
PALMDALE AYSO REGION 393
TOURNAMENT TEAM -RULES AND REGULATIONS

(D.0) Introduction:

(D0.1) Tournament Play is an activity which generally occurs outside of, and is separate from the regular AYSO season. Although Tournament Play is largely bound by the same Rules and Regulations which govern Regular Season play, there are some significant rule differences.

(D0.2) The most obvious rule differences are as follows:

- (D0.2.1) The AYSO rule that "Everyone Plays" shall be interpreted in its strictest sense: That every Tournament Player shall play a minimum of half of every Tournament game for which they are available and eligible to play.
- (D0.2.2) As a "Select" team, the AYSO rule requiring "Balanced Teams" is not in effect for Tournament Teams.
- (D0.2.3) The AYSO rule regarding "Open Registration" is not applicable for Tournament Teams.
- (D0.2.4) Tournament Teams are "Select" teams and therefore the person doing the "selecting" shall be the Tournament Coach, within the restrictions established in Appendix D.

(D0.3) However; having established the differences between Tournament Play and Regular Season Play, it is important to note that in all possible respects, Tournament Play should be guided by the Spirit, Philosophy and Rules of AYSO.

(D0.4) Region 393 Tournament Play has been established to allow a group of players to play soccer in the AYSO tradition, generally for a longer period than the regular season allows, and in a significantly more competitive environment.

(D0.5) Despite the increased "intensity" and competitiveness associated with Tournament Play, the main reason for having a Regional Tournament program is the same as in the Regular AYSO Season: That is, to have fun, to stay fit, and to promote the development of the players.

(D0.6) It is important to realize that the Tournament Season is usually significantly longer than the Regular Season. The traveling aspect of Tournament Play makes for a much more "social" environment than is usual during Regular Season Play. It is for these reasons that AYSO Region 393 places an emphasis on putting together teams of Coaches, players and parents who are compatible, and who are truly committed to the team.

(D0.7) As previously stated; the main objectives of Tournament Play are to have fun, to stay fit, and to develop the players' soccer skills by exposing them to a higher level of competition than is usually available within the Region. As such, and in keeping with AYSO principals, the Tournament Teams

are not put together solely with winning in mind. Some tournament teams are largely composed of All-Stars, while others have few or none. Some Tournament Teams win many games, while others hardly win a single game. The measure of a Tournament Team is not in their win-loss record, but in the fun, fitness, and player development achieved by the team during the Tournament Season.

(D0.8) All the factors outlined above are why Region 393 allows its approved Tournament Coaches a large degree of latitude in the formation of their teams.

(D0.9) The AYSO tournament Coaches must be formally approved by the Region 393 Executive Board. An application must be filled out and submitted to the Tournament Director.

(D0.10) All players representing Palmdale in a Region 393 Tournament Team are subject to approval by the Regional Commissioner.

(D1.0) BEFORE any financial commitment is made by any individual or team:

(D1.1) All Tournament Coaches must have a (mandatory) meeting with the parents of all the prospective Tournament Players and;

(D1.2) The Tournament Coach shall distribute a copy of these "Tournament Teams Regional Guidelines" to every parent for careful review.

(D2.0) The Tournament Coach shall inform the parents about ALL of the potential costs involved in having a child play in the Tournament Program.

(D2.1) The Tournament Coach is responsible for accurately reporting to the parents EXACTLY how and where their money is being spent.

(D2.2) For an example

- (D2.3) Tournament Fees: Approx. \$300 - \$550 per team; per tournament. (Note: this fee will change depending on the Division)
- (D2.4) Referee Fees: Approx. \$150-\$250 per team; per tournament.
- (D2.5) Approximate Typical/Average total Tournament fees: \$450-\$800 per team; per tournament.
- (D2.6) Typical number of Tournaments per Tournament Season: 5 (Five).
- (D2.7) Estimated total team Tournament Fees = $5 \times \$800 = \4000 per team; per Tournament Season. (These fees are based off of an example of a U16/U19 team)
- (D2.8) Typical number of players on each Tournament Team = 15 (Fifteen).
- (D2.9) Estimated Tournament Fees per Player = $\$4000$ divided by 15 = approx. \$267 per player; per Tournament Season.

(D2.10.1) The per capita cost will be greater if the Coach elects to have fewer players on his/her team (See D21.5), or if the Coach elects to play in more than five tournaments.

(D2.10.2) The per capita cost can be reduced significantly if the Tournament team is able to provide a team of 3 (three) referees for each Tournament. (see Section D.11)

(D2.11) REMEMBER, \$267 should be regarded as a minimum figure for fees. The Tournament Coach may consider it advisable to collect a little more money up front, (for instance, an additional \$15 to \$25 per player) so that the Tournament Coach doesn't have to ask for more money later. It is always preferable to give a refund at the end of the season, than to have to ask for additional money during the Tournament Season to cover unexpected fees.

(D3.1) Be sure to let each prospective player's parents be aware of any potential additional costs, such as Hotel Rooms for far-away tournaments etc.

(D3.2) In keeping with AYSO's philosophy of being as INCLUSIVE as possible, the Tournament Program should be kept as AFFORDABLE as is practical.

(D4.1) The Tournament team is responsible for paying for their own uniforms.

(D4.2) The Tournament uniforms shall be purchased by the Tournament Team Coordinator and/or the AYSO Region 393 Purchaser, based on such considerations as cost, value, availability, color, (Green, Black or White), quality, and durability.

(D4.3) It is STRONGLY suggested that the choice of uniforms NOT be subject to any kind of attempted "consensus" or "vote" as agreement on such issues has proved extremely illusive in the past, and the process controversial, contentious and divisive.

(D4.4) The final choice of uniforms shall be approved by the Regional Commissioner based on the considerations set out in (D4.1) and (D3.2).

(D4.5) The cost of the Tournament uniforms may be offset by any fund raising activities approved by the Regional Board of AYSO Region 393.

(D5.1) Fund-raising moneys gained through the efforts of any member of a Tournament team may be conducted on behalf of the entire team (regardless of the degree of fund-raising participation by individual members of the team) or at the discretion of the Tournament Coach, may be assigned to the "account" of the individual team member to offset the individual's legitimate Tournament expenses as in (D5.2).

(D5.2) Any money raised through fund raising shall be used to offset legitimate expenses such as uniform costs, Tournament fees, etc.

(D5.3) Individual teams may seek business or individual sponsorship, and money raised may be put towards a wider range of benefits to the team than fund-raising efforts as in (D5.2) above including items of apparel or sports bags etc.

(D5.4) Sponsorship money may also be used to provide a full or partial "scholarship" (or subsidy), for a member of the team, subject to genuine financial hardship.

(D5.5) If any question should arise about what constitutes "legitimate individual or Tournament Team expenses" or about the appropriate use of "Sponsorship" or "Scholarship" funds, the matter shall be decided by the Executive Board of Region 393.

(D6.1) By AYSO National Rules and Regulations, post season Tournament Programs must be self-funded, and cannot be subsidized in any way by the Regular AYSO Region 393 funds.

(D6.2) As a matter of practicality, AYSO Region 393 may, at the Regional Board's discretion, "lend" money to the Tournament program, so as to facilitate uniform purchasing, fast payment of Tournament fees etc., but every cent of these "loans" MUST be paid back to the Region 393 as soon as possible.

(D6.3) If any moneys are still owed to AYSO Region 393 after 30 (Thirty) days from the date of the final Tournament played in the Tournament Season, collection notices will be served on any individual members or Teams in the Tournament Program with outstanding debts, and AYSO Region 393 reserves the right to reclaim any such debt(s) from the Palmdale Tournament account.

(D7.1) Tournament Coaches shall be financially responsible and budget for all potential expenses which may be incurred by the Tournament Team.

(D7.2) Tournament Coaches shall keep close track of, and record of, ALL incoming and out-going moneys. (This includes, but is not limited to fund-raising moneys, sponsorship income, team fees, referee refunds, scholarships, end-of-season parties, Coaches/team parent gifts, "Goal-Can" income, uniform assessments etc.) SEE SECTION (23).

(D7.3) Tournament Coaches must make a determined effort to collect the fees from each parent as soon as possible. It is suggested to split the payments in half if necessary, to ease the financial burden on the parents, but ensure that you receive the 2nd installment as soon as possible, and definitely no later than the end of March.

(D8.1) Tournament Coaches, or their designated managers, MUST ensure that Tournament fees are mailed to the relevant Tournament organization as soon as is humanly possible, and then should DOUBLE-CHECK that payment has been received.

(D8.2) Receipt of the correct fees by the Tournament organization is the ONLY way that a team can be assured of a Tournament slot. Sending an application form, or "Reserving" a slot for a team is not usually sufficient to GUARANTEE a place in any Tournament. (Most Tournaments fill their quotas of teams very quickly.)

(D8.3) All player rosters, referee team info, and other applicable Tournament paperwork should be submitted to the Tournament organization as soon as possible. (NOTE: Many of these documents must be signed by the Regional Commissioner and Regional Referee Administrator of AYSO Region 393 before submittal is sure to allow time for such signatures.)

(D9.0) It should not be assumed that a team will get all "Referee Deposits" refunded. Payment of ALL Tournament Referee Fees should be budgeted, as these fees must be paid "up-front", and Referee Fee refunds often take a long time to arrive.

(D10.0) As the Tournament fees are per team, regardless of the number of players registered on the team, it is important to note the following "Refund Policies"

- (D10.1) The Refund Policy for players who choose to drop from the team before the end of the season or who are unable to attend one or more of the arranged Tournaments is as follows:
- (D10.1.1) The player dropping or absent from the team will have any funds returned ONLY if the Tournament Coach is able to replace the dropping player with an "alternate player".
- (D10.1.2) After the "alternate player" has paid the pro-rated fees for the remaining or "missing" tournament(s), the player dropping or absent from the team shall be refunded exactly the same pro-rated amount.
- (D10.1.3) If a player has dropped from, or is absent from, two or more Tournaments, the Tournament Coach should make a "Good Faith" effort to find an "alternate" player.

(D10.2) A player who is dropped from a team by a Coach for any legitimate reason, shall have their fees returned to them on a pro-rated basis, regardless of whether or not the Coach is able to find an alternate player. (See Section D13)

(D10.3.1) Any player dropping from a team for any reason, may sell their uniform to an "alternate player" for a fee not to exceed the original purchase price.

(D10.3.2) No other compensation for the cost of the uniform or for any participation in any fund-raising activities will be allowed.

(D11.1) Inkeeping with the aim of keeping the Tournament Program affordable, and in the spirit of "pulling the Team's weight" each Team is **STRONGLY** encouraged to provide a referee team of 3 (three) officials for as many tournaments as possible.

(D11.2) NOTE: Many Tournaments will decide on which teams/Regions to include in their event by the participation of referees from each team and/or Region.

(D11.3) The usual Tournament requirement is that each Tournament Team provide 3(three) officials to referee a total of 3 (three) games, in order for the team to be reimbursed the full "Referee Deposit". Some Tournaments will ask for less in the way of Referee participation, some may ask for more. Some Tournaments will insist that ALL the scheduled assignments are completed before ANY refund is given, while other Tournaments will allow a "pro-rated" amount to be returned as credit against games actually covered. These "referee requirements" are at the discretion of each Tournament, and are not under AYSO Region 393 control (See Section D.9)

(D11.4) Some Tournaments will provide a refund of the Referee Deposit very quickly; other Tournaments seem to take months. It is strongly suggested that the Tournament Team Manager hold on to the contact name and phone number of the relevant Tournament Official, in case the Tournament needs a (courteous, civil) "reminder" about referee deposits which are due back to team. The usual waiting period for Referee Deposit Refunds is 4 to 6 weeks.

(See Section D.9)

(D12.1) Tournament Coaches may play up to two (2) AYSO Registered players from outside of Palmdale AYSO Region 393, but generally only after a good faith effort to consider the suitability of willing participants from within Palmdale Region 393, and only then with the Regional Commissioner's approval. This measure of "flexibility" is established in keeping with (D0.2.4), and to help a Coach with the difficult task of "selecting;" a group of individual players the Coach believes he or she can mold into a viable team over a 5 to 7 month period.

(D12.2) Tournament players shall normally participate in Tournament Play in the same division in which they played during the regular season, but up to three (3) players on each team may "play up" one division, and other exceptions may be made at the Regional Commissioner's discretion, subject to the conditions of (D12.3).

(D12.3) Every member of every tournament team must be currently registered with AYSO, and the Tournament Coach must carry each player's medical release form at every scrimmage, practice, and game.

(D12.4) As many Tournaments have Rules which insist that the participants shall have played in the "Regular" AYSO season, this requirement shall be made of all AYSO Region 393 Tournament players.

(D13.0) Tournament Coaches may remove a player from their team subject to the approval of the AYSO Region 393 Executive Board. Such a request to remove a player from a Tournament team must be made in writing to the Regional Commissioner, outlining ALL the salient facts. The removal of a player from any AYSO team is considered a serious act, and the circumstances of the request for removal shall be thoroughly investigated. (See (D10.2) regarding refunds of fees in this case)

(D14.1) It shall be explained by the Tournament Coach to every parent of a prospective player, that Tournament play is often highly competitive and intense, and is usually very different in nature from Regular Season play.

(D14.2) Parents should be informed that their child (who may be used to playing 4 quarters every game during the Regular Season) may only get to play 2 quarters per game in Tournament play, depending solely on the discretion and judgment of the Tournament Coach(s).

(D14.3) Furthermore, parents should be made aware that their child may be asked to play in ANY position on the soccer field, depending solely on the discretion and judgment of the Tournament Coach(s).

(D14.4) Practice location and duration, game playing times, player positions, substitutions, Coaching direction at games, strategy, pre and post-game instruction, and all Coaching issues shall be at the discretion and judgment of the officially recognized Tournament Coach(s), subject to adherence to these Tournament Rules and the AYSO Region 393 Rules and Regulations.

(D15.0) Palmdale AYSO Tournament Coaches and Tournament Teams are representing Palmdale AYSO Region 393 and, indeed, the City Of Palmdale, at every Tournament they attend. Future participation by Palmdale teams in these Tournaments will depend on a large extent on the behavior of our teams and our Coaches. As such, the following rules shall be STRICTLY ENFORCED:

(D15.1) Carefully read and understand the Tournament Rules and Regulations for each and every Tournament.

(D15.2) Be positive, instructive, encouraging, tolerant, respectful, supportive, responsible, understanding, and caring at all times, with all Tournament Organizers, parents, spectators, officials, and players. Never be threatening, foul-mouthed, insulting, name-calling, demeaning, sarcastic or negative.

(D15.3) The Coach sets the tone for his/her players and for the team's spectators:
 Angry Coach = Angry spectators = Confused and unfocused players.
 Positive Coach = Positive spectators = Happy and enthusiastic players.

(D15.4) Do not argue a referee's call. Getting upset over a call *takes you away from your job of Coaching*, distracts and confuses your players, spoils the enjoyment of the spectators, and breaks the concentration of the referee, who may Red or Yellow card the dissenting Coach.

(D15.5) The Tournament Coach(s) are responsible for the proper behavior of the spectators on their sideline. The team is representing Palmdale Region 393 as the guest of another Region, and no Coach, player, or spectator shall bring the Region into dispute.

(D15.6) The behavior of Palmdale Tournament Players at local Hotels, Restaurants, and other public places, is the responsibility of the Coach, the Assistant Coach(s), the Team Parent, the Team Manager, and ALL the parents of the players. (NOTE: Tournament teams have been banned from certain Tournaments and Hotels, based on the poor behavior of previous years' teams from a particular Region.)

(D15.7) Serious violations of any of these Guidelines shall be reviewed by the Executive Board of AYSO Region 393, according to the provisions laid out in the Palmdale AYSO Region 393 Rules and Regulations, and may lead to the suspension or removal of the Tournament Coach.

(D15.8) The Executive Board of AYSO reserves the right to deny any Coach the privilege of Coaching a Palmdale AYSO Tournament Team, and may replace that Coach with adequate cause and due process as set out in the Regional Rules And Regulations.

(D15.9.1) After appropriate deliberation and due process, the Executive Board of AYSO Region 393 reserves the right to disband any Tournament Team which brings AYSO Region 393 into serious disrepute.

(D15.9.2) In the event of the dissolution of a team as in (D15.9.2), any outstanding fees will be returned to the relevant parents, on a pro-rated basis, (if absolutely necessary, from the Palmdale

Tournament account), and the provisions of (D10.3.2) apply.

(D16.0) Coaches should make a really determined effort to secure an Assistant Coach and a Team Parent, and if necessary, a team manager/treasurer to take care of the financial issues.

(D17.1) Tournament play can be an intense, very competitive, and sobering experience. Many teams in "Open Invitational" Tournaments are "club" teams with years of experience playing together as a team. Many teams are simply outstanding AYSO "All- Star" teams. Coaches should not judge their success by their win-loss record, but by their integrity and standards, by the fun their players have, and by the improvement in their team.

(D17.2) Tournament Coaches should ensure that their expectations and those of their parents and players are realistic. The No. 1 priority is to HAVE FUN, followed by improving the players' skills through exposure to truly superior competition, keeping the players fit, and preparing them for the up-coming Regular Season.

(D18.1) Tournament play is very much a "Social" activity, heavily involving the cooperation, support, participation, friendliness and enjoyment of the parents.

(D18.2) Coaches should make sure that small problems with parents or players are taken care of in as friendly and civil a manner as possible, before they become big problems.

(D18.3) Good communication with the parents is essential, and any "concerns" or "problems" a Coach and/or parent may have, should be resolved in a calm manner away from the players and any spectators.

(D18.4) A Coach or concerned parent may choose to inform the Tournament Coordinator of any potential problems which cannot be resolved amicably and promptly.

(D19.1) Due consideration must be paid to the fact that many parents have more than one child playing in the Tournament program, and EVERY EFFORT must be made for ALL Palmdale's Tournament Teams to attend the SAME Tournaments. (See D18.1)

(D19.2) It is understood that some Tournament teams may wish to add an "extra" or "special" Tournament to their calendar, but such events should still be determined as being financially sound and responsible, and shall not impose too high a financial burden on the parents. In general, the spirit of (D19.1) should prevail.

(D20.1) All persons wishing to be considered as a Tournament Coach, shall make their wishes known to the Tournament Coordinator by completing a Tournament Coach Application by a pre-announced date each season, preferably before the December Regional Board meeting.

(D20.2.1) Preference will be given to potential Tournament Coaches based on their participation as a Coach, or assistant Coach, in the relevant division during the just-completed season, their adherence to the philosophies and spirit of AYSO, their previous experience as a Tournament Coach, their Sportsmanship, and other factors to be determined by the Executive Board of AYSO Region 393.

(D20.2.2) All Tournament Coaches are subject to ratification by the Executive Board.

(D20.3) In the event of two or more qualified Coaches wishing to take a Tournament Team in the same division, AND if the pool of potential players allows more than one team:

- (D20.3.1) Every effort shall be made to create two or more Tournament teams in that division, the players to be divided between the teams in a manner acceptable to the Coaches, or, failing that, by a methodology to be determined by the Executive Board.

(D20.4) In the event of two or more qualified Coaches wishing to take a Tournament Team in the same division, if the pool of potential players does not allow for more than one team

- (D20.4.1) Every effort will be made to get the two or more Coaches to "share" a team as Co-Coaches, or, failing that:
- (D20.4.2) The Executive Board will render a decision on who is to be the Tournament Coach, and that decision will be final and binding.

(D21.1) The existence of the Tournament program shall be advertised by means of flyers and/or newsletters, by the end of November of the year proceeding the Tournament year.

(D21.2) Players will be given an opportunity to "sign-up" on at least three separate Saturdays, to demonstrate their willingness to participate in Tournament play. It should be noted that "signing up" is an expression of a player's interest in playing in a Tournament Team, but in no way "guarantees" a position on a team.

(D21.3) The duly appointed Tournament Coach may choose whoever he/she pleases to fill their team, given the restrictions outlined in section (D12).

(D21.4) The Tournament Coach is strongly encouraged to make use of the "sign-up sheets" as in (D21.2) as a resource, but has no obligation to include any of those players in his/her team.

(D21.5) The Tournament Coach shall register a minimum of 13, and a maximum of 15, eligible players for EACH tournament entered. (Some U-19 & U-16 teams may be allowed a greater number of players - check the relevant Tournament Rules.)

(D21.6) The players registered for each tournament do not have to be the same 13 to 15 players, as long as responsible, proportional and equitable financial arrangements are made, within reason, to every relevant parent's satisfaction.

(D21.7) The Coach should give due consideration to the talent, maturity, character and attitude of the potential Tournament player.

(D21.8) Furthermore, given the "Social" aspect of Tournament play as outlined in section (D18), it may be appropriate to consider the potential players' parents/guardians in the decision to include a player on the team.

(D21.9) There is no requirement to have any number of "All-Star" players on any team, and the

inclusion of willing "developmental" players is encouraged. (See Introduction Section (D0) and (D17.2))

(D22.0) All the regular "Palmdale AYSO Region 393 Rules and Regulations" apply to Tournament play, except as hereby amended by these Tournament Guidelines.

(D23.1) A full, simple, but adequately itemized accounting of each Tournament team's income and expenses, must be submitted to the Tournament Teams Coordinator no later than 90 days after the date of the final Tournament. (A sample accounting format may be obtained from the Tournament Teams Coordinator.)

(D23.2) Failure to provide the accounting required in section (D23.1) may result in a Coach being prevented from Coaching a Tournament Team in the future.

(D24.1) These Tournament Rules and Regulations shall be published as an official appendix to the Regular Region 393 Rules and Regulations each year, and shall be made available to every person who expresses an interest in Coaching a tournament team.

(D24.2) These Tournament Guidelines are subject to annual review by the Board of AYSO Region 393, which may result in significant changes.

PALMDALE AYSO REGION 393 TOURNAMENT TEAMS RULES AND
REGULATIONS

COACH SIGNATURE/ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I HAVE RECEIVED, READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THESE
TOURNAMENT TEAM RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

TEAM DIVISION: _____

DATE: _____