

Volunteer Organization Acknowledgment



AYSO is a 100% volunteer powered organization!

This means that we are only as strong as our volunteer base and their commitment. We depend on committed volunteers to make this region thrive.

There is an onboarding process for the volunteer positions that are essential to getting the players on the field. This ensures those volunteers are prepared to support and protect the players and teams. The onboarding process consists of the following:

- Application with background check
- LiveScan fingerprint clearance with AYSO
- **Safe Haven training**
- **Red Cross Sudden Cardiac Arrest training**
- **CDC Concussion Awareness training**
- **SafeSport training**
- Position-specific training for coaches, referees, and board members

The basic compliance-level training items (those indicated in red) will take approximately 4.5-hours to complete. The SafeSport training must be updated annually (approximately a 1-hour update).

After completing all training and background checks, Volunteers are protected from personal liability from most lawsuits. The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 only provides protection from most civil liability when the volunteer has completed the required training. More information is provided in the Safe Haven and SafeSport training

When these tasks have not been completed there is an impact to the team and players. If a coach has not yet completed the requirements, we are unable to release the roster and permit the coach to begin to contact their team.

Some of the impacts of listed below:

- Delay in practice starting
- Delay in uniform ordering/distribution
- Delay in game schedule
- **Over rostering players resulting in less play time per player**
- Adjustment in the structure of the team size
- Adjustment in the structure of the program
- Reschedule of games due to lack of referees able to commit to a game

If you are willing to participate as a volunteer with us, please get started on the application and training process early.

If unable to volunteer, please understand that the volunteers of the region (coach, team parent, referee, board member) are all trying to get the players on the fields so they can enjoy the game of soccer. We appreciate your patience and support as we work together to build a soccer community that supports the needs of our kids.

Youth Volunteers

Our program encourages youth volunteers to participate in the following capacities:

- Referee (age requirement of being in the 12U division and older)
- Youth Coach Helper (age requirement of being in the 12U division or older)
- EPIC Buddy (age requirement of being in the 10U division or older)

Youth volunteers have slightly different requirements, depending on their age and role in regard to LiveScan Fingerprint requirements and SafeSport requirements. A board member can provide further information.

Behavior towards our youth volunteers is essential as they are in very formative years of growing their confidence, abilities, and willingness to contribute to the community program. As such, strict behavioral expectations are expected from our regional families and spectators. A spectator will be asked to leave the field and have a 1-game restriction if they behave inappropriately with any youth volunteer. This includes negative commentary about or directly to the volunteer.

Parents are required to acknowledge this policy during the registration process.