

Acushnet Youth Soccer Association

Rules and By-Laws



Established 1998

Amended March 2022

2023 Fall

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Acushnet Youth Soccer Association

I would like to welcome you to our 2023 Acushnet Youth Soccer Association's Fall season. We have made some changes to these by-laws and would like you to be informed of them. We look forward to another wonderful year.

Thank you,

Christina Paiva

AYSA President

1.0 Introduction

The objective and philosophy of the league is to teach the basics of soccer, a sense of fair play, and the meaning of a team concept through participation, individual and group instruction, to Acushnet residents and surrounding communities. In accordance with this philosophy, some rules and standard practices will be modified from the original FIFA Rules and Regulations and take precedence over all other rules and regulations.

2.0 General Structure

The overall breakdown of the AYSA shall be in accordance with the following bylaws tailored to accommodate the specific needs of each season.

- **2.1 By-Law Rules**
 - If there is ever to be any changes to any of these bylaws, a minimum of five board members must have a majority vote of three over two. The board may decide to have an open discussion with all the coaches. These bylaws take precedence over any other rules and regulations.
- **2.2 Age Requirement**
 - The minimum Age for players is four years old by August 1 (u6 only). A player may play as early as four years old if the player's parent or guardian is willing to volunteer as a head, assistant coach, or team parent.
- **2.3 Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA)**

- All registered players, coaches, officials, board members and committee members In the AYSA program will be affiliated with MYSA on annual renewal basis and covered under the liability insurance. The cost of such affiliation will be paid by AYSA. ONLY affiliated members are allowed on the field at any time.
- **2.4 Non-Profit Status**
 - AYSA is a non-profit association recognized by the U.S. Government. Proof of such is available upon request to the Vice President. In the event the AYSA ceases to exist, all the monies in all AYSA bank accounts to date must be dissolved through donations to other nonprofit organizations.
 - Voting members shall be considered the following:
 - Active coach
 - Active assistant coach
 - Active Team Manager
 - Active Director
 - Parent/Legal Guardian of registered player

3.0 Roster

Each year after registrations have been received, there will be a roster maximum set depending on how many registrations are received and how many players are actively on the roster. Upon registration closure all registrations will be put on a waiting list. All players on the waiting list will be placed on a

team on a first-come first-served basis. The coach may only request the next player from the waiting list after one of the following occur:

1. parent chooses to remove the child from the league.
2. a child is injured and cannot finish the season.
3. child is ejected from the league.

In any event, a player will not be placed on a team until it has been confirmed and authorized by the division director. The coach cannot cut any players currently on a roster. If a parent chooses to remove their child, and place them into the draft, that player must sit one season before returning to play. In the event an injury occurs, the division director must be notified within 48 hours. If a player is injured for part of the season a doctor's note will be needed to return to play. No cast, ace bandage or splints are allowed at any time. A player must be actively on a roster for 50% of the season to be eligible for the end of season tournament.

4.0 Playing Time & Periods

The playing periods shall consist of four, 12-minute quarters for the 6U division four, two 25-minute halves for the 8U division and two 25-minute halves for the 10U division all with a 5-minute halftime and a 2-minute break after each odd quarter. Within 12U division regular season games and competitive tournament championship games will consist of two 30 min halves, with a five min half time. Within 15U division regular season games and competitive tournament championship games will consist of two 35 min halves, with a five min half time.

5.0 Substitutions

All substitutions must be made from midfield, or the centerline, with permission of the referee.

Substitutions may be made at the beginning of the quarter/half or when play is stopped due to a goal kick, goal scored, throw-in, or injury. Throw in subs are only allowed on your own team's possession unless both teams are subbing. On injury subs, only the injured player may be substituted. If and only when the referee calls the coach onto the field, the coach may enter the field to tend to the injured player, and the injured player must exit the field until another substitution opportunity comes about. It is at the referee's discretion to allow a sub for the injured player.

6.0 Uniforms

The AYSA will issue a jersey, shorts, and socks to every registered player and must be worn during games. No alterations are allowed to any league issued uniforms. Goalies must wear a different color jersey or pinnie to distinguish them from their own as well as the opposing team player's colors. Goalie jerseys cannot sway from the image or integrity of the team's sponsor or league. No player will be allowed to play during practice or game without shin guards. Shoes with any kind of metal or metal studs are not allowed.

7.0 Officials

The secretary will schedule all officials for scheduled Instructional game times. Only the Division director may change/alter the schedule. The local official assignor will assign licensed officials for the competitive division. If a game has been canceled the division director must schedule an official. The official has the authority to make any decisions regarding the field, game, players, coaches, and

spectators, before during and after the game and must be followed. In the event a major injury occurs, of which medical personnel is required on the field, the division director must receive a report from the game official within 48 hours.

8.0 Timing

Every game must start on time. In the event referees, coaches, or players are not on the field on time, a 5-minute grace period will go into effect. After the grace period expires, the referee along with the Division Director shall render a decision.

9.0 Protests & Disputes

Referee decisions may not be disputed during the game. The captain on the field may professionally question the referee about a call. All protests or disputes must be forwarded to the vice president within 48 hours of the game in writing. Initial complaints can be made to the division director. They will then forward to the vice president. The board of directors will meet within two weeks and render a decision.

10.0 Suspensions/Ejection

10.1 Suspension

In the event a coach, player or spectator is removed at any time from the fields. The person must leave the field for the day and will not be allowed to stay for the remainder of the game. The person will serve an automatic one game suspension. The suspension will be served the first playable game after they are removed. The Board shall meet and review the situation prior to Coach/coaches return to field of play.

10.2 Ejection

The referee can eject a coach, player, or spectator at any time. The ejected person must leave the field for the day and will serve an automatic one game suspension. The suspension will be served the first game that is played after the ejection. Players will sit on the sidelines, and the coach will be shown a designated area for the game. Coaches may not be on the side or end of the fields or coaching in anyway during the game.

11.0 Altercation

If a player, coach, or spectator leaves or enters the playing field to take part in any altercation, the referee shall eject that person or persons. The Board of Directors shall be called to a meeting prior to the next playable game, at which time a decision shall be rendered.

12.0 Honor system

The honor system is in effect in determining the eligibility of players, good sportsmanship, and fair play. Any coach or board member that breaks this trust will be suspended for the entire season.

13.0 Cooperation

Coaches of all divisions are expected to give full cooperation to the referees. Failure to comply with this rule could result in suspension.

14.0 Benching players

It is up to the discretion of the head coach to bench players, but he/she must notify the division director and the parent prior to doing so.

15.0 Jumping divisions.

Any player may play in the next higher division with board approval prior to being old enough to play in that division if his/her parent or guardian is a head or assistant coach in that division. This does allow a player to play on two teams in different divisions. These are considered grandfathered players. (See 23.1)

16.0 Board of Directors

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Fields Director, Instructional Director, Competitive Director, Sponsor Director, Equipment Director, Referee Director, Concession Director, Travel Coordinator, Indoor Coordinator, and Competitive Referee Assignor

16.1 Top four officials

The top four officials consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Registrar. These four positions hold a 3-year term. Nomination requires the nominated to hold a board position the prior year. If for any reason one of these officials must leave the board, only a current board member may fill their position.

16.2 Board of directors' job descriptions

➤ **President three-year term**

Basic function

The AYSA president serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the league, representing the entire membership in the best interests of the organization.

Specific responsibilities

Presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors and body.

Keeps the Board of Directors informed of the conditions and operations of the league.
Retrieves the mail from the PO Box and passes it through to the correct directors.
Sees that basic policies and programs designed to further AYSA's goals are planned, formulated, and presented to the Board of Directors
Annually reviews AYSA's organizational structure and policies with the Vice President
Appoints all AYSA's committees and tasks forces, receiving approval from the Board of Directors on the formation of new committees and task forces, outlines the purpose and duties of these committees, and monitors their progress Serves as an ex-officio member of AYSA committees, except the election committee.

Specific qualifications

Must have served on the board for the entire previous year prior to becoming eligible to be nominated for President.

➤ **Vice President three-year term**

Basic function

The Vice President assumes the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence and is responsible for developing a strategic plan for the league. The Vice President shall automatically assume the office of president, should the president decided to resign.

Specific responsibilities

Presides at meetings of the AYSA's Board of Directors, and body when the president is absent.
Leads the league's strategic planning.
Assists the President with forming committees and/or sharing said committees.

Forms specific duties as delegated by the President.

Specific qualifications

Must have served on the AYSA Board of Directors for the entire previous year prior to becoming eligible to be nominated for Vice President.

➤ **Treasurer three-year term**

Basic function

The Treasurer shall oversee the league's funds and financial records. As Treasurer, this officer shall cause to be collected all member dues and assessments, shall have established proper accounting procedures for the handling of the league's funds, shall be responsible for the keeping of the funds in banks and/or other depositories, and shall have the power to disburse such funds of the league as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Specific responsibilities

Reviews AYSA's financial status and related matters with the Vice President on a regular basis
Retrieves the mail from the PO Box as needed
Addresses all bills to be paid, and monies due monthly with the AYSA Board of Directors
Collates a treasury report for the body monthly.
Performs specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

Specific qualifications

Must have served on the board for the entire previous year prior to becoming eligible to be nominated for treasurer.

➤ **Registrar three-year term**

Basic function

The registrar shall oversee the leagues' member registrations. As registrar, this officer shall keep and maintain all member registration forms, schedule and notify community of open registrations, and ensure all forms for registration have been filed and are current. Registrar shall be the keeper of records pertaining to injuries and filed with MYSA.

Specific responsibilities

Schedules 2 to 3 open registration dates and sends fliers out to local schools.

Reviews the number of registrations received on a regular basis with the Vice President and Division Directors

With assistance of the Division Directors, places players on teams

Collates a uniform report at the beginning of the season for the Equipment Director

Collates a Registrars report for the Board of Directors monthly.

Performs specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

Specific qualifications

Must have served on the board for the entire previous year prior to becoming eligible to be nominated for Registrar.

➤ **Secretary 2-year term**

Basic function

The Secretary shall oversee the league notes and records. As Secretary, this officer shall keep and maintain monthly meeting minutes, the newsletter for coaches, and notifies the Board of Directors of meetings and or changes to.

Specific responsibilities

Maintains the phone list, as well as places messages on the phone message system to spread the word to the body
Retrieves the mail from the PO Box as needed.

Schedules all monthly meeting times and locations
Schedules all game times and instructional officials
Collates meeting minutes for the Board of Directors approval monthly.

Creates a newsletter for coaches if needed to pass on information.

Form specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Instructional Director 2-year term**

Basic function

The Division Director shall oversee their respective division. As Division Director, this officer shall ensure their division is functioning and without issues.

Specific responsibilities

Obtain coaches, if necessary, Distribute all information to coaches in his/her division
Assist coaches with any questions or issues they may have.

Appear at as many games as possible in his/her division.

Evaluate each coach and assistant in his/her division.
Performs specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Competitive Director 2-year term**

Basic functions

The Division Director shall oversee their respective division. As Division Director, this officer shall ensure their division is functioning and without issues.

Specific responsibilities

Obtain coaches, if necessary, Distribute equipment, uniforms, and all information to coaches in his/her division. Assist coaches with any questions or issues they may have.

Schedules all coaches' clinics and player development training Planning of competitive events such as tryouts, tournaments etc.

Collates a referee's report for the Board of Directors monthly.

Appear at as many games as possible in his/her division.

Evaluate each coach and assistant in his/her division.

Performs specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Fields director 2-year term**

Basic function

The Field's Director shall oversee the league's fields. As Field's Director, this officer shall ensure the league has a place to play.

Specific responsibilities

Forms a committee to assist with all field responsibilities.

Ensures all equipment is in working condition.

Empties trash barrels weekly.

Sets up the concession stand and corner flags on the fields.

Collates a field report for the board of directors monthly.

Perform specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Concession's director 2-year term**

Basic function

The Concessions Director shall oversee the leagues' concession stand. As Concessions Director, this officer shall ensure the league has a functioning concession stand at the field during games. Collates a concessions and injury report for the Board of Directors monthly.

Specific responsibilities

Forms a committee to assist with all concession's responsibilities.

Ensures the stand is stocked with products approved for sale by the Board of Directors

Ensures the concession stand is stocked with medical supplies, ice packs, Band-Aids etc.

Handles any injuries as they may occur and files necessary paperwork with MYSA.

Collates a concessions and injury report for the Board of Directors on a monthly basis.

Perform specific duties as delegated by the Vice President.

➤ **Equipment director 2-year term**

Basic function

The Equipment Director shall oversee the league's equipment. As Equipment director, this officer shall ensure the league has all the equipment necessary to play.

Specific responsibilities

Informs the Board of Directors as to uniform prices and programs to be ordered Orders and distribute uniforms.

Perform specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Sponsor director 2-year term**

Basic function

The Sponsor Director shall oversee the leagues' sponsors. As Sponsor Director, this officer shall ensure the league has sponsors for the teams and the league.

Specific responsibilities

Solicit potential sponsors if needed.

Register and ensure payment.

Performs specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Travel Coordinator 2-year term**

The Travel Coordinator shall oversee the leagues travel program. As travel coordinator, this officer shall make sure the program is functioning.

Specific responsibilities

Obtain coaches, if necessary, Distribute equipment, uniforms, and all information to coaches in the travel program

Assist coaches with any questions or issues they may have.

Evaluate each coach and assistant in the program Is the official delegate to the South Shore Soccer League representing AYSA.

Shall assist the registrar for the travel program

Schedule field availability and game functions

Position to be held by an existing board member.

Not considered a voting position/director

Perform specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

➤ **Indoor Coordinator 2-year term**

The indoor Coordinator shall oversee the leagues indoor program. As indoor coordinator, this officer shall make sure the program is functioning.

Specific responsibilities

Obtain coaches if necessary.

Distribute equipment, uniforms, and all information to coaches in the indoor program.

Assist coaches with any questions or issues they may have.

Evaluate each coach and assistant in the program.

Is the official delegate to the Champions Complex representing AYSA

Shall assist the registrar for the indoor program

Schedule field availability and game functions.

Position to be held by an existing board member.

Not considered a voting position/director

Perform specific duties as delegated by the Vice President

17.0 Playing fields.

All divisions play a scaled down version of an official size pitch. There shall be 6 players on the field for 6U and 7 for 8U & 10U. All these numbers include a goalie. Instructional teams may play shorthanded. 12U 9v9 shall play and 15U shall play 11v11 players. All these numbers include a goalie. Competitive teams must have a minimum of 7 players to start the game. Inadequate players will result in forfeit. Inadequate players will result in a forfeit. Coaches must fill the field to the best of their ability.

18.0 Divisional rules

18.1 Instructional 6U division

- Size 3 ball
- 6v6
- Four 12- Minute quarters

- One official is present one coach from each team may be on the field to provide instruction.
 - During goal kicks, opposing team must remain on half/center line. Once the ball is kicked outside of the goal box and touched by teammate, the ball is in play and opposing team may advance.
 - Once the ball crosses half/center line while in air or on ground, the ball is in play and opposing team may advance.
 - Only the goalie may use their hands in all divisions.
 - No punting by the goalkeeper
 - No slide tackling allowed.
 - No offsides
 - No violation for bad throw-ins
 - No free kicks or penalty kicks
- Instructional divisions to refrain from use of headers effective 3-9-2016 by MYSA rules.

18.2 Instructional 8U division

- Size 3 ball
- 7v7
- 25-minute halves with 5-minute halftime One official are present no coaches on the field at any time Instruction is permitted by the coaching staff from the sidelines only
- Once the ball crosses half/center line while in air or on ground, the ball is in play and opposing team may advance.
- During goal kicks, opposing team must remain on half/center line. Once the ball is kicked outside of the goal box and

touched by teammate, the ball is in play and opposing team may advance.

- Opposing Team must position themselves at the halfway line on opposing goal kicks or throws until team with initial possession makes first contact.
 - Bad throw-ins may be redone once.
 - All major fouls will result in an indirect free kick.
 - There are no direct free kicks
 - From this division up if a player passes the ball back to the goalie the goalie must play the ball with his feet. A violation will result in an indirect free kick
 - No slide tackling allowed
 - No offsides
 - No penalty kicks
 - No punting by the goalkeeper
- Instructional divisions to refrain from use of headers effective 3-9-2016 by MYSA rules

18.3 Instructional 10U division

- Size 4 ball
- 8v8 pending registration
- 5 players on field to start game
- One official is present no coaches on the field at any time
- No slide tackling allowed
- Offsides rule is in effect from this division up
- Bad throw ins may be redone once
- Direct penalty kicks for fouls made in the box

- All other fouls are indirect free kicks
Instructional divisions to refrain from use of headers effective 3-9-2016 by MYSA rules

18.4 Competitive 12U, 15U division

- U12 size 4 ball,
- U15 size 5 ball
- Three licensed officials are present
- No coaches on the field at any time
- Correctly done slide tackles are allowed
- Bad throws will result in a loss of possession
- Direct free kicks and penalty kicks are in full effect
- FIFA Rules and regulations will be followed in addition to these bylaws
- Yellow and red cards are in full effect
U12 divisions to refrain from use of headers effective 3-9-2016 by MYSA rules

19.0 Fouls

The official will call all fouls at the time it occurred. A multiplicity of fouls by the same player may result in an ejection from the game. This is at the discretion of the official. Only the captain on the field may discuss the fouls with the official during the game, not the coach.

20.0 Decisions

During the regular season, if the game ends in a tie, then it will be ruled a tie. During tournament games there are no ties. If a tournament game ends in a tie,

there will be a two 5-minute half sudden death overtime, followed by shots from the penalty mark to decide the winner. At the end of the season if there is a tie for placement the following will be considered in sequential order as follows.

- Head-to-Head
- Goal Against
- Goals Scored
- Goal Differential In the event of forfeit, winning team receives 3 points and a score resulting in 5-0

21.0 Shoot-outs

Goalies in at the end of regular time must remain in net for the shootout. Coaches will choose five shooters from the players on the field at the end of the game, including the goalie. If there is still a tie after 5 shots, each team will continue to shoot until there is a winner. All players on the field must shoot before the coach may use a player from the bench.

22.0 Placement

Placement will be held on a specified day in May and will mark the beginning of the competitive season. All Coaches shall be established by the first Sunday of May prior to tryouts. Players will be given a number for identification. Players will be put through series of drills while coaches scout to fill their roster openings. Siblings will have two numbers, theirs, and their siblings. Siblings count as two picks.

23.0 Draft

The Monday night following the placement there will be a draft. Head coach or assistant must be present to pick their team. If no coach is present the division director will pick the team. Players that did not attend

the will be picked lottery style. The team that placed last the prior year will get first pick and so on. After the draft is closed your roster is set. Traditional style pick will be upheld at draft date (last to first place at every round).

24.0 Goals and field

Any problem with the goals, nets, or field paint, or if they are in disrepair or missing should be reported to the Field's Director and the Division Director as soon as possible.

25.0 Rainouts and cancellations

The Fields director will determine if the game should be called off and call the President in the event there is cancellations. Cancellations to be determined 90 min prior to game time pending change of forecast. If game has been played more than 2/3rds (45 min for Competitive Division) and cancelled due to forecast the game is considered complete.

26.0 Make up games

All Divisional games must be scheduled by the following Saturday. The home team coach should discuss with the away coach a good time to make up the game and then contact the division director. If there is no game scheduled by the following Friday, the game will be played at the original scheduled time on Saturday. If the entire day is canceled all games will be played at the regular scheduled times on the following Saturday.

27.0 Practices

The Division Director will issue a practice schedule to all coaches at the beginning of the season. All practice schedules must be followed to allow

adequate field time for all teams. Competitive practice is picked by last year's placement, champions get first pick, and so on. Instructional is first come first serve.

28.0 Coaches requirements

All coaching applicants must submit an application for desired team. The Board of Directors will choose all coaches. Instructional coaches are required to Safe Sport Certified and pass the Cori prior to season starting. After coaches have been selected, all head coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers will be required to abide by these bylaws to the best of their ability for the integrity of the league.

- **28.1 Grandfathered Players**

When a child is brought on with a head coach or asst. coach, they will be considered grandfathered onto the team and be first picks. Both coaches should coach that child through that division. In the event a Head coach or assistant coach needs to remove their self from team, coach will be picked from the team roster. In the event an asst. coach needs to leave the team, a new asst. coach must be picked from a parent from within the current roster if the prior asst.'s grandfathered player is still on the roster. After the grandfathered player moves on, a new coach with a grandfathered player may be picked. Advancement by choice, sibling is implemented off the top of draft pick.

29.0 Funding

- **29.1 Accepted payment type**

Debit, Credit Cards, Cash, Personal Checks, Bank Checks, Money Orders are accepted as forms of payments.

- **29.1.1 Payment due/past due**

All registration Payments are due by the first official game. If payment is not made before first official game the player is not allowed to play until payment is paid in full.

30.0 Scholarships

A scholarship fund was established by all participating players of AYSA. The Board of Directors will issue scholarships to eligible recipients at a maximum of 4 recipients. The scholarship amount will be \$250 to a maximum of \$1000.

The scholarship requirements:

1. the applicant has participated in the AYSA program for a minimum of 5 years.
 2. All applications must be submitted by July 1st the following:
 - ◆ a copy of their transcript
 - ◆ letter of acceptance to the college they will be attending in the fall
 - ◆ a GPA of 3.0 (high school)
 - ◆ 250-word essay (typed) about your experience with Acushnet Youth Soccer and how it benefited you.
- **30.0.1 Scholarship Fund**

The Sum of One dollar is added to the Scholarship Fund per all Registered Players during all AYSA programs.

31.0 Donations

All donations are to be deposited into the general fund and distributed via board approval.

32.0 Hardships

A request for a hardship must be presented to the board of directors prior to season beginning. All requests shall be reviewed by the board of directors at which time a decision will be rendered based on the circumstances.

33.0 Rules of conduct/ Code of ethics

The referee is the decision-maker on the field, his/her decision is final and is not to be disputed by any spectator or coach from the sidelines. Any person disrupting the game or showing any form of the views towards the referee may be asked to leave the field. If the person refuses to leave, the referee has the authority to stop play until the situation has been resolved. Anyone who is ejected by the referee will be reported to the board of directors.

Fighting and foul language by any player spectator or coach will not be tolerated. We have a zero tolerance for these matters. Anyone in violation will be reported to the board of directors and subject to expulsion.

Spectators and players shall treat their coaches, game officials, spectators, and opponents with respect always regardless of race gender religion or playing ability.

Players shall have a certain level of commitment and attend every practice and game they can.

Parents shall be responsible for themselves and their children when said children are participating in or watching a soccer event.

Parents and spectators shall demand a sports environment free from drugs tobacco and alcohol and they will refrain from their use at all soccer events.

Parents shall ensure their children treat other players, coaches, spectators, and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed, or ability.

Parents shall support a child, team, and program by carrying out their duties such as but not limited to fundraising, stand duty, providing transportation, and being present for support.