, all board members are welcome. This course will not provide hands-on training of our financial management systems.

New! First Time EXPO Attendee Orientation

Is this your first EXPO? Do you have questions about AYSO basics? This course is designed for the new volunteer or first-time attendee to learn more about AYSO's structure and foundation. It will also help the first-timers navigate the complexity of discipline tracks, courses, and events available to all EXPO attendees.

Getting to Yes! Improving Volunteer Recruitment

Recruiting volunteers can be a challenge. In today's atmosphere of every changing reasons for volunteerism, volunteers want to make a meaningful impact within their communities. With the wide use of technology, traditional recruiting is more challenging. In this course, volunteers will review methods and develop skills that will help them be more successful in their recruitment.

Governance Made Easier

Every Region is governed by Standard Policies & Protocols. What do they say? What things are "must do" for the Region and what things can be modified to meet local requirements or preferences? This document affects the daily operation of a Region and even determines who is eligible to vote on the Regional Board. The course is for Regional Board Members and for Section and Area Directors as reviewers.



Guide to Better Communications

Effective communication is key to the success of a Region, fostering good will and happy participants. Communication issues cause some of the most difficult problems that Regions face. This course offers over 20 strategies for better written, electronic, verbal, and non-verbal communication, including what's best in different situations--and how to avoid missteps. This training is important for all Regional Board members, especially Regional Commissioners, Coach and Referee Administrators, CVPAs, Safety Directors, and Registrars.

Leadership Forum with NBOD Members and Section Directors (Required)

An open session on National Updates to discuss AYSO with senior leadership.

Planning Effective Board Meetings

This session discusses the things that contribute to more effective meetings and the things that frustrate people most about ineffective meetings. Attendees will discuss ideas for having more constructive meetings and suggestions for increasing interest and attendance. The session focuses on length of time, agenda creation, who should be there, and what should be reported on a monthly basis. Take away 10 ideas to make Board Members look forward to each meeting. Recommended for SDs, ADs, RCs and Board Members at all levels.

Regional Board Member Training – CERTIFICATION

Calling all volunteers; this workshop is for you! This course provides all board members with a general understanding of their role in the administration of the Regional Board and where to find information about their specific role. Learn about AYSO's Standard Regional Policies and Protocols and using AYSO's Six Philosophies. Volunteers will understand the common responsibilities all volunteers share in the areas of Kid Zone, budgeting, time management, communications, and recruitment necessary to make a Region successful.

Registrar Guided Q&As

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Registrar Certification Course. Did you volunteer for this job but now feel overwhelmed? Are you confused or need help getting started, or worried about what to do next? Ever wonder why AYSO does things in certain ways? The answers will come from attendees through a guided discussion. All Region Board Members will benefit from attending. Please note that issues with Sports Connect and other systems won't be addressed.

Registration Events in the Digital Age

This workshop is not just for Registrars! E-signature technology has simplified the registration process and moved it online, saving time for both the participants and the Region staff. But is there still value in having in-person, face-to-face events? What are the benefits of personal interaction with your potential volunteers and players? Come and explore the pros and cons with your fellow Registrars and other Board Members.

New! Safety First: Playing It Safe!

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

This interactive workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss best practices for building a Region's Safety Plan to fulfill the role of the Safety Director and to ensure the safety and risk management of the Region's soccer program. This is an opportunity to create the "safe, fair, fun environment" or safe haven that all AYSO participants can enjoy.



Treasurer Guided Q&As

This roundtable style workshop is a guided question and answer session to provide an opportunity to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Treasurer Certification Course. This workshop allows any volunteer to give their input and share ideas and to explore best practices to ensure financial responsibility within your Region, Area, or Section Boards.

What is a Budget Really For?

Ever wondered what the budget is really for or what its purpose is? Budgeting is a useful tool to assist Regions in setting goals, ensuring expenditures are funded, preparing for emergencies, and providing transparency to the Region. This session features hands-on experience using each attendee's own Regional budget to see why a budget is an important tool. Attendees will look at each section of the budget to help determine spending habits and determine if fees are appropriate to keep the Region financially sound. Please be sure to bring a copy of your Region's budget to get the most out of this experience!

Volunteer Retention is not Detention

Once you've recruited them to volunteer, your next step is keeping them. Are you supporting them, meeting their needs, and appreciating them? If you are struggling with keeping your volunteers active and engaged, come learn new tools and skills to help you in your efforts. This course will help participants cultivate more effective methods of volunteer retention.

Working with Field Owners

Regions are challenged with a variety of field owners, requirements, and usage agreements. This course will help Regional Commissioners and their boards better understand the challenges they face when working with City, School, and Private owners work when it comes to using fields. Attendees will learn what to do to secure field permits, negotiate field fees, and watch for red flags that could put field use in jeopardy. Come learn how to secure your fields and protect your Region.

Safe Haven

Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate – CERTIFICATION

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

The Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) is a required board position put in place to help protect our two vital resources: the players and volunteers. This training class leads you through an understanding of the position, AYSO's Criminal History Background Check Policy, and volunteer screening protocols.

AYSO's Safe Haven Addendum

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Designed for Section, Area and Region board members, this workshop covers challenges in providing a "safe haven," additional protocols for dealing with these challenges, and program updates including U.S. Soccer's requirement for SafeSport training. The workshop facilitates discussions about common issues and concerns.



The Importance of a Safe, Fair, Fun, Family-Friendly Environment. Welcome to Kids Zone!

While everyone agrees that youth sports provide invaluable benefits to all kids, staggering statistics show that kids are leaving sports at increasing rates. Why? Because it's not always fun and because of the unrealistic expectations placed on them to perform. Kids Zone sidelines are essential for kids to play freely, fail, and learn the beautiful game of soccer.

Stewards of the Game

Learn about the role of coaches, referees, and administrators in managing a safe, fair, fun, family-friendly experience on game days. Discussion of on-field collaboration and how on-field confrontation may be managed.

Systems

Divvy/QuickBooks Directed Q&A

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for anyone working with Section/Area/Regional finances, especially treasurers, Regional Commissioners, and Auditors that need support using Divvy-Bill Spend and QuickBooks. Divvy-Bill Spend helps your Regional volunteers have the ability to make purchases for the S/A/R with ease. QuickBooks is used for creating and using budgets as well as recording all transactions to make your end of year reporting to the AYSOU office seamless and automatic. View the Divvy-Bill Spend and QuickBooks presentations and videos before this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This workshop will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

Sports Connect Directed Q&A

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using Sports Connect to run reports, create programs, manage orders, manage teams, update settings, and more. Please view the slides and videos for 'Getting Started with Sports Connect' prior to this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

Association Platform Directed Q&A

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using the Association Platform to manage volunteer compliance, verify birth certificates, activate teams, print medical release forms, and more. Please view the slides and videos for 'Association Platform' and 'CVPA Process' prior to this session in the AYSOU Document Library. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.

AYSOU/eTrainu Directed Q&A

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for any volunteer who needs support using AYSOU to create courses, register for courses, take online courses, complete courses, and more. Please view the slides and videos for "AYSOU" in the AYSOU Document Library prior to this session. This session will not be an overview of the system, but rather a chance to discuss questions and issues you may have.



Instruction

Instructor Training for 2021 I2I

This workshop presents an overview of the updated 2021 Intro to Instruction Course (I2I). It is intended to prepare current instructors to teach the new I2I. Content includes a review of the pre-course online content, classroom content, and philosophy in the new I2I. This is not a certification class.

Facilitation and the Teaching Process

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor

Gone are the days of reading PowerPoints to engage and educate our volunteers! As our Introduction to Instruction, Education Philosophy and Instructor Profile outline, we must use researched adult learning methodology (andragogy), interactions and interventions and facilitate learning through various experiences, contexts, and situations. This workshop introduces foundations of facilitation in the teaching process...and why it works!

Instructor Certification Courses

Introduction to Instruction 2021 – 4 hours in-person with 1-hour pre-course online work (this course must be rostered prior to EXPO)

Coach Instructor 2022 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

New! Intermediate Coach Instructor 2023 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Revised! Advanced Coach Instructor 2023 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Regional Referee Instructor - 7.5 hours

Advanced Referee Instructor – 6.5 hours

Referee Instructor Evaluator – 5.5 hours

Management Instructor 2022 – 4.5 hours

Advanced Management Instructor 2022 – 6 hours

VIP/EPIC Instructor – 3 hours

Coordinated with AYSO Office, partnership representatives and Section to assign Instructors:

COACHING AND PLAYER PROGRAMS

Alternative Play Models – “Just What the Dr. Ordered?”

New! Annual Coach Update 2023

AYSO Adult Soccer 2.0

AYSO Goalkeeping 1 – CERTIFICATION (requires 2 time slots)

Coaching Female Players

Foundations of Futsal 1 – CERTIFICATION

Foundations of Futsal 2 – CERTIFICATION

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Intermediate Course

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Advanced Course

Instructor Overview for the 2023 Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor Courses

United Soccer Coaches Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

New! Program Overview for Kickstart Soccer: the combined Playground/Schoolyard Option

New! Cedar Sinai Kerlan-Jobe presents Female Athletes: ACL Injuries and Beyond

New! US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor Certification (2 hours)

TCM’s Top Five Age Group Activities (and how to make them work for your team)

Chicago Fire FC presents – Social and Emotional Learning and how to close the “Gap” in Youth Soccer

New! Chicago Fire presents – Beyond the X’s and O’s SEL and Soccer – How to practically implement SEL into practice and games.

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport presents ACT Certification (2 hours)

New! US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

Updated! Best Practices for Sponsorship and Fundraising

Updated! Advanced Social Media

Updated! Building & Marketing the AYSO Brand in your Community

New! Introducing AYSO Play!

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

Updated! Tips for Enhancing Your AYSO Website

Updated! Managing Digital Assets

New! AYSO + SOCi: Amplify your Search, Listings, and Social Media Efforts

New! AYSO + MOJO: The Premium Mobile App with White-Glove Onboarding

New! Microsoft Teams For Communities –Simplify Region Management & Communications

INSTRUCTION

Facilitation and the Teaching Process

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

New! Annual Management Update 2024

New! Auditor Guided Q&A

New! Avoiding Landmines

Creating a Culture of Volunteer Willingness and Appreciation – Volunteer Engagement Council

New! First Time EXPO Attendee Orientation

Leadership Forum with NBOD Members and Section Directors (Required)

New! Safety First: Playing It Safe! – Participant Safety Council

SAFE HAVEN

CVPA

Safe Haven Addendum

SYSTEMS

Divy/Quickbooks – Systems Support Admin

Sports Connect – Systems Support Admin

Association Platform – Systems Support Admin

AYSOU/eTrainu – Systems Support Admin