

**AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION  
AREA GUIDELINES FOR INTERREGIONAL GAMES  
SECTION 4, AREA U**

**I. Definitions**

1. "Interregional Play" means two or more regions playing together within Area 4U of the American Youth Soccer Association.
2. "Hosting" means the Region in which the interregional game is played.
3. "Area Conduct Committee" shall be composed of the Area director and the two Regional Commissioners representing the regions whose teams are involved in the dispute or appeal.
4. "Area Hearing Board" shall be composed of the Area Director, the Area Coach Administrator, Area Referee Administrator and all participating Regional Commissioners except those who served on the Area Conduct Committee, which heard the original protest of the interregional game, in question.

**II. Jurisdiction of Games and Disputes**

1. The Regional Commissioners will have jurisdiction over interregional games played within their respective home regions. Disputes are to be handled within seventy-two (72) hours by the Regional Commissioners of the regions involved. If they cannot reach a mutual agreement, the Area Director will decide the questions within forty-eight (48) hours of the notification that the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement of the Regional Commissioners involved.
2. Each Regional Commissioner is responsible for insuring the eligibility of players from his or her region by providing proof of registration (upon request). ~~and AYSO player cards for all teams participating in U-16 / U-19 play.~~
3. Players may file a written grievance directly with the Regional Commissioner in the event the player did not play at least one-half (½) of the interregional game, unless it appears that the reason for such lack of playing time was due to the player not arriving until after the start of the second quarter of the interregional game or due to the disciplinary action in the form of a caution or ejection by a referee.

**III Coaches for Interregional Games**

It shall be the sole responsibility of each region participating in interregional play to encourage all coaches to be age specifically trained. Exceptions will be allowed for new coaches and for existing coaches actively working towards meeting their required level of training. The following time lines shall be recommended for the completion of outstanding training for new and existing coaches. *It shall be left to the discretion of the area 4U staff to determine if a specific coach / team will be eligible to participate in interregional play if the volunteer coach is not actively seeking his / her required training as set forth via our national rules and regulations.*

U-10. U-10 Certified Coach - Allowing 6 months time for completion from the beginning of this years fall season.

U-12. U-12 Certified Coach - Allowing 6 months time for completion from the beginning of this years fall season.

U-14. U-14 Certified Coach - Allowing 12 months time for completion from the beginning of this years fall season.

U-16/19. Advanced or National Certified Coach - Allowing 12 months time for completion from the beginning of this years fall season.

#### **IV. Referees for Interregional Games**

1. Referees shall be assigned by the region in which the interregional games are played unless otherwise agreed upon by both the Regional Commissioners involved.

2. All interregional games played by U-12 or older teams shall be officiated using the three-person system. However, the center referee may use club assistant referees.

3. Referees shall be of the highest caliber possible. At least one of the officials on the field for such interregional games played by U-12 should be an intermediate referee, U-14 – advanced referee, and U-19 – national referee.

4. Referees have the obligation to file a formal written *or electronic* report through the Regional Referee Administrator to the hosting Regional Commissioner and Area Referee Administrator of the offenses resulting in red cards issued during an interregional game within 24 hours of incident or completion of game. ***An online reporting tool has been established through the area 4U website (www.uso4u.org).***

***5. Referees have the obligation to file a formal written or electronic report through the Regional Referee Administrator to the hosting Regional Commissioner and Area Referee Administrator of the offenses resulting in game suspensions. An online reporting tool has been established through the area 4U website (www.uso4u.org).***

#### **V. Ejection During Interregional Games**

1. Player, coach, and spectator send-offs must be documented by the game referee and submitted in writing by such referee through the local Regional Referee Administrator to the local Regional Commissioner and Area Referee Administrator within 24 hours of incident or completion of game.

2. The hosting Regional Commissioner must notify the respective Regional Commissioner and Area Director of any players or coaches ejected for red card violations during an interregional game played in his or her local region.

3. Any player or coach sent off from a game for a red card violation shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled AYSO regular season or tournament game, whichever comes first. Incidents involving the conduct of coaches will be reviewed by the “Area Conduct Committee” to determine if further action may be needed.

4. If any such suspension occurs during the last game played by that team during any session or season, such suspension shall be carried over to the next session or season or necessary until such suspension is served.

5. Appeal from the send off must be submitted in writing to the Area Director within forty-eight (48) hours by the appealing Regional Commissioner and be brought before the Area Conduct Committee within forty-eight (48) hours after the receipt of such appeal by the Area Director.

6. Players, coaches, and spectators should not be involved in more than one sendoff during a season. If a player, coach, or spectator is sent off the field of play more than once during a year of play (Fall and Spring), that person's conduct shall be reviewed by the Area Hearing Board. The Area Hearing Board shall conduct an inquiry into that person's conduct and allow that person to present his or her version of the events involved. The Area Hearing Board shall then consider and adopt appropriate remedial action, which may include suspension or removal of the player, coach or spectator.

## **VI. Interregional Games**

1. Interregional games shall be played as scheduled unless a valid reason for a late appearance or non-appearance is given to the Area Coach Administrator or Area Director. Only the game referee assigned to an interregional game or the hosting Regional Commissioner shall have the authority to cancel a scheduled game due to weather or field conditions at the time of play.

2. A grace period of ten (10) minutes from scheduled kickoff time will be allowed by the game referee before declaring the game to be forfeited. When any games in progress are running ten (10) or more minutes behind schedule, no grace period shall apply.

3. Interregional games postponed due to inclement weather will be made up the second Sunday following the postponed Saturday with a four and one-half (4 ½) hour delay from the original starting time or such interregional games may otherwise be made up at any time agreed upon by the coaches involved and the local Regional Commissioner. However, all Interregional games canceled must be made up prior to two (2) weeks after the end of the session.

4. The AYSO National Rules and Regulations will establish the game ball size and weight. A referee's acceptance of the game ball is final and shall not be the subject of protest or appeal.

5. Free substitution will be permitted in U-19 or in combined U-16 / 19 interregional games only, provided that each player is assured of playing a minimum of ½ of a standard game. Free substitution will not be allowed in any combined division which includes U-14, U-12, U-10, U-8, U-6, and U-5 teams. Substitution in U-16 /19 games will be permitted as stated below:

### Unlimited substitutions

1. Between periods
2. On a goal kick (sub at half-way line prior to ball leaving field)
3. When a goal is scored
4. When an injured player or players is attended to on the field
5. When a player is cautioned
6. When a player is disqualified
7. Throw-in by team taking throw-in or both if both team's players are there. (sub at half-way line prior to ball leaving field)

8. Corner kick by team taking the corner kick or both if both team's players are there. (sub at half-way line prior to ball leaving field)

EXCEPTION: During a PK situation, the only substitution permitted is for player who has been injured. A substitution entering at this time shall not take the PK.

## **VII. Protests in Interregional Games**

1. Protests involving technicalities on rule interpretations must be submitted in writing within forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the interregional game in question by the coach involved. Such protests are to be submitted to the Area Director through the Regional Commissioner of the team filing the protest.

2. Referee or assistant referee judgment calls are not grounds for a protest of an interregional game.

3. The protest will be heard by the Area Conduct Committee, which will render a decision within forty-eight (48) hours of notification of the protest by the coach to the Regional Commissioner.

4. Appeals from the rulings on decisions of the Area Conduct Committee on protested interregional games shall be brought to the Area Hearing Board. Such appeals must be made in writing and submitted to the Area Director within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision or rulings of the Area Conduct Committee upon that protest. The Area Hearing Board will render a decision within seventy-two (72) hours of notification of the appeal of the protest by the protesting coach to the Area Director.

## **VIII Conduct of Players, Coaches, and Spectators During Interregional Games.**

1. Coaches shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of AYSO.

2. The coaches shall encourage good sportsmanship and clean competition.

3. Coaches will be familiar with the philosophies, rules and regulations of the AYSO as well as with these Area Guidelines for Interregional Games.

4. Coaches shall not make negative or derogatory comments or criticisms of the referees and assistant referees during, before or after a game. Coaches are also expected to prevent such behavior from spectators and players. Play may be suspended by the game referee, as necessary, to obtain compliance.

5. Coaches will be responsible for controlling the conduct and sideline behavior of the players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators at the interregional games. A game referee may suspend or terminate the game to obtain compliance. Referees are encouraged to suspend the game for a brief period of time to allow a spectator engaging in inappropriate behavior to leave before the game will resume.

6. ***Each player shall have equal playing time. No player will be allowed to sub out twice until each player present subs once. Only exceptions will be for the benefit of the player in question.***

7. In U-12 and younger teams, a player may not play in goal more that two (2) quarters in any game.

8. Each team will be responsible for policing their sidelines for trash and other debris after their interregional game.

## **IX. Injuries and Property Damage**

1. Any injury to or damage caused by an AYSO participant shall be reported to such participant's Regional Commissioner and/or such participant's Safety Director by the coach.

## **X. Field of Play for Interregional Games**

1. Each local or host Region will be responsible for preparing the field for play of an interregional game, and the local or host Regional Commissioner, Regional Referee Administrator, or assigned game referee shall determine whether or not the field is playable in adverse weather conditions.

2. The local or home region shall supply the goal nets. The home team in an interregional game shall supply a game ball approved by the game referee.

## **XI. Team Rosters, Line-Up Cards, and Uniform Colors**

1. Prior to the start of the season, each Regional Commissioner shall supply the Area Director with a team roster for any team from that region participating in interregional games. Copies will be given to all of the Regional Commissioners and are open for inspection.

2. Additions or deletions to previously supplied interregional team rosters must be reported to the Area director prior to the next interregional game played by the interregional team with such addition or deletion in its roster.

3. A minimum of seven (7) roster players shall constitute a team to play an interregional game and no more than eleven (11) roster players (including the goalkeeper ) may take the field at one time for each team in all divisions except in short sided games.

4. If a team has more than the minimum number of players required to play an interregional game, but less than the normal maximum number allowed to play in the field for that division, both teams will play with the same number of players on the field. The only exception to this rule permits a team to play with one (1) more player on the field than its opponent (1-up) if:

A. It is necessary to do so in order to meet the requirement that all players play one-half (½) of the game, and...

B. By doing so the team playing 1-up does not have more than the maximum number of players on the field for a team in their division. Coaches are encouraged to share players in order to play all players.

5. In U-19 Boys during the Fall session and in U-19 Girls in the Spring session, the interregional games shall be played with no more than six (6) players (5 field 1 keeper) on the field for each team at one time, and there shall be no minimum number of players needed to

begin a game. Games shall have thirty (30) minute halves. In divisions where small sided games will be played, the maximum number of players on the field for each team will be determined by each Regional Commissioner involved prior to the season; and there shall be no minimum players needed to play.

6. The home team at an interregional game will change jerseys to another color at the request of the game referee where the opposing team's uniform colors are the same or similar to that worn by the home team.

7. Headgear or other clothing covering the head may not be worn in interregional games; however, a stocking cap may be worn by a player in cold weather or for health reasons.

8. A properly completed line-up card (~~and a complete set of current [approved] ID cards for U-16/19 teams~~) shall be presented to the referee prior to the start of any interregional game by the coach for that team, and such line-up card upon the conclusion or suspension of the game shall be forwarded to the local Regional Commissioner. Upon request the line-up cards for any or all interregional games previously played shall be forwarded to the Area Director.

## **XII. Applicability of the AYSO National Rules and Regulations**

Anything not covered by the above and foregoing amendment to the standard Area Guidelines for Interregional Games shall otherwise be under the AYSO National Rules and Regulations. Any further matters not covered by either the Area guidelines or the AYSO Rules and Regulations will be decided upon by the Area Director of Area 4U. If the Area Director cannot reach an agreement upon such matter, the Section Director will decide the question.

WITNESS, the adoption of the Area Guidelines for Interregional Games for Section 4, Area U,  
by

Original signed by Robert E. Winters

Robert Winters  
Area Director  
Section 4, Area U