



# Saugerties AYSO Coaches Meeting Information

Region 595 - Fall 2023



**Hello Coaches!**

## **Thanks for Volunteering!**

AYSO is an all volunteer organization depending entirely on parents/volunteers to act as coaches and referees-so your efforts make it possible for Saugerties to continue to offer world-class soccer experience to our community.

## **Coach/Assistant Coach Requirements**

Coaches please review and complete the checklist below to be ready to coach this season.

1. Register as a volunteer. Go to <http://www.ayso595.org> > "Login" > Volunteer ? Find Volunteer Roles AND complete the Sterling Volunteer Background Check.
2. Complete the online AYSO Safe Haven Certification. Go to <https://aysou.org> **AYSOU Login same as ayso595**
3. Complete the CDC Concussion course. Go to <https://aysou.org>
4. Complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Online Course. Go to <https://aysou.org>
5. Complete Training Age-Specific Coach Courses (Playground (4U), Schoolyard (5U), 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U) Go to <https://aysou.org>

All steps should be completed ASAP, before the season starts. If you have any questions, need help, or need a course not listed/locally - please let me know - [SaugertiesAYSO595@gmail.com](mailto:SaugertiesAYSO595@gmail.com)

## **Kick-off Call (Before the First Game on September 10th, 2023)**

- Call your players and introduce yourself.
- We recommend a team communication protocol. Some common free options are: create a BAND App group, other communication App, text thread, or an email thread.
- Schedule a team meet and greet/practice at your convenience before the Opening day.
- Make sure your players know when and where their first game is located.
- Ensure that each player knows that they must wear shin guards in order to play games or practice. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Players should also bring their soccer ball and water bottle to all games and practice. Cleats are optional, but are highly suggested.
- Ensure that parents and players understand the Saugerties AYSO Covid-19 Policy.
- Ensure that parents and players understand the Field Closure and Game Cancellation process.
- Pick up uniforms at the scheduled date (more information will be shared) and distribute to the team before the opening day.

## **First Team Meeting**

- Introduce Yourself/Communicate Your Team Goals/Expectations
- Recruit Others to Assist (especially a Team Parent - to help sidelines during the games, etc.)
- Ensure that parents and players understand topics discussed during Kick-Off call.
- Set Practice Day/Time - 1 hour practice per week is recommended. (There are no practice for the Playground Division. Two practices per week may be scheduled if the team supports this.)
- Name your team.

## **All Game/Practice are at the Cantine Field Soccer Complex**

Located next to Kiwanis Ice Arena at 6 Small World Ave, Saugerties, NY, 12477. Color field maps are available on the website and can be viewed here. They are also posted at the Soccer Snack Stand and on the ayso595.org website.

## **Rain/Cancellation Policy and Communications**

The Town of Saugerties, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Buildings, decides whether field conditions are acceptable for play. If not, they post signs on the fields and notify the AYSO Board that fields are closed. The AYSO Board then notifies coaches and post statements on various social media pages including our Saugerties AYSO 595 Soccer League page. Coaches will inform players if fields are closed. If it is raining during game day, the AYSO Board will make a go/no go decision early in the morning before the Playground Division starts. If rain starts in the middle of the day, the AYSO Board will decide if the remaining games are canceled or not. Coaches and players will be notified the same way as the closed fields message is distributed. Please note that kids can play in the rain, but all kids must immediately leave the fields if lightning is seen or thunder is heard.

## **Practices**

Coaches determine practice times and location. The Saugerties AYSO Board reserved \_\_\_\_\_. Practice is first come first serve. Practices on other days/times are also possible; however, field space will be limited due to field use by multiple organizations.

## **Covid-19 Policy**

See separate Saugerties AYSO Region 595 Covid-19 Policy Hand-Out. (Distributed with Spring 2023 Kick-Off email)

## **End of the Season**

Coaches/Assistant Coaches complete the player evaluation form after the last game of the season and hand in Team Folder at the Soccer Snack Stand. Team Folder must be returned to either the Soccer Snack Stand or the Saugerties AYSO Registrar.

## **Coach Info - Additional Helpful Info**

The Philosophy of the Organization is to educate and develop young people by encouraging their interest and participation in soccer through AYSO Core Values: "Everyone Plays", "Open Registrations", "Balanced Teams", "Positive Coaching", "Good Sportsmanship", and "Player Development".

## **Game Play Philosophy/Information on Small Sided Matches**

U.S. Soccer has mandated, for its member associations, small-sided matches as part of the Player Development Initiatives. Match play shall be governed by the Laws of the Game as modified by AYSO (with permission), the AYSO National Rules and Regulations and the age appropriate AYSO Coach Manual.

Young soccer players need special consideration.

- They are children playing a children's game.
- They must be regarded as young children, not mini adults
- They are essentially self-oriented and relate naturally to one or two others, not to large groups.
- Fun and activity factors must be a central part of a child-centered program.
- Educators agree early learning experiences are the most important and produce the most retention.
- Most children cannot sustain prolonged activity
- They function best in suitable starts and stops (rest periods).
- Concentration span is limited, so frequent changes of pace and activity are essential.
- Children love to learn
- They learn a great deal more when the ratio of teacher (coach) to student (player) is reduced.
- With small numbers and the simple nature of the match, the best teacher is the match itself.
- With fewer players on the field, each player gets more touches of the ball and has a greater opportunity to change location in a fast-flowing, fluid match.
- Playing small-sided allows players to make simpler decisions and develop an earlier, better understanding of organization of play.
- Smaller fields mean more players are directly involved in play, creating increased levels of both concentration and interest.
- The reduced field size encourages more shots on goal by all players, therefore more goals scored. Residual benefits.
- Parents are introduced to the match in smaller, more understandable doses.
- Small-sided matches are a great place to train new referees.
- The rest of the world is playing small-sided, and we are part of the soccer world.

## **Incidents and Accidents Forms and Procedures**

### **Incident Report Form (hard copies are located in you Team Folder)**

The purpose of the AYSO Incident Report Form is to capture all pertinent facts and contact information, while the information is readily available, whenever there is a serious incident involving AYSO participants, activities, facilities, or property. Please click the link below.

Click here for the AYSO Incident Report Form:

[https://aysovolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Incident\\_Report\\_Form\\_with\\_Instr\\_rev09102021.pdf](https://aysovolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Incident_Report_Form_with_Instr_rev09102021.pdf)

The Regional Safety Director is responsible for education Regional staff, board members, coaches, referees, and other volunteers about the importance of completing the AYSO Incident Report Forms. The Regional Safety Director is also responsible for distributing, collecting, and storing forms; and for reporting incidents to the AYSO National Office.

The Regional Safety Director should supply coaches with several copies of the form at the beginning of the season.

Incident Report Forms should be completed by any coach, referee, or Regional staff member witnessing any serious incident involving, but not limited to:

- Injuries
- Illnesses
- Threats of bodily harm
- Fighting whether or not a serious injury occurs
- Property damage
- Hospitalization of a participant

- Law enforcement summoned
- Service or notification of a pending lawsuit

Regional staff, coaches, and referees should be instructed to submit Incident Report Forms to the Regional Safety Director.

IMPORTANT: The Regional Safety Director must send a copy of each Incident Report to the AYSO National Office

Attn: Risk Management  
1970 S. Vermont Ave, Suite 200  
Torrance, CA 90502

Or email scanned copies to: [RiskManagement@ayso.org](mailto:RiskManagement@ayso.org)

## **Soccer Accident Insurance Claim Form - SAI/Soccer Accident Insurance**

### **Updated benefit information effective July 1, 2021**

AYSO purchases Soccer Accident Insurance ("SAI"), which pays excess medical costs up to \$50,000 maximum per accident to an insured person for accidental bodily injuries incurred as a direct result of participation in a covered activity subject to the policy terms, conditions, and exclusions. Eligibility for benefits is 52 weeks from the policy effective date or the date of a covered accident. Download the SAI Brochure below for a more detailed explanation of the plan. Accident Medical Expense Benefits are only payable:

[https://aysovolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-2022-AYSO-SAI-Claim-Form\\_Registered\\_English.pdf](https://aysovolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-2022-AYSO-SAI-Claim-Form_Registered_English.pdf)

## **Child Safety/Abuse Info**

If there is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

If you would like more information on child abuse, need assistance reporting abuse, or to speak with a Childhelp counselor, please call or text the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)**. **You can also chat with a trained counselor at [www.childhelphotline.org](http://www.childhelphotline.org)**. The hotline is available 24 hours a day and all calls are confidential. For more information on the hotline, visit [www.childhelp.org/hotline](http://www.childhelp.org/hotline)

If you are contacting Child Help to receive assistance in reporting abuse, **please use the email option below**. Please call or text the Child Help National Abuse Hotline at **1-800-4-A-Child( 1-800-422-4453)**. **You can also chat with a trained counselor at [www.childhelphotline.org](http://www.childhelphotline.org)**. While the hotline is available 24 hours a day, email inquiries have a 24-48 hour response time (Monday-Friday). Additionally, emails are not confidential.

Click on the website above for information on reporting or call Child Help (800-422-4453) for assistance.

New York State Info/Numbers

(800) 638-5163

(800) 342-3720