

EXTRA/ALLIANCE -- COACH AND TEAM STANDARDS

1. Representative of the Region – Behavior Expectations

Congratulations on being selected as a coach of a competitive team in Region 20. As a Coach of a Region 20 EXTRA/Alliance team, you are an ambassador of the Region. It is a privilege to coach the young athletes that participate in our competitive programs, and you should serve as a role model for your players and your families. You are expected to adhere to the highest standards of behavior, good sportsmanship, and positive coaching at all times, including practices, scrimmages, Region events, games, tournaments, and all other events/activities in which your team is participating. Region 20 will have a zero tolerance policy for poor sportsmanship; poor behavior; and referee disrespect, dissent, or abuse from our EXTRA and Alliance coaches. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that their sidelines maintain good sportsmanship and behavior and refrain from referee disrespect, dissent, or abuse at all times.

Region 20, Area P, Section 1, and Alliance may discipline coaches for inappropriate behavior during any team-related or Region-related activity. If the activity relates to a game or scrimmage, discipline may be issued when deemed appropriate regardless of whether or not cautions were issued or cards were given. If the Region requests information about an incident or alleged incident, EXTRA and Alliance Coaches must fully cooperate with the Region's inquiries and/or investigations. This includes promptly providing names of people present at, or involved in, alleged incidents, and it includes promptly providing all relevant information, including all unedited video or audio footage related to the alleged incident or inquiry or any AYSO-related activity, upon request by Region 20.

2. Playing Time and AYSO Principles

AYSO EXTRA and Alliance programs both follow the national AYSO playing time guidelines, guaranteeing 50% playing time per game. Alliance teams must follow the 50% guideline even though Alliance games utilize free substitution, and even though their club competitors do not have the same playing time guidelines. AYSO principles are the guiding principles for all EXTRA and Alliance coaches, and coaches in our competitive programs are expected to be familiar with and follow these guiding principles.

3. Volunteer Commitments

Coaching and playing in the EXTRA/Alliance programs are privileges afforded by the Region to only a small number of coaches/players. Coaches and parents in these programs are expected and required to give back to the Region and its Core program in capacities above and beyond coaching and volunteering for their own team and for the competitive programs. This is not only a Region 20 requirement; it is also a requirement of both the EXTRA and Alliance leagues. As part of team's applications into these leagues each year, the Regional Commissioner must confirm whether the Coaches and teams have honored this commitment to volunteer for and add benefits to the Core program, in addition to the competitive programs, before that team can be approved for competitive league acceptance.

Coaches are expected to encourage their families to participate in volunteer activities for the Region as a whole and to assist the Region in getting families to sign up for volunteer roles when requested. Coaches and families are expected to contribute to the Region in the form of volunteering, including assisting with Region or Board projects, assisting at Region events, serving as referees in our EXTRA and Core programs, or serving other volunteer roles as requested by the Region. Even though Alliance utilizes paid referees for league games, Alliance teams are subject to the same Region 20 referee requirements as EXTRA teams. This requirement is 3 referee points per home game, with a minimum of 15 referee points, so for example, a team with 7 home games needs 21 referee points, and a team with 5 or fewer home games needs 15. EXTRA/Alliance teams must maintain referee volunteers able to referee at least at the level of their team and that *do, in fact*, referee games for the Region at that level. Teams that do not fulfill the volunteer and referee requirements of the Region may lose the ability to progress in playoffs or post-season league play, or may lose tournament or other privileges. Coaches must re-apply to coach in our competitive programs every year, and coaches' participation in Region 20 volunteer requests is a factor that will be considered in coach applications.

4. Compliance with Region and League Rules and Deadlines

EXTRA and Alliance coaches must comply with all League rules of their respective leagues. This includes complying with any applicable guest player requirements and not using ineligible players. Coaches are expected to make sure their team meets League and Region deadlines. Coaches agree not to forfeit or no-show for games without prior written permission from the Region RC, which permission will only be given if in the RC's determination there has been a demonstration of extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances, and if the team has exhausted every possible avenue for fielding a team. Any fees or penalties assessed to a team, for example a forfeit fee, will be paid by the Coach and/or the team, not the Region (regardless of whether prior permission was given by the RC), unless the RC determines otherwise for good cause. Coaches agree to follow Region 20's rules and policies, including for use of the Region's field space.

5. Responsibility for Team

The Head Coach is ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with all of these requirements for their team, although Assistant Coaches are also bound by all of these standards. All team practices must be attended and supervised by at least one of the authorized/approved coaches of a team unless prior written (including by email) approval has been given by the RC or the RCA. This includes practices where there is a team training conducted by one of the Region's training vendors. When a Region vendor is used to help with team trainings, the coaches ultimately remain responsible for the practices. If there is an issue with a vendor's conduct at a team training -- for example, not following AYSO positive coaching guidelines or other principles -- one of the team coaches has the obligation to step in and make sure the inappropriate conduct stops. Teams may not bring in outside (non-Region) vendors to their team practices or events that are being conducted under the Region's permits, for insurance purposes.

6. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Inappropriate behavior of a Coach or any other member of a team (parents, spectators, players) can reflect negatively on the entire team as well as the Region and could jeopardize the Region's status, reputation, and privileges. Failure by any coach to honor any of the standards stated in 1-5 above may result in any or all of the following consequences: (a) verbal or written counseling or warnings issued by Region 20; (b) suspensions from one or more activities such as games, practices, tournaments, and scrimmages; (c) Loss of team's eligibility for future EXTRA/ALLIANCE or post season tournaments; (d) probationary period; (e) suspension or removal from your coaching position; (f) negative impact on future team or coach applications or requests; and/or (g) other appropriate consequences in the discretion of Region 20, Area P, Section 1, or Alliance.

Thank you again for volunteering to coach and helping to hold our Region, our Coaches, and our teams to the highest standards.