

Coach Meeting Information Sheet

Why does AYSO no longer allow goalkeepers in U-8? Is this really soccer?

Soccer games without goalkeepers provide a better experience for 5, 6 and 7-year-olds for several reasons, which is why not only AYSO but also U.S. Soccer, the national governing body of soccer in America, discourages the use of goalkeepers at the U-8 level and below. It's the right way to teach soccer for these young ages.

First of all, the goalkeeper is denied a chance to run around and chase the ball. The player who must guard the goal is being prevented from doing what he or she signed up for - play soccer!

Depending on the game, the young goalkeeper is also likely to get bored (if the action is on the other end) or get discouraged if the ball keeps flying into the goal.

In their early experience with soccer, we want young players to shoot on goal as much as possible, because striking the ball is such an important skill for players to master. Young kids are more likely to shoot often when they're aiming at a goalkeeper-free net. With a goalkeeper there, they become apprehensive, looking for the perfect shot that they are not physically mature enough to pull off.

Nor are the very young kids physically prepared to make saves. They may get in front of a tough shot now and again, but they just don't have the tools for the position's requirements and are inclined to feel devastated when scored upon.

In fact, not using goalkeepers makes the coach's job much easier because the coach doesn't need to cajole players to take turns in goal.

Coaches and parents who have soccer knowledge, but not much experience with coaching young children, are most often the proponents of including goalkeepers in soccer games with even our youngest kids. They mean well, but don't realize that there is a more effective way of teaching soccer skills at this early age.

The use of goalkeepers at such young ages creates a temptation for the coach to make his bigger and more advanced athletes play goalkeeper, because this will greatly increase his team's chances of winning. In other words, the use of goalkeepers encourages the results-driven approach to coaching that hinders long-term player development and can suck the fun out of soccer. The players who are more advanced athletically at the young ages shouldn't be kept from enjoying field play so that the coach can rack up some wins.

In the worst-case scenario, players who are forced to play goalkeeper at the early ages lose their enthusiasm for the soccer.

When goalkeepers are used, at the U-10 level for example, the goalkeepers should be rotated frequently. Even players who enjoy playing goalkeeper should not be restricted to the position and should get plenty of time playing in the field. Players shouldn't specialize at any one position until they are well into their teens.

Throw-Ins

6U and 8U, throw-in is no longer allowed to eliminate concussions and is replaced with the pass-in. Opposing players must be at least two yards from the ball until it is kicked.

Training of throw-in technique may begin at 10U and up.

Procedure for throw in:

- Face the field of play.
- Keep part of each foot either on the line or on the ground outside of the line.
- Hold the ball with both hands.
- Deliver the ball from behind and over the head with both hands.
- Deliver the ball from the point where it left play.

All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards from the point where the throw in is being taken. The player throwing in the ball must not touch the ball again before it is touched by another player.

What if my practice time doesn't work for a family?

As much as we'd like to accommodate everyone's schedule reality is that's impossible. With 800+ kids playing, we cannot accommodate specific request. Remember **YOU** stepped up to coach and our main goal is to ensure we meet your needs. Please let parents know we do not have the manpower to go switching kids around to other teams for schedule conflicts. If they can't make practice they will not be punished for not showing up to practice, as one of our philosophies is EVERYONE PLAYS. We also don't switch players because of another philosophy- BALANCED TEAMS. Players have ratings and our goal is to ensure teams are balanced as best as possible.

I need to change my practice time?

Please contact the Division Coordinator to see if there is room available.

Can parents leave during practices?

Yes, as long as there is one parent of the opposite gender that stays during practice. Please remind parents you are not a babysitter, so they should stick around if possible. Make sure if a parent leaves you have their contact information. I've seen many parents leave to run an errand and "forgot" to pick up the child and coaches are sitting around waiting. As daylight savings time rolls around, practices may need to end earlier so remind your parents to be back at a specific time.

Fields

Please contact Tim if you have any issues with the following:

Combos **(contact Tim @ 650-438-7137 to get combo)**
Locks missing
Field issues
Goals
Porta Potties

Injuries

Safety Director- Maria Garcia

Email- mariagarciasfca@yahoo.com

Please contact our Safety Director ASAP if a child gets injured on the field and needs medical attention as an incident report must be filed. Also inform the Division Coordinator and Regional Commissioner.

Field Lining

Each team will be required to line fields, which is usually if you are the first home game of the day. Please line the day the day before as it takes time for the paint to dry. Remember to delegate and have parents help with these task. Please take the empty cans home with you, and do not put them back in the shed.

Field Set-Up/take down

Each team will also be required to set-up and take down. The first home game of the day will be responsible in setting up goals, nets (8u-above) and flags. The last games of the day will both be responsible for take down nets and flags and locking up the goals. Please have your parents help as your main focus the morning of the game should be warming the players up.

Dogs

Absolutely NO dogs allowed on any field. You'd be amazed how many parents can't follow this simple rule. We need you as coaches to kindly ask them to take the dog off the field.

Referees

8U and above needs referees for games. Please get as many parents to attend the upcoming trainings. Coaches need to focus on the players and game, so you should not have to worry about referring at the same time. For those who have an assistant, they will come in handy, otherwise I encourage each team to find a ref coordinator. If each team took half of the field to ref, it makes it easy.

Trash

Please make sure your team cleans up after the game. We recommend carrying a trash bag as there are no garbage cans onsite. Remember these fields belong to the school district, so let's keep them clean for our kids.

Jewelry

Please make sure each player has removed their jewelry before the start of each game (and practice). Please also check to make sure they have no metal clips in their hair.

Parking

Please tell your parents to park in appropriate spots. The biggest issues are **1)** on Lerida Dr- Parents parking either in the red or in the cross walk and **2)** parents blocking the main gate at IBL.

What are Team Pages?

Every team created in Blue Sombrero is automatically generated a Team Page. Coaches and volunteers associated with this team have full control to upload pictures, assign tasks, create team events and message team member on these pages. Parents can also access these pages to start discussions and upload photos of their own.

Will there be a phone app? If so, what is it called?

Team Sports HQ is Blue Sombrero's free mobile app focused on players and parents. The app gives parents one convenient place to view their players' schedules, find directions to fields, communicate with one another and share game photos. The app is available for Android and IOS.

