

# AYSO Referee Training Program



## Safe Haven Certification Module 1



# AYSO Philosophy

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Develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on five philosophies:

## \* Balanced Teams

- Reshuffle players and coaches after every season
- Spread out talent as evenly as possible
- Spread out grade, age, school, etc. as well

## \* Everyone Plays<sup>®</sup>

- Every player plays at least 1/2 the game; or 3/4 game in most regions
- Substitutions controlled so referee can track per game; playing time per season

## \* Good Sportsmanship

- Help players understand mutual respect for opposing players (foul, injury)
- Set an example of good sportsmanship through parent actions

## \* Open Registration

- No boundaries, no restrictions, no tryouts, no skill based divisions -- every able and willing player is assigned to the “same” team.

## \* Positive Coaching

- Positive, Instructional and Encouraging (PIE) towards all children
- Coaches coach (limited), parents cheer

BEGOP  
will be on  
every exam

# Module 1: Safe Haven Certification

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- ❖ *Making you aware of Child Protection issues*
- ❖ Making you aware of Volunteer Protection issues
- ❖ Safe Haven Intervention Cycle:
  - Promote education and awareness
  - Enforce policies
  - Screen Volunteers
  - Train Volunteers



# Child Protection

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- ❖ *Trained to work with children*

- ▶ *Supervision of children*
- ▶ *Conduct around children*
- ▶ *Cycle of Prevention*

- ❖ Child Abuse Prevention  
and Treatment Act of 1974

- ❖ Child Protection Act of 1993

# Supervision of Children

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- ❖ Head Coach assumes **charge of the children** on his team until duly designated adult takes charge of child after practice or game or the child leaves the immediate vicinity of the practice or game as prearranged by the parent (e.g. walking home)
- ❖ Game Referee is responsible for providing a “**child safe**” atmosphere before, during, and after the match, and has both the **duty and authority** to take any reasonable action to make it so
- ❖ Recommended supervision:
  - ▶ 1 adult for every 8 or fewer children
  - ▶ 2 adults present at all times
    - 1 adult same gender, one the certified coach or asst coach
  - ▶ Never alone with child or group of children (except own)



# Conduct around Children

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## ❖ **Forms of Abuse** (all prohibited; IMPORTANT)

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Emotional
- ▶ Sexual
- ▶ Ethical
- ▶ Neglect / Endangerment

## ❖ **Abusive statements not tolerated**

- ▶ Race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, age, sex, sexual orientation, sport skill
- ▶ Towards children, referees, coaches, or parents

## ❖ **Exemplary Behavior**

# Conduct around Children (cont)

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## ❖ AYSO Touching Policy

- ▶ Limited to that respectful and appropriate
- ▶ In response to need of the Child
- ▶ Done with Child's permission
- ▶ Respect resistance to touching
- ▶ Must never include breast, buttocks, or groin areas
- ▶ Done in the open, never in private
- ▶ Brief, limited duration
- ▶ Child's comfort level influenced by age, developmental stage, social and emotional well being, life experiences, gender, etc.

# Cycle of Prevention

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- ❖ Foster meaningful relationships
- ❖ Make kids full participants
- ❖ Promote ethical behavior
- ❖ Model and teach conflict resolution
- ❖ Encourage kids to speak out
- ❖ Cultivate kids' self-images
- ❖ Implant excellence in individual achievement
- ❖ ***Keep things FUN!***



# Child Protection Review

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## ❖ Supervision

- ▶ Who is responsible for supervising the child?
  - Coach primarily; referee secondarily
- ▶ Who is responsible for the child's safety at game?
  - Referee primarily; coach secondarily

## ❖ Conduct

- ▶ What are the five forms of abuse?
  - Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Ethical, Neglect / Endangerment
- ▶ What forms of touching are allowed and by whom?
  - Coach primarily to treat an injury, carry injured player off the field, or console a player when upset

## ❖ Cycle of Prevention

- ▶ What is the most important thing to keep in mind?
  - Keep things ***FUN!***

# Module 1: Safe Haven Certification

❖ Making you aware of Child Protection issues

❖ *Making you aware of Volunteer Protection issues*

Provides Child-specific Certification



# Volunteer Protection

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## ❖ *Sources of Protection:*

- ▶ *US Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) of 1997*
- ▶ *State Good Samaritan and other laws*
- ▶ *AYSO Soccer Accident & Liability Insurance*
- ▶ *Common Sense -- preventing accusations*

## ❖ Training in Protection

- ▶ Injury
  - Risk Management
  - Dealing with Blood
- ▶ Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs

## ❖ Referee Position Description (appendix)

# US Volunteer Protection Act (VPA)

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- ❖ Protects you, as a referee, from civil liability for *simple negligence* as long as you:
  - ▶ Are certified
  - ▶ Are **currently** trained and registered
  - ▶ Have a job description for your position
  - ▶ perform your duties within the job description
  - ▶ do not commit a crime in doing the job



# What is needed to get Protection?

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- ❖ Safe Haven Certification
  - ▶ This course and exam
- ❖ Discipline Specific Training
  - ▶ Referee training course
- ❖ Registration by recognized organization
  - ▶ AYSO requires the *Volunteer Application Form*
  - ▶ Must be submitted *every year*
- ❖ Authorization by Appropriate Authority
  - ▶ Regional Commissioner or designated authority

# Legal Responsibilities (cont)

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- ❖ Most states have *Good Samaritan* statutes which also protect any person from civil liability who, in good faith, offers aid and assistance consistent with their **training**
- ❖ Most local and state laws have *extra “protection”*\* from violent behavior against sports officials while acting in their capacity if **registered**

\* “protection” only if the perpetrator knows of the increased fine and incarceration possible before hand



# Example State Statute for Sports Officials

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California Penal Code Section 243.8 provides:

- (a) When a **battery** is **committed against a sports official** immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or **any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest** in which the sports official is participating, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be **punishable by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year**, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, "**sports official**" means any individual who serves as a **referee, umpire, linesman**, or who serves in similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is **duly registered by**, or a member of a local, state, regional or **national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials**.



# AYSO Soccer Accident & Liability Insurance

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- ❖ All AYSO registered players, coaches, referees and other volunteers are covered while participating in AYSO sanctioned events for:
  - ▶ **accidental bodily injury** to oneself,
  - ▶ **liability protection** for third party claims against you for bodily injury, property damage or personal injury(defamation).
- ❖ The **GREEN** AYSO “Soccer Accident Insurance” (SAI) pamphlet covers basics on the accidental injury supplemental coverage.
- ❖ See AYSO National website for more info on liability policy. Covers you during AYSO events.
  - ▶ Referees and Coaches can buy **optional 24/7 liability coverage** in case they work other leagues (see AYSO: [www.soccer.org](http://www.soccer.org))



# Continuing Education

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- ❖ Participate in continuing education:
  - ▶ Rule and Law changes
  - ▶ Changes in philosophy
- ❖ Attend Regional Referee Meetings
- ❖ Maintain records of completed training
  - ▶ As referee, application you may fill out today

# Prevent False Accusations

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- ❖ Avoid being alone with a child
- ❖ Stay within sight of others
- ❖ Respect privacy
- ❖ Hug from the side
- ❖ Avoid sexual jokes, comments or gestures
- ❖ Do not use corporal punishment
- ❖ Set and respect boundaries



# Volunteer Protection

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## ❖ Sources of Protection:

- ▶ US Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) of 1997
- ▶ State Good Samaritan and other laws
- ▶ AYSO Soccer Accident & Liability Insurance
- ▶ Common Sense -- preventing accusations

## ❖ *Training in Protection*

- ▶ *Injury*
  - *Risk Management*
  - *Dealing with Blood*
- ▶ *Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs*

## ❖ Referee Position Description (appendix)

# Risk Management

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## ❖ Types of Hazards

- ▶ Environmental
- ▶ Physical

## ❖ Injury Prevention (Hazard avoidance)

# Blood-Borne Diseases

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- ❖ Contracting a blood-borne disease
- ❖ Precautions
- ❖ AYSO Guidelines for handling blood
- ❖ NSCAA Recommendations

# AYSO Guidelines for Dealing with Blood

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- ❖ Bleeding person must leave field immediately
- ❖ Must not return until bleeding is stopped and wound is covered
- ❖ Blood on clothing neutralized (bleach) or clothing replaced
- ❖ Blood on body is removed and the skin disinfected

Coach responsible for all First Aid – but  
Referee must be satisfied with results

# Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

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- ❖ AYSO National Rule and Regulation I.E.8. (relating to the responsibilities and duties of coaches and officials) provides:
  - ▶ It shall be the duty of each coach and official to: “present a healthy, athletic environment for players by neither consuming alcoholic beverages nor using tobacco products during practices or games or in the immediate vicinity of soccer fields.”

# Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

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- ❖ An adult who knowingly provides alcohol, tobacco or other illegal drugs to a minor is subject to criminal prosecution.
- ❖ The US Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) of 1997 does not protect you if you commit a crime.
- ❖ *Commit the crime you will do the time!*



# Volunteer Protection Review

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## ❖ Legal

- ▶ What must be done to make the VPA protection valid?
  - Be certified, be trained, be authorized, have job description, perform to job description
- ▶ VPA gives immunity from? Under what conditions?
  - Simple negligence; above items on making it valid and no crime
- ▶ How often must you fill out the Volunteer Form?
  - Once a year

## ❖ Injury

- ▶ What two hazard types should a Referee look for?
  - Environmental, Physical
- ▶ Are blood-borne diseases a high risk?
  - No, they are a minimal risk but care should be taken

# Review for VPA and Insurance Requirements

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Volunteers must minimally:

- ❖ Be certified
  - ▶ Safe Haven Certification course and exam
- ❖ Be properly trained
  - ▶ Job specific course and exam
  - ▶ Yearly refresher or upgrade training
- ❖ Be completely and properly registered
  - ▶ Volunteer Application submitted and accepted
- ❖ Have job description
  - ▶ Safe Haven Book, Pages 36-39 (March 2003)
- ❖ Perform within the limits of the job description



# Definitions

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- ❖ Training
  - ▶ Job / Discipline Specific  
(e.g. soccer referee or coach)
  - ▶ Education to do a specific task
  
- ❖ Certification
  - ▶ Safe Haven Specific (e.g. child protection)
  - ▶ Confirms key competencies
  
- ❖ Continuing Education
  - ▶ Standard Specific (e.g. soccer referee)

# Conclusion

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- ❖ Concludes Child and Referee Specific portion of your Safe Haven Certification training.
- ❖ The Discipline Specific training is an ongoing process
- ❖ Time for the exam (or mid-term for coaches)!
- ❖ Coaches require a follow-on module covering first aid and sports training to complete their certification



# Safe Haven Certification

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## BACKUP MATERIAL



# Referee Job Description

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- ❖ **Specific Duties and Responsibilities**
  - ▶ Attend regional referee meetings before, during and after season, as required
  - ▶ Attend specific referee training courses to develop referee skills
  - ▶ Attend referee refresher courses as necessary to maintain AYSO Rules, FIFA Law, and other changes in guidelines
  - ▶ Officiate matches to which you are assigned according to AYSO Rules, FIFA Law, and prevailing guidelines
  - ▶ Keep a record of each match you officiate; making special reports as necessary



# Referee Job Description (cont)

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- ❖ Specific Duties and Responsibilities (cont)
  - ▶ Support AYSO Philosophies
  - ▶ Support the Regional Commissioner and staff
  - ▶ Cooperate with the Regional Referee Administrator and staff on issues pertaining to refereeing
  - ▶ Refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol, and the use of insulting, embarrassing, foul or abusive language or behavior while in uniform or near a field
  - ▶ Carry out other refereeing tasks as necessary
  - ▶ Have FUN!



# Referee Job Description (cont)

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- ❖ Qualifications and Desired Skills
- ❖ Supervision Protocols
- ❖ Time Commitment
- ❖ Orientation, Training, Certification and Continued Education
- ❖ Activity Locations