

Region 144 Referee Guide

Fall 2011

Welcome to Region 144 - South Irvine soccer refereeing!! AYSO depends on volunteers such as you for coaching, organizing, refereeing, and all the other effort that is needed to put on the season's games. We thank you for your time and effort.

The information in this section was prepared to answer many of your questions. From "How do I become a referee?", to providing assistance in finding other more technical and important information to improve your understanding of the game of soccer from the referee's perspective. Many of us started just like you, with little to no knowledge at all of how to be a referee. Don't feel overwhelmed, it is simple enough and it provides great satisfaction!

As a referee it will be your job to officiate the game impartially, in accordance with the Laws of the Game and AYSO guidelines. You must know the rules and keep up to date on rule changes. You will make judgment calls based on your perspective of play and knowledge of the Laws of the Game. You must control the game and the sidelines to maintain the positive, encouraging aspect that is part of the AYSO philosophy. You, the coaches, the parents, and the players all must work together to best accomplish the AYSO goals.

The most important principle is SAFETY. Be sure to quickly stop play if you observe dangerous play or if injuries occur.

Refereeing is a great activity: You help provide a good game for the kids, get some exercise, learn more about the game, and view the game from the best seat in the house!

Enjoy the soccer season. If you have questions please contact me and I will try to address it as best and as quickly as possible.

See you on the fields,

Eduardo Mier y Terán

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Useful Links

[Ask the Ref Site – www.asktheref.com](http://www.asktheref.com)

[Area Q Misconduct Form](#)

[Law 11 - Offside: Interfering With Play & Opponent](#)

[Fouls and Misconducts - Clarifications](#)

[2007 Revisions to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[2007 U10 Guidelines](#)

[2007 Regional Referee Course](#)

[2008 Cautionable and Send-Off Offenses](#)

Referee Certification

Becoming a Certified Referee in AYSO is simple; however, it does require several steps. Certification itself requires only the attendance and passing of an 8 hour basic referee course and a one hour online course for Safe Haven training. The following paragraphs explain in detail the process to become a certified, registered referee in Region 144 – South Irvine.

Registering as a Referee - Overview

Once you are certified as a Referee (or about to be certified as a Referee), it is also important to be registered as a volunteer to ensure insurance protection and also to ensure administration of AYSO's safety programs such as Kid Zone. **AYSO insurance only covers its volunteers if they have current eAYSO registration and safe haven certification.**

You will have to register annually as a volunteer with the National AYSO office. Use the link to eAYSO registration on our home page and follow the directions given below. This will activate insurance protection for you and the National Safety programs. Another important aspect of the eAYSO registration is that if you ever move and want to continue volunteering in AYSO, you will not have to request documents or certificates from Region 144 Referee Administrator to qualify you - a mere search of the eAYSO database will show your credentials.

You will also have to register separately with Region 144 – South Irvine using the directions given below. This will put you in the Region 144 referee database and enable you to pull games in South Irvine, receive our emails, and participate in all Region 144 and Area Q referee activities including upgrade programs.

Registration as a referee requires several steps. These steps are listed here and described below in detail.

- Registering with eAYSO
- Taking and passing the Safe Haven Course
- Registering with Region 144 – South Irvine
- Taking the Regional Referee Training Course
- Receiving your Referee Uniform and Gear
- Signing up to officiate games in Region 144
- Signing up to officiate games in Area Q
- Region 144 Referee Point System

Registering with eAYSO

- 1) Follow the link to eAYSO (www.eayso.org) from our homepage and register as an AYSO volunteer.
- 2) After completing online registration (all fields – 5 minutes), please print out 2 copies of your form, sign the two copies and turn them into Region 144 Child Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) or Regional Referee Administrator (RRA), with a copy of your Driver's License or other official identification at the address given below.

AYSO Region 144
5405 Alton Parkway, Suite # 5-A
Box # 476
Irvine, CA 92604

- 3) The eAYSO system will generate your AYSO ID number. Please store this number. You will need it for future reference, including registering for future training classes.
- 4) Each year you need to “update/modify” your information (even if you have no changes) at eAYSO.org, in order to reactive your registration for the current year. Please DO NOT just print out last year's registration. You need to do an update/modify to refresh the AYSO computer system and renew your registration into what is called a pre-registration for the new year. Then mail your printed form to the above address.
- 5) Youth volunteers below 14 years of age cannot register online with eAYSO. Please go to: http://www.ayso.org/libraries/resources/volunteer_application_form_youth_en.pdf, (or http://www.ayso.org/libraries/resources/volunteer_application_form_youth_sp.pdf - in Spanish) print three (3) copies of the Youth Volunteer form, fill them, sign them, and mail them to the above address.

The Youth Volunteer forms are also in the Links page at www.aysoirvine.org.

Taking the Safe Haven Course

Please allow approximately 5 to 7 days after you submit a hardcopy of your completed and signed eAYSO registration form to the address indicated above to access and take the online Safe Haven course. This time is necessary for AYSO to conduct a safety check of AYSO adult volunteers (e.g. referees and coaches) for protection of the children in the program.

With your eAYSO ID number, you may then take the mandatory online Safe Haven course. This course offers guidelines for working with children and youth, and provides registered volunteers with protection according to the Good Samaritan statutes from civil liability to any person who in good faith offers aid and assistance according with their training, and also immunity from certain types of prosecution for volunteers according to the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

Please go to Safe Haven link on our home page and complete the training course. This will take you approximately 60 minutes.

Registering with Region 144 – South Irvine

- 1) Please go to www.aysoirvine.org, click on the “Client login” icon at the bottom right corner of the page.
- 2) Click on New AYSO 144 Registration in the page that comes up. This will bring up a new page, where you should choose Referee/Umpire Registration and click on Next.
- 3) Then please follow the instructions and key in all required information to complete registration. (10-15 minutes). This process will get you into our system.
- 4) Use a unique email address that you will use for signing up to games as referee. If you have another account (parent, other volunteer, coach, etc.), you must use a unique combination of name and email address for each account. If your son/daughter is also a referee, they will need their own unique email address.
- 5) Send an email message to Region 144 RRA (rra@aysoirvine.org) to inform of your new registration. Indicate your name, last name, and the email address you will be using for referee issues.

Taking the Regional Referee Training Course

- 1) Look into Region 144 webpage (www.aysoirvine.org) and/or in Area Q webpage (www.ayso11q.org/referee) for scheduled Regional Referee Training Courses convenient for you. You may attend any Regional Referee Training Course offered by Area Q. Training is free in Region 144. In addition, Region 144 will directly pay (or reimburse you) for training courses taken in other Regions.
- 2) Regional (Basic) Referee Training consists of an 8 hour course, usually offered in either one day on the weekend or in two evening sessions during the week.
- 3) You must pass the written test given at the end of the Regional Referee Training Course to complete the course.

Calendar of classes in South Irvine: Please check our Calendar on the Home page and/or the training link on the Referee page.

Calendar of classes in our neighboring Regions: <http://www.ayso11q.org/referee/>

Receiving your Referee Uniform and Gear

Region 144 provides the referee uniform (i.e., shirt, short, socks) and referee gear (i.e., referee badge, whistle, yellow/red card with pouch, referee flags, and book with Laws of the Game) to all volunteers who complete their eAYSO registration, Region 144 registration, and pass the Safe Haven course and the Regional Referee Training course.

Please coordinate with the RRA (rra@aysoirvine.org) to receive the referee uniform and referee gear.

Please note that you will need black (or mostly black) shoes, a wrist watch or wrist stopwatch, and a pen or pencil as part of your uniform (not provided by Region 144). The shoes should preferably have cleats with which you can run comfortably and prevents you from slipping or falling on the soccer fields, even when wet. It is also a good idea to get a bag to hold it all. Please drink plenty of liquids to keep you hydrated, and use sunscreen as necessary. Caps are discouraged but not prohibited; if you will use them please wear a black cap. Sunglasses should not be worn by referees during the games.

Signing up to officiate games in Region 144

Once you complete your registration in eAYSO and Region 144; and you pass the Safe Haven and Regional Referee Training courses, the RRA will include you in the Region 144 Referee Scheduling database. Please coordinate with the RRA (rra@aysoirvine.org) providing your name, last name, and the same email address used when registering in Region 144.

The Region 144 Referee Scheduling system allows you to view all the games within Region 144, and to select the age division, location, date and time of the games you want to officiate. In addition it allows you to indicate if you want to be a referee or assistant referee for a particular game.

This system is hosted by Schedules Etc. It is very common that different databases are used for various ages and leagues. As a result, you may need to logon into different sites. The links to each of these leagues will be posted on our website.

Click on First Time User and follow the instructions. From then onwards, you can log in and pull games using the account you create.

You are now ready and authorized to pull games and officiate soccer games in Region 144 and most important enjoy your games as a referee !!!

Signing up to officiate games in Area Q

The RRA, at his/her discretion, will also include you in the Area Q Referee Scheduling System (which is different from the Region 144 Scheduling system). The Area Q Referee Scheduling System includes the upper age divisions (i.e., U19, U16, and sometimes U14) and the Flex Extra program (i.e., inter-region games). To be included in the Area Q Referee Scheduling system you must demonstrate adequate proficiency (i.e., knowledge and skills) to officiate higher level soccer games, and preferably (but not necessarily) hold an Intermediate or higher Referee badge. Please coordinate with the RRA (rra@aysoirvine.org) providing your name, last name, and email address used when registering in Region 144.

The Area Q Referee Scheduling system allows you to view all the games within Area Q, and to select the age division, location, date and time of the games you want to officiate. In addition it allows you to indicate if you want to be a referee or assistant referee for a particular game.

To access the Area Q Referee Scheduling system, please go to:
<http://www.schedulesetc.com/referee/index.asp?id=Area11Q09F>

Click on First Time User and follow the instructions. From then onwards, you can log in and pull games using the account you create.

You are now ready and authorized to pull games and officiate soccer games in Area Q and most important enjoy your games as a referee !!!

Region 144 Referee Point System

After including you in the Region 144 Referee Scheduling system, the RRA will also include you in the Region 144 Referee Point System. The Region 144 Referee Point System is applicable only during the Fall Recreational season. The Region 144 Referee Point System is designed to promote referee coverage for the games, and assigns points to each team based on the participation of team referees in officiating games. These points can only be earned by qualified team referees. Each team is required to obtain a minimum number of points to advance to the play-off phase. Ask your child's coach how you can help the team obtain the necessary Referee Points. Details of the Referee Point System will be posted on the referee page on the website.

Region 144 Rules for IDs

All players and Coaches must have laminated ID cards, and the team must have a roster signed by the Regional Commissioner. The referee must check-in the players against the ID cards. No card, no play. The team must have at least one coach present with an ID card, and the signed team roster in order to play. Otherwise, the game is forfeited. The referee must report any suspicious cards or players to the Regional Referee Administrator in an incident report immediately after the game.

Region 144 Rules for Younger Players

Please follow the [younger division advice for referees](#) link for caution/ejection (yellow/red cards) in younger divisions (U10 and below) as well as slide tackling issues.

Throw-in rules should be enforced with some leniency for the first two weeks for U10 teams and all of the season for U8 teams, at the referee's discretion. Please remember that as a referee, you have your teaching moments, and at the same time, you need to let the flow of the game continue, unless someone is getting an obvious advantage from the situation. Please try to provide some instruction when bad throw-ins occur. However, don't waste too much playing time allowing retakes of throw-ins.

Offside rules are not enforced for U8 games, except for cases of "cherry-picking" where an attacker is far ahead of the second to the last defender. In other words, ignore the close calls, but pull up the players for obvious cherry picking and go talk to the coach and have him explain to the players what not to do.

Special Rules for AYSO Flex Extra, U16, and U19 Games

Please follow Region 144's ID card rules. Report any no-shows to the Regional Referee Administrator the same day as the scheduled game (Sanctions will be imposed for no-shows). Report any EJECTIONS and CAUTIONS by email to the RRA the SAME DAY. This is important because AREA staff need time to review these and take action before the next game, which may be later the same day.

Procedure for Issuing and Reporting Red Cards and Ejections

Red or yellow cards should never be shown to a U10 or younger player.

A card may only be shown to a player or substitute. A coach or spectator may not be shown a card. The proper procedure is first to verbally tell the offending coach that he/she or the spectator is being "cautioned" (use that word). If the offending behavior continues, tell the coach that he/she or the spectator is being "ejected" from the game. If this occurs, the person must leave the area so as to have no contact with the coach or team for the remainder of the game. The referee should not re-start the game until this occurs.

A player or substitute may be shown a red or yellow card in accordance with Law 12. An ejected player may stay on the sideline of the game so long as he/she causes no disruption of the game.

EJECTION: Whenever a red card is issued, or a coach or spectator is ejected, the center referee must report the incident to the RRA. A brief phone or email report should be made ASAP after the match, followed by a written report within 24 hours. The report may be sent by email and must include the following information:

- The referee's name, the date, the field, the time, the age level of the game, and the coaches names.
- The names and phone numbers of the assistant referees for the game, and any possible witnesses.
- The precise misconduct which resulted in the ejection.
- All relevant facts leading up to the incident.
- All relevant facts following the incident, e.g. the conduct of the ejected party.

Once the report is filed, the RRA will investigate the incident. The referee should assume that the report will be reviewed by the Regional Commissioner, the Divisional Commissioner, and the coaches involved. Additional sanctions may be imposed as a result of this investigation.

If you send off a player or dismiss a coach do NOT retain the ID card.

AYSO Region 144 Zero Tolerance Youth Referee Abuse Policy

Purpose of the Policy

Youth development is the central focus of the AYSO program. This includes development of youth whether they are soccer players or soccer referees. All the AYSO guidelines and policies on providing a "Safe, Fair and Fun" environment for players also apply to youth referees. Only "Positive, Instructive, and Encouraging" comments are allowed to be directed at youth players or youth referees. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of youth referees is as unacceptable as verbal abuse or negative criticism of youth players and to adopt basic standard sanctions for improper conduct.

This policy is not intended to imply that youth referees are always "right" and the adult spectator or coach is always "wrong". Just as youth players will make mistakes during play, youth referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how

to referee. In addition, sometimes youth referees are "in over their head" because of a particularly challenging game, an assignment beyond their experience or comfort level, etc.

This policy is not meant to imply that criticism/abuse of adult referees is permitted. However, in this case the adult referee is expected to handle such behavior at the field and report such incidents to the Regional Referee Administrator or other Board Member for appropriate action.

Policy on Youth Referee Abuse

It is never acceptable to abuse or criticize youth referees, verbally or otherwise, in any situation. Region 144 will not tolerate any verbal or other abuse, or criticism of a youth referee by any coach or spectator.

A coach or spectator may only communicate in a positive way with a youth referee. The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with his/her team follow these guidelines relating to communication with a youth referee. A coach/ spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the officiating to the youth referee. A coach/spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a youth referee their critique of the referee's performance, other than to thank and compliment the referee.

Any Board Member or AYSO-certified adult referee present at the game shall, if necessary, intervene if any coach, spectator, or other adult is criticizing or abusing a youth referee, verbally or otherwise and may take immediate appropriate action. This may include directing the offender to leave the site, and/or suspending or terminating the game.

Any AYSO-certified volunteer (i.e., any coach, Board Member, other referees, Division Commissioner, etc.) observing behavior not following these guidelines shall report the incident to the Regional Referee Administrator or other Board member within 24 hours of the incident so that appropriate review can take place.

There are appropriate avenues for coaches or spectators to share concerns about the quality of officiating. The region Referee Staff welcomes constructive comments about referees. However, any criticism or critique of a youth referee's performance may only be communicated to the youth by a designated Referee Mentor or the Regional Referee Administrator.

Disciplinary Sanctions for Youth Referee Abuse

Any Board member, upon receipt of any reported abuse of a youth referee shall report the incident to the Disciplinary Committee, which shall consist of the appropriate Divisional Commissioner, the Boys' or Girls' Director, as appropriate, the Regional Commissioner, and the Regional Referee Administrator, who shall implement appropriate discipline, before the next game if possible.

Type of Abuse	Recommended Sanction
Criticism or verbal abuse of a youth referee (not including offensive, insulting, or foul language)- first offense.	Game suspension.
Serious verbal abuse of a youth referee (e.g. using offensive, insulting, or foul language), or repeated offence of less serious	Game suspension - Possible additional sanctions and/or remedial actions.

abuse.

Coming onto the field to confront the youth referee, or threatening the youth referee (by word or action).

Game suspension - Disciplinary Committee hearing to consider additional sanctions and/or remedial actions and, if required, by a letter of apology to the youth referee, any specified form of appropriate apology to the players, coaches and parents of the teams affected by the conduct.

Immediate and sincere remorse on the part of the offender may be taken into account when determining whether a lesser level of sanction should be applied.

Egregious offenses (e.g. repeated or multiple abusive situation, physical contact with a youth referee, or exceptionally inappropriate misbehavior directed toward a youth referee) shall result in immediate and continuing suspension of the offending person pending a thorough review.

The Disciplinary Committee will determine if further or more serious discipline is warranted.

An egregious offense violates the fundamental mission of AYSO and requires strong action. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension for the season, suspension for multiple seasons, "rehabilitation" (e.g. taking the child/volunteer protection training, taking referee training, referee a set number of games, or other remedial education and training), or expulsion of the person and/or their child from further participation in AYSO.

A suspended person may not, during their suspension, attend any South Irvine AYSO soccer game. The suspended person may attend practices unless notified of additional restrictions by the Disciplinary Committee. Note: The term "may not attend" means the person may not be in view of the game.

The Regional Board of Directors shall be notified of all suspensions at its next regular meeting and shall, subject to any further action of the Disciplinary Committee and any right of appeal, enforce the disciplinary action.

These sanctions apply only to the discipline of spectators and coaches. Sanctions necessary for any players on one of the teams involved that exhibit inappropriate behavior will be dealt with using the Cautions or Ejection procedures for that particular age group.

These sanctions do not limit, prevent, or replace any voluntary or required report or referral of improper conduct, by any adult toward any child, to any law enforcement or child protection agency.

Recent Law Changes

For an up-to-date, complete review of all law changes, go to www.soccer.org under "AYSO Members" and "Referees".

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any rules that are different in younger age groups?

There are no rules that are different in younger age groups. However, there are guidelines. Please see guidelines for referees in U-10 and U-8 divisions at <http://aysoirvine.org/pageCustom.aspx?id=96>

Are there any rules in South Irvine that are different from other regions?

South Irvine (R-144) does not have any rules that are different from other regions, except one. We insist that every player MUST play at least THREE quarters, while National policy is TWO quarters. If a coach plays a player less than three quarters, and the player is not sick or injured, you need to mention that to the coach as it might be an oversight. If s/he refuses to comply, please do not force him/her, as that is not the referee's job. Simply report the incident to rra@aysoirvine.org with the team name, game time and venue, coach's name, and player's name and number.

Do I need referee cards filled out and returned to at the end of the game? If so, where do I get those from?

Every coach should have a team roster card at the start of a game for the referee to check in the team. Please insist on a team roster from the coaches – preferably in numeric order of the kids' jersey numbers. The referee needs to fill out game cards for running the game, keeping scores etc. Only time you need to report anything is if there is any issues on the field, e.g., you had to stop the game due to any reason (e.g., unsafe field, lightning, broken goalpost, parents going nuts, etc), a child got seriously injured (i.e., meaning not the usual bumps and scratches – someone had to be carried off the field for medical attention), you had to throw a coach or spectator out for misbehavior, or any other abnormal incidents. Please fill in a misconduct report and email to rra@aysoirvine.org.

How long is each quarter?

The concept of quarter is misunderstood by most people – we do not have scheduled quarters. We have 20 minute halves for U8, 25 min halves for U10, 30 min halves for U12 and 35 min halves for U14, with a break for substitution approximately halfway through each half of the game at a natural stoppage and absolutely at the referee's discretion. You watch your clock for the half time and full time and blow your whistle when the time runs out. For the quarter break, you wait for the ball to go out and then stop for the break if it's approximately in the middle of the half. For example, in U8, it could be 9 mins, 11 mins, 10 min 30 secs or even more than 12 mins – does not matter.

Can I just be an assistant ref for my first couple of weeks so as to gain experience and let the coach continue to be center ref, as he knows the game and has been doing this for longer than me?

If you are the only certified and uniformed referee on the field, you are the only one qualified to center the game, not the coaches. Coaches need to be on the sideline for U8 and above. Also – you should pull games from our website. If you need help, a senior referee can come and help in the first game as an observer/AR and mentor you. Please send email to rra@aysoirvine.org if you wish to schedule a mentor in your early games.