

Spring Soccer Season Guidelines

AYSO Region 177



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Versioning

Version #	Who Updated	Date	Reason
0.1	James C. Lang	1/19/09	First Draft to review with Board
0.2	James C. Lang	1/22/09	Board Edits included and updated
0.3	James C. Lang	1/30/09	Added Feedback from coaches
0.4	James C. Lang	4/30/09	End of Spring 2009 Updates



Overview

Welcome to Spring Soccer. This document is an outline of how the Spring Soccer program is executed within Region 177. These guidelines are intended to provide clarity in understanding for the following areas:

- When should I start thinking about Spring Soccer?
- Who helps create the program?
- Who can play?
- Who can coach?
- What is a Competitive and Recreational team?
- How can an All Star team convert to a Spring Competitive team?
- Spring Draft, Building a team and other Administrative tasks

Region 177 offers players the opportunity to play spring soccer via the Spring Select program. Spring programs are available for U10 and older. The Region appoints a Spring Coordinator to oversee the Spring program and interested participants (coaches or players) should contact the Spring Coordinator who will ensure that the names of interested players are passed on to approved coaches.

The AYSO Fall program has a clear objective of open registration, with the aim of providing balanced teams. By contrast Spring Select is generally a more competitive format and teams are often, but not always, selected with this in mind. As a result, player's participation depends on selection by approved coaches. Once selected for a team, the core AYSO philosophy of Everyone Plays applies, and all players must play at least half a game.

Since there are a significantly smaller number of spring teams, the most popular format for spring soccer involves participation in a league with teams from other Regions within AYSO Area K, and perhaps even other AYSO Areas. As a result, games will probably involve travel to other areas of Southern California.

When should I start thinking about Spring Soccer?

Spring Soccer starts at different times for different people. The following high level schedule outlines major milestones:

- Spring Soccer Announcement (Web, Division Coordinator communication, other communications) – Mid November
- Spring Coordinator volunteer selected – early December
- Coach intention forms submitted – mid January
- Spring Soccer player registration closed – mid January
- Board approval of coach and assistant coaches – January Board Meeting

Spring Soccer Season Guideline



- Spring Coaches Meeting – end of January
- First Practice – Mid February
- Season – March thru May
- Area K Tournament – Mid May
- End of Season – Mid May (But covers all activities for remainder of the year)

The following is a list of active participants in the process and what their role is with the program:

Role	What they do	When
Soccer Player	Register to play Spring Soccer (Email to the Region Registrar)	Complete by mid January
Fall Division Coordinator	Speak with Fall Coaches and solicit interest to coach in Spring Soccer	Ongoing, but started around week 8 of the Fall Season
Coach	Submit a request to coach a Spring Team, build/draft and coach their team	Complete by mid January
Spring Coordinator	Enroll coaches, ensure players register and coordinate the creation of teams and the season	Begin early December
Registrar	Work with Fall Division Coordinators and Spring Coordinator to enroll coaches, solicit players and create the season	Begin early December
Regional Commissioner	Provide oversight and guidance to the process	Begin early December

Greater detail around these roles and how they impact the process is outlined below

Season Participants

Players

Only players that participated in the previous fall season are eligible to register for the spring program. The only exception to this guideline is if a division is short players to make a team and the addition of a player that did not play in the fall season allowed the team to be whole. The addition of this player to the registrar's list is subject to the Registrar and the Spring Coordinator's approval.

Players play in the division they participated in the previous fall season regardless of their current age at time of playing in the spring season. If appropriate, the player will move up to the next division in the following fall season.



Players from other regions can join our Spring Program with an approval from both regions' Regional Commissioner's. In that case, the player would need to pay a registration fee to play in our region on top of any other fees (Similar to a player that had played in our region, but did not play in the previous fall season).

Coaches and Assistant Coaches

Only coaches and assistant coaches that participated in the previous fall season are eligible to register for the spring program. The only exception to this guideline is if the division is short coaches and the addition of a coach will allow a team to play that would normally not. The addition of this coach is subject to the approval of the Spring Coordinator and the Regional Commissioner. The new coach will need to complete a volunteer form, print two copies for submission and notify the spring coordinator once completed at www.eayso.org.

Assistant Coaches may be preselected by a coach. This person's child will count against that team's "Hold" (See below). A coach may choose an assistant from the players selected during the draft as well.

All coaches and assistant coaches must submit a "Spring Season Coach Application" and email it to the Division Coordinator. All applications are reviewed and approved by the AYSO Region 177 Board of Directors under their charter and guidelines.



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All coaches must complete the appropriate level of Coach Training and be Safe Haven certified. The Spring Program Coordinator will validate this on www.eayso.org and notify the coach of any discrepancies.

Referees

Each team must provide a Referee for their home game. It is recommended that each coach either recruit a Referee from a team parent or work with the Referee Administrator to coordinate home game Referees. The Spring Program Coordinator will assist when possible, but this is not their responsibility.

Families

Families play an integral part in the season. Each family is responsible for emailing their intention to play to the registrar. Each family will be contacted once selected (or prior if All Star – See Below) and asked to commit to play for a particular team and team type (Competitive or Recreational). Families will be asked to pay Registration Fees for the season and ensure that their child participates in practice and games.



Team Types

Spring Soccer has two team types:

- Competitive
- Recreational

Competitive Teams

Spring Soccer is an opportunity for play at a heightened level. Teams will play against teams from other Regions which constitute the “Best of the Best”. As such, the Competitive team is made up of players that participated in the previous All Star season (Both Gold and Silver). In most cases, there will only be one competitive team per division, but in rare circumstances due to the number of All Star players that convert to spring and the number of talented non All Stars that have registered, two teams could be supported. Final approval on the number of Competitive teams and who will coach that team is made by the Spring Coordinator and the Regional Commissioner. Information about converting an All Star team to Spring Competitive is provided further below.

All Star coaches have priority to coach Competitive teams over other applicants. If no All Star coach steps forward to take the Competitive team, then the door is open to all applicants.

Recreational Teams

Recreational teams constitute the bulk of the teams that play during Spring Soccer. These teams play internally within the division and against other Recreational teams in other regions. There are generally no All Star players on this team, though up to three can be selected and still meet AYSO Spring Guidelines.

Converting an All Star Team

An All Star team can be converted either in whole or partially to a Spring Competitive team. If a coach is interested in doing this, the following criteria must be met:

- The Coach, Assistant Coach, or an interested parent who previously coached in the fall season may declare the intention to convert a team to spring (Assumes agreement with all parties referenced).
- The request to convert must be submitted, along with their Spring Season Coach Application, to the Spring Coordinator and Registrar by mid January.
- Each family needs to be asked if they intend to convert to Spring Soccer by the coach. Additionally, each family then needs to submit an email to the Registrar prior to the mid January cut off in order to play.
- The coach must submit a list of players that intend to convert and remain on the competitive team within 1 week of the mid January cut off. This is to allow for proper communication and coordination with other coaches in each



division as well as planning for the coaches meeting (See more on this below).

- The following scenarios will be considered regarding a converted team:
 - Partial converted all star team – If there are not enough players to completely fill one competitive team, then the first option will be to fill the remainder of the team with players from “the other” all star team (i.e. U10G: 7 Gold team players and 3 silver team players = 10). The all star coaches will need to coordinate this effort to determine which players would be the best fit for the team. If there are no additional all star players to fill the team out, then the balance of the team will be filled from the recreational team players during the draft.
 - Too many all star players for one team – If there are too many players for one competitive team, then two teams will be considered. Both teams will be pre-populated with players from the Gold and Silver teams as agreed to by each coach. The remaining players will be filled out from the top seated Recreational team players prior to the official team draft. This is to ensure that the teams are in fact competitive. Review and approval of the addition of a second team must be completed by the Spring Coordinator, Registrar and the Regional Commissioner.
- The Spring Coordinator will email all coaches that the specific All Star team is converting for their division and share which players will be on that team prior to the official draft process.

Cost

The following costs are incurred by each family and will vary per year:

- \$10 Region fee (To Support Fields) – 2010 will increase to \$15
- Uniforms (Variable depending on the coach and the supplier)
- Registration (Only if the player did not play in the Fall Season)

The total cost per family will be determined each year and assessed. It is the coaches responsibility to collect the fees for their team and submit it to the Spring Coordinator by the agreed to time. Checks are to be made payable to the coach if the exact amount is not known.

Spring Draft, Building a team and other Administrative tasks

Team Creation Preparation

After the mid January cut off is reached, the Spring Coordinator will complete the following:



1. Finalize the Spring Coaches list, complete the Area K form and submit this to the Regional Commissioner for submission.
2. Solidify any All Star team conversion activities, email to all coaches the All Star team players and coach information
3. Submit for board approval the complete list of coaches
4. Receive from all Recreational coaches their 3 “Holds” for their team.
5. Schedule a Coaches Meeting to provide season update information and “draft” remaining teams.

Note, an All Star team that converted to a Spring Competitive team will not participate in the draft unless they are filling out a team due to a lack of All Star players.

Spring Coaches List

The following form must be completed by the Spring Coordinator and submitted to the Regional Commissioner once all coaches are approved:



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Recreational Coach “Holds”

Each recreational coach is able to submit 3 “Holds” for their team. A hold is a player/family that the coach wants for their team and would not be subject to the draft. This should include an Assistant Coach if one is selected. Each coach must confirm that the player in question is not on a Competitive team and then speak with each family and receive their commitment to play. This helps to remove any confusion or conflict.

The list of three must be emailed to the Spring Coordinator prior to the coaches meeting for review. These holds are subject to the Spring Coordinator review and potential removal if the player/family is already selected for a Competitive team.

Coaches Meeting

The purpose of the coaches meeting is to complete the season draft and share season information. The meeting must occur the last week of January after registration has been completed and coaches have been approved.

The “draft” process will occur in the following way:

- Each division’s coaches will meet together and will be provided a list of available players and their Fall Season ratings
- Each coach will have a draft starting number, which is a composite of their three hold player’s ratings.
- The lowest rated coach will start the draft first and pass to the next lowest, etc. until their teams are filled. Each round will be recalibrated and will determine the “lowest” coach to start first.



- A round of “trade” will occur after that for up to 3 trades each coach to make sure that everyone feels good about the team, that families are accounted for (i.e. twins, brothers, sisters, etc.) and to ensure that there is balance amongst the teams
- The coaches will then complete a team roster sheet with their team, sign it and provide it to the Division Coordinator or Registrar at the meeting.
- Coaches will then contact their families (See Below)
- Players not selected will receive an email from the Registrar thanking them for their interest.

Season information is defined as information pertaining to the season like schedule, uniforms, fees, etc. (What ever is appropriate).

The Field Practice schedule will be provided at this meeting to allow coaches to schedule their field preference and time. The times provided on this sheet are the only allowable options as this creates the most opportunity and allows for the best usage of daylight. If you have a “special” need/case (i.e. I was an All Star team that practiced at this time all season) then this will be considered, but you may not get the field you prefer to accommodate the schedule. Deviation from the schedule is allowable with the Spring Coordinator’s approval and the approval of the other coaches that use that field during the revised time. Fields not listed on the schedule are **NOT** allowable and using such fields could be a contributor to loosing accessibility for the following Fall program.

What next?

The following activities will occur next:

1. Coaches will have a team meeting and schedule their first practice
2. The Spring Coordinator will begin communicating weekly “Coordinator Updates” as appropriate information comes in and needs to be shared.
3. Roster’s will be finalized (2 weeks prior to season start) and submitted to the Regional Commissioner for approval and signature. Name Badges will be printed and provided to each coach to complete.
4. Schedules are accessible from the Area K website under “Spring” from the left hand menu. They are usually posted two to three weeks prior to the beginning of the season: <http://www.ayso11k.org/home/home.shtml>
5. Once the season has begun, you must post your scores on the Schedule’s Etc. site for the Area K program (located at the above link). The guidelines for this are posted on that site, but generally are:
 - a. You are the winning team
 - b. You are the home team and you tied the game

The Spring Program Coordinator will provide the password at the beginning of each season.

6. Rescheduling Games – In the event the schedule for your games conflicts with some major event, you **MUST** follow the rescheduling guidelines posted at the



- Area K Schedule's Etc. site. These follow the Area K guidelines for rescheduling and failure to do so could result in a forfeit.
7. Set up and Take Down field responsibility – Not unlike the fall season, home teams need to setup and take down the fields. The first home team and the last home team at each field must do this. In some events, this may be the same team. The Spring Program Coordinator will email each team a list of the entire season and who has what responsibility. A weekly update email will be sent out to remind each team.
 8. Tournaments – The Spring program officially ends around mid May. In the event that a coach wants to participate in a tournament (Other than the Area K Tournament), they are welcome to do this and may take their Spring Team. Some tournaments allow the opportunity to “create” a team. This is due to the more competitive nature of these tournaments. This is allowable under exception and must have approval from the Spring Program Coordinator and the Regional Commissioner. The interested coach must offer the opportunity to their entire Spring team by email with a written response. In the event some families do not want to participate, the coach can work with the Spring Program Coordinator to select additional players to back fill the slots from other teams not participating.
 9. Season Completion – The Spring Program Coordinator will complete the season with the following tasks:
 - a. Validate with the Treasurer that all costs and fees have been collected and closed out
 - b. Solicit feedback from the coaches and board on how the program went
 - c. Make any necessary updates to the Spring Program Guidelines and submit to the board for review and approval.