

SVYSA 2008 Coach and Referee Guide



**Sonoma Valley Youth Soccer
Association
Founded 1977**

**Sonoma Valley Youth Soccer
Association
2008 Board of Directors**

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Referee Scheduler: Alison Johnston

**Sonoma Valley Youth Soccer Association
(SVYSA)
Post Office Box 1992
Sonoma CA 95476
www.sonomasoccer.org**

Dear Coaches and Referees,

This guide has been put together to assist you for the 2008 season. It contains a quick reference to all the most frequently asked questions and a few rules of the game. I encourage you to keep one with you at all soccer activities and also give one to some of your team parents.

Our 2008 season kicks off on Saturday August 23; this is also our Picture Day weekend so it should be busy!

We have two big changes this season. First we have joined US Club Soccer. This, combined with our continuing affiliation with CYSA, gives any of our teams that want to play more soccer the opportunity to play all year round.

The second change is that our competitive Division 3 program has gone Age-Pure. This means that we now have teams at every age from U10 through U16 and U19.

The Sonoma Chief of Police has asked us to warn families against illegal parking, double-parking, speeding, etc. in the Davila Court neighborhood and the Denmark Street gate area. We ask you to please be considerate and not use these locations as a means of getting players and equipment onto the playing fields. There is parking at Prestwood and the High School lots with ample spaces and easy access to the fields. Please be sure to pass this on to your team parents.

Make sure visit our website www.sonomasoccer.org for the latest Valley soccer news and calendar of upcoming events. It contains online registration links, downloadable forms, game schedules, team information etc. We are continually posting new information and it is now our main source of communication. Please visit it often and tell all your team parents to keep checking it also.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time and hard work to make this soccer a fun experience for our kids.
Have a great season,

Sam Honey
President SVYSA

Player Transfer Policy

Transfers are discouraged. Every effort has been made in team assignments to follow CYSA requirements for teams that are balanced in strength. All requests for transfers must be in writing and any transfers must be approved by the division Age Group Coordinator. Regardless, the player must attend at least one practice before a transfer will be considered.

League Games

Games are usually held on Saturdays, however, some games will be held on Sundays. The fields used are located at Sonoma Valley High School, Prestwood, Sassari, and Field of Dreams. Please see the web site www.sonomasoccer.org for directions to fields.

Sportsmanship — 6 Goal Differential

Our league promotes soccer as both fun and sport. We expect good sportsmanship to be demonstrated by all involved. In recreational soccer (Division 4) which makes up 85% of our teams, we believe that running up a high score against another team is poor sportsmanship. Coach, if your team is overpowering the opponent, pull out some of the better players, switch player positions, or call for more passing. Any coach who permits a team to win by more than 6 goals will be disciplined by the league.

Rain Outs and Cancelled Games

The Sonoma Valley Unified School District does not want the fields used within 24 hours of rain. However, the amount of rainfall affects the decision to play or not. The decision is made early in the morning taking into account all factors. Please check the website www.sonomasoccer.org, the Soccer Hotline or your Age Group Coordinator about cancellations. Rained out games are not rescheduled by the league, but make-up games may be arranged between coaches. If you do reschedule, contact the Referee Scheduler to arrange for referees.

Player Passes

CYSA and US Club require proof of age and identity for all players. SVYSA does not issue passes for the younger players who do not play outside of Sonoma. **All teams who either play outside of Sonoma Valley or play against teams from outside the Valley must have Player Passes.** This includes all Division 3 teams and many older teams.

Your Age Group Coordinator will contact you with instructions. The coach is responsible for player passes — not the Age Group Coordinator!

Tournaments

All teams U12 and older are eligible to apply to CYSA tournaments and the Association Cup. U11 and older can also play in US Club Tournaments. They must register through our Registrar for US Club play. Our league will pay \$100 of the entry fee for every Division 4 (Recreational) team applying to their first tournament. Contact your Age Group Coordinator for the procedures.

Grievance and Complaint Process

All grievances and complaints are to be in writing and submitted to the Board of Directors through the league President. We cannot correct a situation unless it is brought to our attention. The guidelines for grievances in section 4:08 of the Team Manual will be used to discipline players and coaches receiving red cards or who are sent off.

Refunds

Refunds will be given only by submitting a written request prior to the first game of the season. These requests should be submitted to the SVYSA Registrar, PO Box 1992, Sonoma, CA 95476. A \$20 insurance and processing fee will be deducted and finance or late fees will not be returned.



Soccer Equipment

Team equipment: We provide each team with cones and soccer balls of the appropriate size for the age group. Since we cannot provide a ball for each player, please encourage the families of your players to purchase a ball of their own. The equipment is loaned to each team with the expectation that all will be returned at the end of the season. Please drop off all equipment after your last game at the soccer shed at Sonoma Valley HS and sign the return list.

Player equipment: Each player must purchase and wear a jersey, shorts and socks of their team colors. Coaches of teams from U12 on up may purchase uniforms of their own choice, OR they may opt to wear the reversible jerseys. However, the color of both socks must be the same and no teams U12 and up may wear yellow or black jerseys as their uniform color. U6 and U8 wear the reversible maroon and white jersey with white shorts and socks. U10 players wear reversible light blue jerseys with black shorts and socks. The "Home" team (listed first on the schedule) wears the color and the "Away" team wears white. All players U10 and up are required to wear plastic shell or plastic strip shin guards under socks for all games and practices. Foam shin guards are not permitted under CYSA rules, except for U6 and U8 players. Soccer cleats must be worn for all games. If they have a center "toe cleat", it may not be metal.

Jewelry: No jewelry is allowed during any CYSA or US Club sanctioned games. This is a SVYSA rule as well as a CYSA rule. The SVYSA does not permit the wearing of jewelry at practices. Furthermore, the taping of newly pierced ears will not be allowed. Please explain this to your parents and players before the season begins.

Playing Time

Players on Division 4 teams (recreational) or Division 3 teams (select) are entitled to play a minimum amount in each game. The minimum amount for Division 4 is one-half of the game, and the minimum for Division 3 is one-third of the game. If a player is not going to play in the game due to injury, being out-of-condition, or being disciplined, the coach must notify the Age Group Coordinator prior to the game and note it on the game card. These minimum playing times apply in all games, regular season or tournament. Under CYSA rules, games may be forfeited due to the willful violation of this rule.

CYSA Affiliation

Sonoma Valley Youth Soccer Association (SVYSA) is a member of the *California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA)*, the division of US Soccer which organizes outdoor youth soccer in northern California.

SVYSA is also a member of US Club Soccer. Teams that wish to play in US Club Soccer events must contact the Registrar: registrar@sonomasoccer.org

SVYSA uses the procedures and rules found in the CYSA team manual. A copy of this manual is provided each year to coaches and league officials. The manual includes rules of the game, modified rules for younger players, coaching tips and a list of books and videos to improve your game of soccer.

Player Registration

All players must be registered through SVYSA and the two parent signature lines must be completed before participation in practices and in games. Coaches must possess individual player registration forms (the yellow copy) at all practices and games for medical emergencies and insurance purposes.

Insurance

Players, coaches and volunteers are covered with a secondary medical insurance for SVYSA authorized events. The coverage has a \$100 deductible. Youth Soccer Case Report forms are located in the back of the Team Manual. Every event requiring medical attention needs to be documented by filing a Case Report. Also, be sure to notify your Age Group Coordinator if you file a report.

Board of Directors

Board of Director meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM and are open to the public. See the web site www.sonomasoccer.org for the location. The Annual Meeting of the Association when elections are held takes place on the first Monday in December. New members are always welcome. Please plan to participate to make this league the best for all of our players.

Goals for Coaches

Taken in part from the CYSA Coaching Program. Be sure to read the coaches section in this very helpful guide from CYSA.

- Inspire a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly. Be the type of person you want your players to be.
- Be more concerned with the well-being of your players than your win-loss record.
- Respect the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials.
- Don't publicly question any official's decisions and never doubt their honesty.
- Discipline any player who displays un-sportsmanlike behavior.
- Children play for fun and enjoyment. Winning is only part of this. Never ridicule or shout at the children making mistakes.
- The length of the practices should take into consideration the maturity of the children.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just-average" players need and deserve equal time. Be sensitive to the less talented, they have potential.
- Teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should break.
- Treat your players and opponents with respect.
- Develop respect for the ability of the opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Remember that your goal is to develop good soccer players — not win at all costs.

***"Respect the Referee"
"Coaches Coach—Parents Cheer"
"Just Encourage"***

Let the Kids Play™

Specific Age Group Rules

- U6 Size 3 ball, 5 players, no goalkeeper
20 minute half, sub break after 10 minutes
Restart with a kick-off
No penalty kicks, direct kicks, off-sides or corner kicks
Throw-ins may be repeated
- U8 Size 3 ball, 7 players including goalkeeper
20 minute half, sub break after 10 minutes
Restart with a kick-off.
No penalty kicks, direct kicks, or off-sides.
Throw-ins may be repeated.
- U10 Size 4 ball, 9 players including goalkeeper
25 minute halves, no sub break.
No PK, direct kicks or slide tackling.
Off-sides will be called.
No repeat throw-ins.
All coaching will take place within 6 yards of the center line.
- U12 Size 4 ball, 11 players, no sub break.
Coaching within 10 yards of the center line only.
Substitutions on own throw-in, any goal kick, after injury, at kick-off. Substitutions made at center line only.
Players leave the field before sub may enter.
Parents, players, coaches stand one yard off the touch line during play.

U14-U16, size 5 ball, and rules as above.

Game Times by halves:	U12	U14	U16	U19
	30	35	40	45



Referees

SVYSA has a Referee Coordinator to handle the needs of the league. Each Saturday the name of the adult referee in charge will be posted at a referee table along with the box of game cards and the referee schedule for the day. The table is usually located on the High School basketball courts.

All referees should speak to the referee in charge if you have concerns, or call the Referee Coordinator Karen Cline 707-975-4761 or the Referee Scheduler, Alison Johnston 707-548-8451.

Referees can make a note on the game card if it is a game related problem. Referees are responsible for checking player equipment and the safety of the goals. Blow your whistle with authority! You are in Charge!

All referees will be paid by check, through the US mail. Our referee scheduler will forward all data to the league's treasurer, who will process the checks. Referees earning over \$600 in a calendar year will receive a 1099 form, which will also be forwarded to the IRS. Referee pay scale is on our website under Referees.

- When you referee U6 and U8 teams you are teaching both the players and the coaches. Be kind and be clear.
- Coaching is allowed from the touch line only. There is no coaching from behind the goal.
- Though you may not "card" a coach, you may caution or eject a coach.
- Please remember to allow no unsporting behavior from adults.

Coaches: Negative behavior towards any referee will not be tolerated. Action will be taken which may include expulsion of the offending party from the field, termination of the game in progress, or suspension of the coaching privileges.

Good sportsmanship: At the end of each game please thank the referee with a hand shake and a word of thanks. This is a very hard job. Without a referee, there is no game.

Photo Day

Team photos will be taken on August 23 and 24 for the League's annual program and for families to purchase. All coaches will be notified of the appointment times, which will be scheduled to accommodate game times. Please contact Eamonn Fay, secretary@sonomasoccer.org for any questions regarding Photo Day.

Team Parent Duties

Coaches need to be free to do the coaching. Successful teams have the backup of a team of parents who help out when needed. The following are suggestions for parent involvement with your team:

- Hold a parent meeting where you give out the team roster and a list of parent volunteer needs.
- Select an organized person as the Team Parent, or ask each family to volunteer for something.
- Get help for the following tasks:
 - Email / phone tree
 - Snack coordinator
 - Photo Day
 - Uniforms
 - Banner
- Tournament Coordinator

After the jobs have been assigned, send out a letter with names and contact information stating who is in charge of which duties.





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Post Office Box 1992, Sonoma, CA 95476
www.sonomasoccer.org
Hotline: 707-256-0544