



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
everyone plays®

Region 77
National Games
Guidelines

Compiled: September 2009
Updated for 2011 Season

Table of Contents

Section 1: Purpose

Section 2: National Games Information

Section 3: Coach Selection Process

Section 4: Team Selection Process

Section 5: Fundraising

Section 6: Expected Participation

Section 7: Sponsorships

Section 8: Financial and Banking Matters

Section 9: Removal of a Player, Coach, or Parent

Section 1

Purpose

The purpose of this document to establish procedures for all teams from Region 77 invited to National Games. While remaining in compliance with national rules and guidelines, Region 77 has decided to develop guidelines to ensure the process if fair, adequate and efficient. The information in this document shall cover most issues and rules pertaining to fielding invited teams to participate in the National Games.

These guidelines were compiled based on information and input from the “National Games Committee”, reviewed and approved by Region 77 regional board.

Section 2

National Games Information

"The National Games shall offer an opportunity to bring together different regions and sections to share in the diverse soccer culture of the AYSO family. This occasion focuses on sportsmanship, team spirit and making new friends through the activities and events that are offered during this weeklong event. The Games should not be interpreted nor represented as any form of an AYSO national championship."

AYSO National Games Handbook

The following information is from the National Games guidelines, pertaining to how invitations to national Games are determined.

”While the Games include competition, the celebration and therefore the Lottery Draw are focused on securing participation from as many different Regions in each Section as have submitted forms and are able to come once invited. Every effort is made to ensure that the maximum number of different Regions from each Section will be invited to participate in the National Games.

Once the Master Lottery Draw is completed, the Region requests result in Tiers:

Tier One: Each Section has a guaranteed slot in each age division in which one of their Regions has entered. If no Region in that Section entered for a slot in the division, there will not be a slot reserved for their Section. The maximum number of Regions invited in each age group U-12 through U-19 is 24. In U-10, each Section will have one slot. The initial invitations will be determined by the Lottery Draw Order and the non-duplication of Regions who are awarded slots. Most Sections will have two Region slots per division, some will have only one determined by random draw of starting Section for that division.

Tier Two: The slots in each age group will be filled from Tier Two as the invitations issued to Tier One are declined or a Tier One Region withdraws for any other reason.

Tier Three: All Regions which request more than one slot in the same age division and all Regions which enter a lottery draw form after the established deadline for the lottery draw are in this Tier. Only after Tier Two has been exhausted for invitations will Tier Three be considered.

The Master Draw order from the Lottery Draw is always referred back to as slots become open, but the draw order is not the only factor. If a Region declines or withdraws, the next Region considered will be from the same section that declined, in the order listed in the Lottery Intent Draw, provided that they do not already have another slot in an age group already drawn. Remember, the Lottery Draw first serves participation by as many different Regions as is possible. Again, a second same Region team will only be accepted in any age group provided all other Regions represented in that Section have been exhausted.”

Regional Commissioners of all Regions that are invited in Tier One will be sent a letter of congratulations together with a timeline of instructions to secure their slot in the Games. Intent to Participate forms and registrations fees must be returned, in order to confirm participation in the AYSO National Games .

Section 3

Coach Selection Process

Coaches must meet the criteria outline in National Games guidelines:

Coach Certification Requirements

The following policy was approved and adopted by the National Board of Directors at their October 2006 meeting in Hawthorne, Calif.:

Effective August 1, 2009, all AYSO coaches and assistant coaches who wish to coach in the AYSO National Games, concurrent secondary play competitions or nationally sanctioned AYSO Tournaments must, at a minimum:

1. Be a registered volunteer in eAYSO for the current year.
2. Have AYSO Safe Haven™ for Coaches certification.
3. Be trained per the National Coaching Program Guidelines at the age/skill level of the team they wish to enter/coach.

Following are the required certifications for each of the age levels:

Division	Minimum Required Certification
U-10	U-10 Coach
U-12	U-12 Coach
U-14	Intermediate Coach
U-16 & U-19	Advanced Coach

Selection of a coach from Region 77 will also use the following procedures:

- Coaches who are currently coaching in the appropriate division of invited teams will be given priority. In the event no coaches in the appropriate divisions are interested invitations will be posted for all other coaches meeting the above criteria.
- Division Directors will begin to notify coaches within invited age groups the day after our September Board meeting to submit their names for consideration.
- Interested coaches will attend a meeting at the end of September, date to be determined by availability of meeting location. This meeting will explain, to all interested coaches, the responsibilities, expectations, and guidelines involved with these teams.
- Coaches will be selected by a voting committee, closed ballot process, at the conclusion of our October board meeting, and notified the following day.

Section 4

Team Selection process

The following information pertains to the selection of players who will participate on teams invited to National Games; this information was extracted from the National Games guidelines:

AYSO National Games Player Eligibility Policy

It is the intent of the organization that AYSO National Games players universally will be individuals that participated in an AYSO primary program of their respective region that started after June 1, 2XXX and ended before June 1, 2XXX. It is further the intent that participants will not join the organization for the express or singular purpose of participating in the National Games and that teams will not be formed with any participants thus joining.

Each Regional Commissioner, Area Director and Section Director is responsible for ensuring that the spirit of this intent is honored. Upon the recommendation of the National Director of Tournaments, the AYSO National Executive Director and AYSO National Board of Directors collectively reserve the right to determine and administer any discipline that they deem appropriate should they find that the participation of any team or player violates this intent. Disciplinary sanctions can include, but are not limited to, removing or rejecting the offending team or player from participation in all or any part of the National Games.

For purposes of this determination the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Actively Participated in" means playing in at least 50% of the Scheduled Games of any complete Primary Program that occurs between the stated eligibility dates.
2. "Scheduled Games" shall mean games that were scheduled for play at the beginning of the season and available for play (excludes games not available for play due to field closures or similar).
3. "Primary program" shall mean that set of scheduled games in a region for which open registration is held, balanced teams are newly formed and all registrants play. It is acknowledged that some regions may have more than one primary program under this definition. For regions conducting a split season, the primary program shall mean both sets of games count toward a player's total participation in the primary program.

Exceptions to the above eligibility definitions are allowed according to the criteria set forth on the "National Games Roster Exception Form". In no case will exceptions be allowed to the extent that said exception violates the above stated intent of the organization relative to player participation in the AYSO National Games.

National Games Team Formation

Team Selection Method

Each Region (or Area if receiving an area slot) shall determine the method it uses for team formation, provided that each team member is eligible following the rules listed below.

Team Roster Numbers and Player Numbers on the Field

- The maximum number of team members allowed in U-19 and U-16 will be eighteen and teams will play 11 v 11
- The maximum number of team members allowed in U-14 will be fifteen and teams will play 11 v 11
- The maximum number of team members allowed in U-12 will be twelve and teams will play 9 v 9
- The maximum number of team members allowed in U-10 will be ten and teams will play 7 v 7

Team Member Eligibility

- All rostered team members must have been registered in and participated as players in an AYSO primary program of their respective Region (Area) that started after June 1, 2XXX, and ended before June 1, 2XXX, absent special circumstances, detailed in AYSO National Policy Statement 2.2.*
- Additionally, all team members must have played in a minimum of one half of their scheduled games for which they were eligible during the primary program, absent special circumstances as defined in AYSO National Policy Statement 2.2.*

Age Divisions

Age divisions for the AYSO National Games are determined by the AYSO National Rules and Regulations. The effective date of age determination shall be the player's age as of July 31 immediately prior to the start of the membership year in which the Games are held. The following age divisions participate in the AYSO National Games (DOB's for 2011 Games):

U-19 girls teams and boys teams Birthdates August 1, 1992 - July 31, 1995

U-16 girls teams and boys teams Birthdates August 1, 1995 - July 31, 1997

U-14 girls teams and boys teams Birthdates August 1, 1997 - July 31, 1999

U-12 girls teams and boys teams Birthdates August 1, 1999 - July 31, 2001

U-10 girls teams and boys teams Birthdates August 1, 2001 - July 31, 2003

Teams with a mixture of boys and girls may only occur in a boys' division slot awarded in the Lottery Draw.

Team Formation Limitations

- Each team should be comprised of players from the Region(s) in the age division selected in the Lottery Draw. All eligible players from the hosting region **MUST** have the first opportunity to participate or, if an area team, only from the Regions stated in the lottery bid.
- Exception 1: If the selected Region is unable to form a team from appropriate age registered players in the primary season, the Region may, with permission from the area director, approach Regional Commissioners from other Regions in their own AYSO area to seek additional eligible

players, which requires each Regional Commissioner involved to sign off on the addendum to the AYSO team roster.

- Exception 2: Extraordinary circumstances might indicate the need to go to a neighboring AYSO area to find a team member. This requires agreement by each of the Regional Commissioners and Area Directors involved as well as permission from the National Director of Tournaments or designee.
- Exception 3: Team members will be allowed to be added to a team roster not in their age division only under the circumstances as described in "Playing up" and "Playing down".

Final Selection Process

Players selected to represent Region 77 in National Games are not required or limited to All-Star potential or selection. The selected coach will have the authority to select players he feels will best meet the requirements of each team. Coaches must submit their final choices by Nov 1. All selections will be reviewed by Region 77 to ensure all players meet the requirements to participate in National Games.

Section 5

Fundraising

The fundraising process may begin once teams are selected and finalized. It has been established fundraising may include but not limited or exclusive of the following:

- Lodging
- Flights/Travel
- Meals
- Entertainment
- Uniforms
- ID's
- Pictures
- Memorabilia, to trade with other teams

Teams will be allowed to fundraise for the following individuals:

- Players
- Head Coach
- Asst. Coach
- Team Parent

Teams will be solely responsible for fundraising to cover all expenses excluding tournament fees, which will be paid by the Region. All funds needed after completing all fundraisers will be paid out of pocket by teams. Teams include but not limited to, Players, Parents, Coaches, and willing board members. Board members may assist with fundraisers but are not required to assist. All money collected during fundraising events will be turned in and accounted for to the Region.

Some suggested fundraisers:

- Percentage of Food Booth Profits
- Cash Calendar
- BBQ
- Car wash
- Poker Night/Silent Auction/ Dinner
- Pancake Breakfast
- Tamales Sales
- Curb Painting
- Bake Sales
- Bunko Night

Fundraising should be a team event and all are expected to assist.

Section 6

Expected Participation

All team members are expected to participate with fundraising events. The following rules will apply to team members regarding fundraising events:

- If team members are not willing to participate in fundraising events this will be cause for removal from consideration for the team.
- Team members must participate in $\frac{3}{4}$ of all fundraising events to qualify to travel with the team.
- Parents and players may be asked to sign a contract explaining the responsibilities and expectations of the team.

Removal of a player, parent or coach from a team may only be accomplished by the decision of a special committee, of disinterested Region 77 board members.

As this is a team event and the emphasis is cohesiveness no individual “upfront” payments will be accepted in lieu of participation in fundraising events.

Section 7

Sponsorships

The region encourages local businesses and individuals to support our programs. Suitable recognition should be given to any supporting businesses. Contributions will be made to the team rather than individuals, if a sponsorship is obtained, All such contributions are considered charitable contributions and are deductible for U.S. tax purposes, subject to the applicable limitation of the Internal Revenue Code and AYSO will not give no opinion on whether a particular donation is or is not deductible.

Section 8

Financial and Banking Matters

It is the responsibility of the team to ensure all money raised is handled and accounted for responsibly. All money fundraised should immediately be turned over to Regional treasurer for accounting purposes. Each team should designate 2 individuals to handle all money and coordinate the transfer of funds with the Regional Treasurer.

The team and Regional Treasurer will reconcile the funds with a receipt book for deposit into the teams account. If more than one team will be participating and conducting fundraisers, each team will be responsible for accounting for their individual teams. The team must ensure they are keeping track of funds turned into the region for deposit.

Teams may elect to collect a portion of funds needed as a registration fee as a sign of "Good Faith". Example would be half the price of Flight ticket. The team may elect to consider this fee non-refundable in the event a player/parent no longer wishes to participate. Exceptions to this may be if a child is injured or unexpectedly has to move from the region.

All costs associated with fundraising are mentioned in Section 5. Any costs, needed to participate in national Games that supersede the amount fundraised, will need to be covered by the team.

Section 9

Removal of a Player, Coach or Parent

A player, coach, or parent may be dismissed from the team for any behavior deemed detrimental to the Region, team or other individuals on the team. As previously mentioned in Section 6 failure to participate in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fundraising events will also be considered for grounds of dismissal.

Dismissal from the team may only be accomplished by the decision of a committee formed of disinterested board member from Region 77. The decision of the committee will be final.