



Sample Handout to Give to Parents -- Optional

Greetings:

Welcome to another fun-filled soccer season for your child and your family. One way to ensure that this is a great year is to make sure everyone understands what AYSO is all about.

AYSO is an organization that is run by volunteers. This includes your child's coaches, referees, team manager, snack coordinator and so on. It is critical that everyone pitch in one way or another in order for it to be a positive, fun, safe, and organized experience for all.

The purpose of the AYSO soccer experience is for the children to have fun, build their self-esteem, exercise, and to build friendships. We all need to keep this in mind at the games. Inappropriate yelling or hurtful words to any coach, referee or child is unacceptable. Let the coaches do the coaching – just cheer for the kids. If parents begin coaching, it gets overwhelming and causes confusion for the players.

Please remember to do the following:

- ◆ Players: Bring your ball and a bottle of water to practices and games.
- ◆ Players: Wear soccer shoes and shin guards to all practices and games.
- ◆ Players: Always go to the bathroom prior to arrival.
- ◆ Parents: Make sure your child has plenty of water to drink prior to event.
- ◆ Parents: Make sure your child does not wear any jewelry or hair clips. The referee will make the players take them off! This is not a good time for your child to get ears pierced. If your child is planning to have one or both ears pierced in the near future, just remember that play-offs can run into the middle of December.
- ◆ Parents: Always arrive 30 or 45 minutes prior to a game so the girls have a chance to warm-up and have a safe game. Some coaches want the players there 30 minutes prior and some want them there earlier than that.

- ◆ Parents: Please notify the team coach or team manager if/when you drop-off and pick-up your child. We want to make sure your child is safe at all times. Especially for the younger ones, please walk your player to the field – don't let them off at the curb at any of our locations.
- ◆ Parents: You must pick up your child **on time** for both practices and games. Per AYSO rules, children who are not picked up after 15 minutes following a game or practice will be turned over to local police. We don't want this to happen, so please be on time!

Important dates:

First game: September 8th- time to be announced

Opening Day Ceremonies: Saturday, September 15th- 8:30, Rose Bowl

Picture Day: Saturday, September 15th, Brookside Park- time to be announced

At the end of the season we will want to have a team party, where the coach will hand out the trophies and we can express our appreciation for the coaches and referees. Details about the party will be forthcoming. I will be taking up a collection for a gift for our coach and assistant coach to be presented at that party.

Donations of outgrown soccer shoes, shin guards, shorts and jerseys can be made at the coaches' tent at anytime during the season. You can give equipment donations to the team manager to be dropped off if you wish.

Please see the parent's handbook for game times and locations. You will be notified of any changes. You can also check the website at www.ayso13.org, which will give you information on all AYSO events/etc.

If you have questions, please feel free to give me call at (###) ###-#### or email me at myname@emailprovider.org

Thank you,

Your name

Team Manager