



**ARROWHEAD
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

**FALL LEAGUE
COACH
INFORMATION**

WHAT'S IN THIS PRESENTATION?

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AYSA OVERVIEW

AYSA staff work on “Big Picture” information:

- ▶ Create league schedules
- ▶ Assign/train referees
- ▶ Host free coach clinics, run camps and programming

Club Coordinators work on the details:

- ▶ Recruit coaches
- ▶ Set fees/host registration
- ▶ Provide equipment and uniforms
- ▶ Create team rosters

If you have a question regarding your schedule, contact AYSA. If you have a team roster/uniform question, contact your club coordinator.

2024 Numbers

This year we have close to 4,000 players registered to play in Fall League.

- ▶ U6 = 35 Teams
- ▶ U8 = 81 Teams
- ▶ U10 = 76 Teams
- ▶ U12 = 64 Teams
- ▶ U14 = 35 Teams

Clubs include Chester Park, Cloquet, Congdon Park, Duluth Heights/Hillside, Esko, Grand Rapids Area, Hermantown, Hibbing Chisholm, Lakes (Pike Lake/South Ridge), Lakeside/Lester Park, Lakewood, Piedmont/Lincoln Park, Proctor, Stella Maris, Superior, Two Harbors, West Duluth, and Woodland.

When communicating with AYSA, please be specific with your club, team age/gender, and your name.

(EX: I'm John Doe, coach of the Congdon U12 Boys #5 Team...)

All coaches are required by Minnesota Youth Soccer Association to complete three main requirements before stepping on the field with their team:

- ▶ Concussion Training (every three years)
- ▶ Child Abuse Prevention Training (every calendar year)
- ▶ MYSA Background Check (every calendar year)

If you coached in spring/summer 2024, you do not have to re-complete your requirements.

Coaches under 18 are not required to complete these trainings (optional) but, there must also be an approved adult with them for all games and practices.

AYSA “Register as a Coach” page has live links to all requirements with step-by-step instructions:

<https://arrowheadsoccer.com/coaches/register-as-a-coach/>

PRESEASON COACH REQUIREMENTS

PRESEASON MEETING WITH PARENTS

It is great to start the season with open communication with your team parents. In an email or in person before/after the first practice, we recommend doing the following things:

- ▶ *Introduce yourself and your experience level with soccer.*
- ▶ *Set expectations for the season (arriving 30 minutes before a game, being positive on the sidelines for games, everyone brings their own ball to practice, etc.).*
- ▶ *Share your goal(s) for the season (focus on the fun and excitement of the sport and less on how many games you want to win).*
- ▶ *Invite parents to help! It may be with team communication (sending emails when games are cancelled) or as an assistant coach (if you don't already have one).*

Some teams may use one of the many apps for team communication. Decide at the beginning of the season and ask for help to set it up if that's something you want to use.

GAME SCHEDULES

	U6	U8	U10	U12	U14
Number of Games	8	8	10	9	9
Game Nights	Mon/Wed	Tue/Thu	Mon/Wed	Tue/Thu	Mon/Wed
Referees	No	No	Yes - 1	Yes - 3	Yes - 3
Playoffs	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

- ▶ In areas with limited field space, there may be games scheduled on the Sundays for teams. We did the best we could to spread out those games across all teams in each club that are impacted by field restrictions.
- ▶ If there is a game that does not work for the coach or team (school event, vacation, etc.), follow the reschedule process provided in your packets.
- ▶ U12/U14 teams can opt-in to playoffs at the end of the season for an additional guaranteed two games.
- ▶ U6/U8 games are officiated by the coaches. Use your rules summary for more information.

RESCHEDULES/WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

- ▶ If your team is unavailable for one of your game nights (school event, vacation, etc.) you are welcome to contact AYSA and your opponent to cancel the game and begin a reschedule.
- ▶ Games may also be cancelled due to weather/poor field conditions. Coaches are responsible for working with their opponent to find a date for a reschedule.
- ▶ Please follow the direction on the Game Cancellation/Reschedule Procedures document on the website: <https://arrowheadsoccer.com/coaches/resources/>
- ▶ Please try and cancel games at least 2 days before the schedule game date. This gives AYSA a chance to cancel referees for games (U10-U14).
- ▶ Please allow 4 days for the referee coordinator to assign a referee to a rescheduled game (don't plan to play a make-up game the day after it was cancelled due to weather).

RULE SUMMARIES/COACH RESOURCES

- ▶ Every coach packet has a rule summary document with many details specific to your team's age group.
- ▶ All rule summaries are posted on the website:
<https://arrowheadsoccer.com/coaches/resources/>
- ▶ New Rule for 2024 - "Build Out Lines - U10 Only". This is not a new rule to U10 but it is a new rule to Fall League this year. We have a 5-page document explaining the rule (with photos) on our resource page.
- ▶ If you are new and looking for additional support/want to learn more, we have a free coach training on Wednesday, July 24th at Arlington Soccer Fields. Sign up online:
<https://arrowheadsoccer.com/coaches/clinics-trainings/>
- ▶ If you want additional support, you can contact the AYSA office.
- ▶ Remember, these kids don't need to learn everything about soccer in this one soccer season. Focus on 1-2 things at practice and games and make sure fun is the focus!
- ▶ Additional coach resources can be found here:
<https://arrowheadsoccer.com/coaches/resources/>

REFEREES (U10-U14)

- ▶ Referees in this program are generally brand new or inexperienced. They need both support and time to develop into better referees. The support can come from you as a coach or parent. Help by encouraging them and accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes.
- ▶ Do not yell at or address referees directly during the games. Let them focus on their job. If you have a rule question, you can discuss with the referee calmly and patiently at halftime or after the game.
- ▶ If you have a complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report your opinion to the AYSA Executive Director after the game.
- ▶ If you feel a game is unsafe for your players due to the actions of a referee or the opposing team, you may pull your team off the field, effectively ending the game. Please report this action and reasoning to the AYSA Executive Director.

PLAYOFFS (U12-U14)

- ▶ Teams must opt-in to playoffs by September 6. You do not have to take part in playoffs. Playoffs are an optional, end-of-season opportunity to play an extra two games (possibly four).
- ▶ Participating teams will be divided into 2 or 3 divisions (Gold, Silver, Bronze) depending on the number of teams participating. All teams will all get a minimum of two games.
- ▶ Playoffs Dates:
 - ▶ U12 First Round - September 19-22
 - ▶ U12 Final Fours/Championships - September 28-29
 - ▶ U14 First Round - September 26-29
 - ▶ U14 Final Fours/Championships - October 5-6
- ▶ **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR TEAM IS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH WEEKENDS FOR YOUR AGE GROUP!** Even if your team isn't one of the top teams in their bracket, teams may make it to the second weekend/Final Fours. Please only opt-in to playoffs after determining you will have enough players for both weekends of play.
- ▶ An email will be sent to coaches at the end of August with opt-in/opt-out reminders and deadlines to turn in your record sheets. Information is on the coach resource page of the website.

ROLE MODELING AND RESPECT

- ▶ REMINDER - PLAYERS AND FANS ARE WATCHING YOU!
- ▶ Your example is powerful, for better or worse.
- ▶ Focus on fair play, player's enjoyment of the game, and being respectful to all involved.
- ▶ Have fun! It's not the World Cup and these players are not being recruited. Relax and know that the majority of players just want to have fun with their friends.
- ▶ Follow the AYSA Coaches Code of Conduct before, during, and after practices and games.
- ▶ If you are overly concerned about the results, or criticize the referees harshly and/or loudly, people will notice.
- ▶ Coaches that do not follow the expectations in the Coaches Code of Conduct will be disciplined or removed. If a coach is asked to leave a game by a referee due to behavior, they will serve an automatic one game suspension, following a review by the AYSA Executive Director.

**HAVE A SAFE AND
FUN SEASON!
THANK YOU FOR
COACHING!**

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