



I Went to Coach Orientation – Now What???

For 1st time coaches, taking on a team is a daunting task. You have attended the *Coach Orientation Class* and there was a ton of information to absorb. So Now What? What are the next steps to set the foundation to a successful soccer season?

1. Safe Haven Training & the Concussion Awareness Training – All Coaches must take the online Safe Haven 2011 if not current and the Concussion Awareness Training class in 2011 even if they have taken Safe Haven before.
 - a. Go to: www.eayso.org and log in to find your AYSO ID#.
 - b. Go to: www.aysotraining.org, and login with your AYSO ID# and last name.
 - c. Once completed the AYSO registration system will show your completion.

2. Decide when & where practice is
 - a. Make it a time that works for you but is not out of line with when most 7 year olds would be available.
 - b. Don't try to get agreement from the team; it leads to a logistical nightmare to try to make everyone happy.
 - c. Request a practice field through Bob Dawson. Request form and email can be found on the *Practice* page at www.aysor68.org. It is not first-come first-served basis.
 - d. Decide when/where you will have your "Team Meeting". Could be at your practice location or park.

3. Call your team:
 - a. Before calling, look for volunteers on the registration forms. If someone has volunteered to be an Asst. Coach, Referee or Team Parent, be prepared to discuss during your call. Explain to them you will have details later, but wanted to make sure they were still up for it.
 - b. Call the team and identify yourself by full name and tell them "I'm going to be <insert name>'s coach this year." Many families have multiple players, so it is important to specify which child you are coaching. Be sure you contact all players before August 1st.
 - c. Provide your full name, your child's name and your phone #.
 - d. Inform them when and where your Team Meeting will be. Advise them that a parent must be present at the meeting to discuss all of the volunteer needs and that you need:
 - i. 1 Assistant Coaches
 - ii. 1-2 Referee's
 - iii. 1 - Team Parent/Manager
 - iv. 1- Equipment distributor or Field Monitor

4. Team Meeting:
 - a. Provide a hand out with all of your contact information and your expectations including a list of the volunteer needs along with who committed to positions over the phone.
 - b. Remind the parents that you want as many parents as possible present at practice to help out and observe.



- c. Remind the parents that AYSO is an all-volunteer organization; coaches and board members do not get paid for what they do, so the parents are required to volunteer.
 - d. Discuss the volunteer positions and their time commitment. Your team is required to compile a minimum of 19 volunteer points during the 10-week season.
 - i. Referee's:
 1. Must attend the Basic Referee training class.
 2. Team needs a minimum to supply referee for home games.
 - ii. Equipment Distribution/Field Monitor:
 1. Each team will be assigned one or the other. Either assignment requires about 2 hours on one Saturday during the season providing 1 volunteer point.
 - iii. Field Painter:
 1. 20 teams will be allowed to provide a field painter that will paint a field every Friday night/Saturday morning to earn 1 referee point a week.
 2. Notify Division Coordinator if you wish to submit your team.
 - e. Advise the parents that if you do not reach your 1 volunteer points for the season your team will not be allowed issued trophies.
 - f. Have your Team Parent compile a team roster including phone #'s and email addresses. You should utilize email to communicate throughout the season rather than trying to call every player with info.
5. Have your Team Parent attend a "Team Parent Training" class and prepare to "Manage" the team. They will receive all of the information about volunteer requirements and training at the meeting. Have your Team Parent take ownership of the Volunteer Points. It is the Team Parent's responsibility to ensure all of your Volunteer points are covered throughout the season.
 6. Attend Coach Training: Training classes are available throughout August. Take the age appropriate coach training to learn valuable training tools and suggestions on how to coach. Dates and times for all training classes can be found on the calendar at www.aysor68.org.
 7. HAVE FUN!!!

As always, you can contact your Division Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns. There are lots of resources out there to assist in making your season a success.