Q & A

Here are some questions parents ask us on a regular basis. If you have a question that isn't answered here, you can send an e-mail to admin@moorparkayso.org and we'll respond to you shortly.

What do the registration fees cover?
Registration fees cover a portion of the costs to run our program (field charges, equipment). The fee also includes a uniform that the player keeps at the end of the season, a basic photo package and supplemental accident insurance for AYSO-sponsored activities. You must provide your child with shoes, shin guards and a ball.

When is the soccer season?
Our first match is scheduled for August 27, 2011. All teams will play 10 matches this season (barring weather or other issues beyond our control).

My child's coach hasn't contacted me. When will practices begin?
The AYSO season officially begins on August 1. Coaches cannot begin practicing until that date. Your coach might be on vacation, so don't be alarmed if you aren't contacted on August 1. If you haven gotten a call by August 10, you can follow up with the Division Director responsible for your child's age group (you can find your Division Director's e-mail address on our Board of Directors page). If you registered late and your child was placed on a waiting list, we will contact you if your child is assigned to a team.

When will matches be played?
All matches will be played on Saturdays at Arroyo Vista Community Park. U-12 and U-14 teams may play against other teams from neighboring Regions and could have 1-2 out-of-town matches during the season.

When do practices start? How many times a week will my child practice?
Practice will begin after August 1. We leave it to the coach's discretion to determine how often a team practices. Generally, you can expect to practice twice a week. Teams in U-6 and U-8 (our non-competitive divisions) may only practice once a week. It is up to the coach to schedule the location, time and duration of each practice.

Can I request that my child be placed on a team with a friend or a specific coach?
No. One of the main principals of AYSO is "Balanced Teams". Teams are formed and balanced based on ratings from last season. The only players specifically placed on a team are the coach's children. Our experience is that once a child meets the players on his or her team and begins to interact with them, they form lasting friendships. So do the parents.

What equipment does my child need?
Players must be in their team's uniform in order to play in games. Shin guards are <u>REQUIRED</u> for all practices and games. Plenty of water is a must for all practices and games. Most players do wear soccer cleats, but they are not required. Only cleats designed for soccer are permitted. Football and baseball shoes have an additional toe cleat that makes it difficult to control a ball and that also poses a safety hazard for other players. All

jewelry, INCLUDING PIERCED EARRINGS, must be removed for practices and games. Ball sizes: U6 and U8 – size 3; U10 and U12 – size 4; U14, U16 and U19 – size 5.

How long will my child's game run?
U6 – 40 minutes; U7 – 40 minutes; U8 – 40 minutes; U10 – 50 minutes; U12 – 60 minutes; U14 – 70 minutes; U16 and U19 – 90 minutes. All matches are divided into two halves with a brief halftime (not to exceed 5 minutes) to rest and rehydrate. Players are substituted on and off approximately halfway through each half (quarters).

How many players are on the field during a game?
Our Region has adopted short-sided play for the primary reason that it gives each player the opportunity to touch the ball more often in a game. Players that touch the ball more usually improve their skills at a faster rate. U6 teams play with 4 on the fields, U8 6 on the field, U10 – 7 players on the field, U12 – 9 players and U14 – 11 players. Goalkeepers are not used in U-6.

My child isn't a very strong player? How much playing time should we expect?
AYSO mandates that every player participate in at least one half of every match. Our Region has taken that a step further and requires that each player participate in at least three quarters of every match. The main reason we play is to have fun, and it's no fun if you're always the one sitting out half of every game. Please contact your division director if your child is not playing three quarters of every game.

Why does our team have to provide a referee?
All of us involved in AYSO are unpaid volunteers, including our referees. Referees are a key part of soccer, especially in our competitive divisions (U10 and higher). You can play without a net, but you can't play without referees. Simple enough.

In my child's last match, I questioned a referee's call. He didn't change the call and told me I had to be quiet or I'd have to leave the field. What's up with that?
It is a tradition in American sports that we yell and scream at officials about the quality of their officiating and the state of their eyesight. That is not the case in soccer, and in fact, is not tolerated in AYSO. Please familiarize yourself with the "Laws of the Game". You will notice that many of those laws include the phrase "in the opinion of the referee". Referees are human and may make a mistake or render a decision you don't agree with. However, they are in charge of the match and when they make a decision on the pitch, it is final. Yelling at the ref is unproductive, could actually take your team out of the game, and you could end up being sent off for dissent. Once a call is made, the match continues. If you do have a question about a call, you may politely ask the referee after the match ends or you may ask a member of our referee staff.

Can my child play in your Region if we don't live in Moorpark?
AYSO prides itself on "Open Registration". This means that children from any neighborhood are welcome to join Region 363.