

American Youth Soccer Organization

Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Registration for Fall 2007/Spring 2008 Important Information for Parents & Players

About Our AYSO Organization

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a nationwide nonprofit organization that offers quality youth soccer programs in a fun, safe, family environment, *relying on parent volunteers to deliver these programs*. We operate pursuant to *5 Fundamental Philosophies*:

- **Open Registration:** We use sign-ups not tryouts, open to all children between the ages of 4 and 16.
- **Balanced Teams:** We organize teams to be balanced and do not focus on winning, nor keep standings.
- **Everyone Plays:** Children receive equal playing time regardless of skill, minimum of half each game.
- **Positive Coaching:** We build soccer skills and self-esteem through encouragement and teaching.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** We promote positive behavior on field and off, teaching lessons for life.

About Our Programs

Our Region 324 of AYSO includes the tri-village communities of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Hastings-on-Hudson, supporting over 1200 players. Here are key aspects of our programs:

- **School Year Schedule:** Our programs follow the school year and comprise eight weekends of Saturday practices and Sunday games in the Fall (Sep–Nov) and eight weekends in the Spring (Apr–Jun). Exceptions are our programs for the youngest players, aged 4-5, as those programs meet only one day (Sat or Sun, depending on field availability). We expect a commitment to both Fall and Spring sessions.
- **Divisions by Age/Gender:** We divide our age groups into separate divisions for girls and boys teams, except our oldest players (aged 14-16) -- and sometimes our youngest (aged 4-5) -- who play co-ed.
- **Volunteers – We need YOU!:** AYSO Region 324 is an all-volunteer organization with over 1200 players. We currently are approaching a crisis level where there are not enough volunteers to run our program adequately. IF we do not receive sufficient commitments from volunteers at Registration - for SPECIFIC positions, we reserve the right to limit participation and provide a full refund for age groups without enough volunteers to accommodate all who register (with preference given to those who do volunteer). SPECIFIC positions that must be filled are: [visit the volunteer table to sign up]

Board members (monthly meetings with assigned responsibilities)

Coaches / Assistant coaches / Referees for each team

Field strippers and field maintenance volunteers

Some Additional Things to Remember

- See our Region 324 website for news and information: www.ayso324.org (and join the email list)
- We will give a full refund until June 30th. Thereafter, refunds will be given only for medical reasons
- We do not accommodate player requests to be placed on specific teams—please see our website for exceptions for religious studies
- We expect players to avoid participating in other activities with conflicting schedules – generally this would preclude participation in other weekend soccer programs
- Players may not wear jewelry including earrings, so consider the timing of piercing ears
- Per School & Village property rules, please do not bring dogs to practices/games
- ***We expect proper parental behavior in support of our program—see reverse for Parent Pledge!***

Kids Zone Parent Pledge

1. I pledge to be on time or early when dropping off my child for a practice or game. I understand that it is embarrassing for my child to be late to a game or practice and that I am putting him/her at physical risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I understand the importance of picking up my child on time for all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, who has other time commitments, and it tells my child that he or she is my top priority.
2. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids, and that I will encourage my child to have fun and keep sport in its proper perspective. I understand that athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive.
3. I will redefine what it is to be a “Winner” in my conversations with my child. A Winner is someone who makes maximum effort, continues to learn and improve, and does not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, stop them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self.
4. I will “Honor the Game.” I understand the importance of setting a good example of sportsmanship to my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and referees. I understand that officials, coaches, and players make mistakes. If the referee makes a “questionable” call, I will continue to respect the individual and be silent!
5. I understand that games can be exciting times for my child who is trying to deal with the fast-paced action of the game, respond to opponents, referees, teammates and listen to coaches. I will not add confusion by yelling out instructions. During the game, I will limit my comments to encouraging my child and other players for both teams.
6. I will not make negative comments about the game, coaches, referees or teammates in my child’s presence. I understand that this plants a seed, which can negatively influence my child’s motivation and overall experience.

I agree to honor the AYSO Parent Pledge in my words and actions.