



Team Formation Policy

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a non-profit, all volunteer program. In alignment with the AYSO Philosophy of Balanced Teams, Region 878 strives to form balanced teams each season. It allows for each player to gain the experience of a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels.

Volunteer Impact

The initial process of forming teams is assigning the player with their adult volunteer that is registered in one of the following roles: Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager.

Each team has three volunteer positions required in order to be a well-functioning team. Based on the volunteer requirements for each team, a partnership of up to 3 volunteers per team is permitted. This includes up to three related players for the team. This is to keep the team as balanced as possible.

Volunteers are encouraged to make arrangements with other volunteers to staff their team. The request to partner with a specific volunteer must be submitted via the [Volunteer Partnership Request](#) form by the coach meeting.

The volunteers must have an active volunteer application on file and be making progress on the volunteer requirements. If the request is made after the dates indicated above, the request may not be honored due to team formation and uniform order deadlines.

Once teams are formed, additional volunteers to fill open positions such as referee, community volunteer, or field monitor can be determined.

Sibling Maximum

Siblings within the same division/gender may be requested to play on the same team. This includes step siblings and half siblings. If the players are not registered under the same account, you must notify the region so that we can identify the affected players.

Due to the small rosters in the 6U and 8U divisions, there will be a sibling cap of two per team to ensure that a lack of attendance by one family does not impact the ability of the team to participate in games.

Team Requests

Due to the volunteer nature of our program, we are unable to honor requests for teams or specific coaches. This includes requests based on:

- Practice days/times
- Carpool reasons
- Cousins, distant relatives, or family friends

The nature of the team assignment process and number of teams in a division MAY result in players with these requests being on the same team, or the requested coach, but this is not indicative of a change in stance of the Region Board on the nature of team formation and team requests.



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Division Change Requests

Per AYSO National Rules and Regulations, players WILL NOT be eligible to play in a younger age division than their birth date determines they are eligible for (“Play Down”).

Parents may request for their child to play in an older age division than their birth date determines they are eligible for (“Play Up”), provided the child is in the second year of that division. The Region Board will consider all such requests based on the following factors:

- Knowledge of the player ability
- Age eligibility of the child
- Space available in the requested age group
- Determination of the appropriateness of the player playing in this age group

The Region Board reserves the right to refuse any request to change a child’s assigned age division, for any reason, and the decision of the Region Board is final. In the event that a request is made, and no information is currently available on the player’s skill level, the Region Board may request an evaluation of the player’s skill level either through observation at a practice, game, or at a separate evaluation event.

The Region Board recommends the majority of players to play in the assigned age group and will only approve requests to change age level based on the needs and skill level of the child, to maximize the player’s experience.

Waitlist

At the end of the initial registration period, the registration will be available for waitlist only. During this time, the board is working to ensure we have the appropriate volunteer commitment needed to roster the teams. During this time, we will activate players as roster space is determined. Players placed on the waitlist will be activated due to one of the below scenarios:

- A new coach is located and the team can be activated. This will not be an option as of the first games of the season
- A player formally submits a request to drop from the team

Players activated from the waitlist will receive a system email notifying them that their player has been activated. Typically, you will be provided a 3-day window to make payment and complete the registration process. After that date, your waitlist registration will be canceled and the player removed from the waitlist.

The waitlist will be closed and no players activated after the third week of games.



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6U-8U Team Formation

Teams are created within the SportsConnect registration system. The selection process assigns players based on age, gender, and experience. All assignments are made based on data available within the registration system. The Region Board cannot account for inaccurate information provided at registration, or information otherwise unavailable at the time of team formation. The board will review all team formations and make manual adjustments if required.

10U-14U Team Formation

As players move into the older divisions, the team formation process shifts slightly as the older divisions begin to learn more about the game and become eligible for postseason play. The need to better understand the player's current abilities and knowledge of the game are essential to creating balanced teams. As players get older, their age and years of experience become less salient determinants of their skills on the field. The teams will be drafted either administratively or with coach involvement. This decision will be made prior to the coach meeting and will be based on a number of factors including administrative support for evaluations and drafting as well as sufficient team volunteers.

Player Evaluations

Player Evaluation sessions will be scheduled at the onset of registration.

Designated regional board members and guest coaches will assess the players at the evaluation and make notes. This information will be available for coaches not in attendance at evaluations. Coaches that have completed the application are HIGHLY encouraged to attend the player evaluations and participate in making notations for the draft.

Coach Drafting Process

For optimal draft experience for all teams, all coaches should be determined prior to the player evaluations and draft. Coaches must have their application submitted to participate in the draft. If a coach is unable to attend the draft, they may elect a representative to draft their team for them. If no one is in attendance for a team, a board representative will draft the players for that day.

Note, the coach will not receive roster information until the application with background check, AYSO LiveScan Fingerprinting, Safe Haven, Red Cross Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and CDC Concussion training have been completed. Coaches may not begin practices until their online coach training component is completed. Each coach will randomly select a number to determine draft order. The coach may designate a registered volunteer to draft on their behalf. A board member must hold a draft place for teams without representation.

Players will be divided out in drafting pools. The drafting pools are divided as follows:

Pool 1: Players with associated volunteers

Pool 2: Players without associated volunteers

The draft will begin with Pool 1, once the players in Pool 1 have been exhausted, Pool 2 will open for drafting.



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Coach will draft one player at a time (siblings are an exception) based on their draft order selected.

Once a player has been drafted, they will be removed from the list of eligible players.

The below is an example of how the snake draft process will flow.

Example: We have four coaches (Mickey, Donald, Daisy, and Daffy) Mickey draws 1, Donald draws 2, Daisy draws 3, and Daffy draws 4.

1 st Round	Mickey	Donald	Daisy	Daffy
2 nd Round	Daffy	Daisy	Donald	Mickey
3 rd Round	Mickey	Donald	Daisy	Daffy
4 th Round	Daffy	Daisy	Donald	Mickey

Volunteer Associated Players

Players will be assigned to the roster of their associated volunteer. Teams will forfeit their first draft pick(s) for each player already assigned to the team based on the volunteer's associated players.

Siblings

Siblings must be drafted together when appropriate by division. Therefore, when drafting siblings, the drafting coach will pass on the next draft round to ensure equal distribution.

Roster Late Adds

Players registering late will be assigned to a team continuing the established snake draft order defined during the draft process.