

AYSO Meltdown Friendly 2020

Tournament Rules

I. Tournament Name and Location

AYSO Meltdown Friendly Tournament. All games played at Bernalillo Soccer Complex.

II. Date

February 8-9, 2020

III. Format

The tournament is designed to provide a minimum of three (4) games for each team in the 9U to 19U age groups. AYSO and non-AYSO teams are welcome.

At the conclusion of each team's FIRST game there will be practice "Kicks from the Penalty Mark". This is not to determine a winner/loser, but will be for fun and practice for each team. Note: If there are odd teams in a bracket, some teams may do this twice.

IV. Registration

- a. The registration deadline is January 20, 2020. Applications received after this date may be considered, provided space exists. Teams with certified referees will receive priority.
- b. Registration is considered complete when all required forms are filled out and entered in the online registration and all required fees are received by the tournament registrar or entered online.
- c. Teams selected for participation will be notified by letter or email within 2 weeks of the tournament application deadline.
- d. The registration fee for all teams is:
 $\$175.00 + \100.00 (*refundable referee deposit) = $\$275.00$

*The refundable referee deposit is returned to a team based on their referee participation (Centering and/or AR) – see section XV Referee Reimbursement Program for details). The "deposit" is to encourage teams to bring referees. This is NOT a paid fee to guarantee referees for any games. This is NOT a paid fee for payment to referees. AYSO does NOT pay referees.

- e. Any team not selected for participation will receive a full refund immediately or will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list.
- f. Brackets and Age Groups
 - i. There will be separate single age divisions for boys and girls starting at 9U through 19U. However, some age divisions may be combined for scheduling purposes and/or team numbers.
 - ii. Age groups will be based on birth year (01/01/yyyy – 12/31/yyyy)
 1. Players may only play up two years (except for 15U and above).
This applies to each individual player on the roster.
 - iii. 8U players may play in the tournament ONLY IF they have played on that team during their fall primary season and that team is 9U or 10U. Over half of the team must consist of players that are true 9U or 10U.
- g. Roster limits are as follows (including rostered players and any guest players):
9U/10U are limited to 11 players and 4 coaches with cards

11U/12U are limited to 14 players and 4 coaches with cards

13U+ are limited to 18 players and 4 coaches with cards

- h. Each team may have up to four (4) guest players from different teams, regions, or organizations. Guest players are required to have the approval of their organization and the host team organization. Use of guest players does not allow the team to exceed the above roster limits.
- i. All registered teams must attend a mandatory check-in on Friday, the evening before the tournament, between 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. At that time, a team representative (i.e. coach, team parent, assistant coach) must provide a signed copy of their team roster, signed medical releases for each player, player and coach pass cards, guest player forms (if applicable), and travel papers (if traveling from out of state).
- j. AYSO Primary/Core teams may use the AYSO registration paperwork in lieu of pass cards. They must fill out four (4) lineup cards for the check-in process.
- k. Any team that does not check-in at the mandatory time may forfeit their participation and all fees.

V. Player Eligibility

- a. All players affiliated with AYSO teams must be registered with AYSO, and must have played in a just completed or current regular season. Players on non-AYSO affiliated teams must be currently registered and have fulfilled all playing obligations required by their league.
- b. All teams not sanctioned by AYSO or NMYSA must provide proof of liability insurance and accident reimbursement equal to or better than that provided by AYSO to its players.
- c. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that each player on the roster is eligible.
- d. The league official must sign the roster form to affirm that all listed players meet the eligibility criteria.
- e. Player pass cards will be required and must be presented at team check-in. AYSO Primary/Core teams may use the AYSO registration paperwork in lieu of pass cards, along with four (4) lineup cards.
- f. The AYSO Meltdown Friendly Sportsmanship Cup is open to all 9U and older AYSO teams nationally and all non-AYSO teams 9U and older.
- g. Coed teams will be accepted, however, they must play in the boy's division only.

VI. Scheduling

- a. All teams are guaranteed four games. Four games will be scheduled if possible.
- b. No team will be required to play consecutive games.
- c. Schedules will be available by the week prior to the tournament.
- d. In the event of unusual conditions requiring rescheduling, curtailment, or cancellation of games, the Tournament Staff will have the sole authority to make such changes in the best interests of the tournament.
- e. Games that are discontinued due to weather will be rescheduled, if possible, for completion. If rescheduling is not possible, the score at the time the game was suspended will be deemed the final score.
- f. Refund Policy
 - i. In the event that the entire tournament must be canceled due to weather or other uncontrollable events, teams will receive a full refund.
 - ii. Teams that withdraw prior to the application deadline will receive a full refund.
 - iii. Teams that withdraw after the application deadline will receive a full refund only if a replacement team is found.
 - iv. No other refunds will be given.

VII. Game Conduct

- a. All games shall be conducted in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Board in effect.
- b. Consistent with the US Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division players 11U and below. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game in this division. Please note that if a bracket is formed with 11U and 12U teams, no heading of the ball will be allowed in that bracket for the entirety of the tournament.

VIII. Competition

- a. Players on the field:
 - i. Games for 13U-19U will be 11-a-side.
 - ii. Games for 11U-12U will be 9-a-side.
 - iii. Games for 9U-10U will be 7-a-side.
- b. Coaches shall not enter the field of play, unless requested by the referee. Only coaches and players will be allowed in the technical area.
- c. Coaches and players from both teams will occupy the North or East side of the field. Spectators will occupy the South or West side of the field.
- d. All games shall start on time. If a team is not ready to start a game within 5 minutes after the scheduled time (which included not having player cards), the game shall be deemed a forfeit, and recorded as a 1-0 win for the opposing team.
- e. Minimum players to constitute a team:
 - i. Seven (7) players for 13U-19U
 - ii. Six (6) players for 11U-12U
 - iii. Five (5) players for 9U-10U

A scheduled game shall not commence nor be continued if one or both teams cannot field the minimum of eligible players.

- f. There are no overtime periods.
- g. The first game of each team will end by having "Kicks from the Penalty Mark":
 - i. The same rules apply to this as if this was a competitive tournament/championship game.
 - ii. Only players on the field at the end of the game may participate.
 - iii. A total of five (5) kicks per team will be played, alternating per team.
- h. Players "sent off" (issued a red card) from any game will not be permitted to play in the following game. Coaches requested to leave a game by the referee cannot be present or coach their team's next game. Not present means not within 100 yards of the game field. All players under the age of 18 will be escorted off the field by a parent, guardian, or Safe Haven Trained Volunteer. If a parent or guardian is not present, the player will stay on the sidelines with the Safe Haven Trained Volunteer (away from the team) until a parent or guardian shows up or until the end of the game (at which time the player will be given over to the coach).
- i. Game durations:
 - i. 9U/10U will play 2 20-minute halves (total of 40 minute game)
 - ii. 11U/12U will play 2 22-minute halves (total of 44 minute game)
 - iii. 13U/14U will play 2 25-minute halves (total of 50 minute game)
 - iv. 15U-19U will play 2 30-minute halves (total of 60 minute game)
- j. All games will be played in accordance with the AYSO National Rules and Regulations. Thus, all registered players in attendance at games must play at least the equivalent of one half of each game.

- k. Monitored free substitutions are allowed for ALL age groups. Teams may substitute players, with the referee's permission, at any stoppage of play. A substitution may only be called when a team's players are ready and at the center line.
- l. The referee must be notified of all substitutions.
- m. Substitution for injury is as follows:
 - i. If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player. The other team may substitute one-for-one at that time also.
 - ii. The coach may choose to play "short", thereby allowing the injured player to return with the permission of the referee.
 - iii. The injured player must be recognized by the referee to legally return to the game.
- n. Players that are cautioned (shown a yellow card), may, at the discretion of the coach, be substituted. The other team may substitute one-for-one at that time also.

IX. Officiating

- a. Referees shall at all times follow the Rules and Regulations of competition as defined by AYSO and the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b. Coaches and youth referees may not sign-up to officiate in their own bracket.
- c. Referees shall at all times put great emphasis on the welfare of the players and officiate the game in a manner conducive to fair competition and good sportsmanship.
- d. If a player is injured, the referee, at his or her discretion, may stop play to ensure that welfare of the player, even if the ball has not gone out of play.
- e. USSF Referees must cross-certify with AYSO and be Safe Haven Certified.
- f. Yellow cards and Red cards will not be shown to team officials. However, Referees have the right to issue formal warnings or to expel team officials from the match. Such actions will be noted in the match report.

X. Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches and Officials

- a. Each AYSO coach must have:
 - i. A current season volunteer form on file with the NSTC.
 - ii. Provide their AYSO identification number.
 - iii. Be Safe-Haven certified

Both head coaches and assistant coaches must have certification as follows:

9U-10U	10U certification or higher
11U-12U	12U certification or higher
13U-14U	Intermediate certification or higher
15U+	Advanced certification or higher

- b. All coaches and officials must remember that they are important role models for the players. It shall be the duty of each coach and official to:
 - i. Conduct himself/herself in a manner promoting good sportsmanship.
 - ii. At all times encourage clean competition and fair play.
 - iii. Uphold the tournament rules.
 - iv. Participate in positive coaching.
 - v. Present a healthy athletic environment for players. Coaches, officials, and spectators must not consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco products during the games or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.
 - vi. Be responsible for the conduct of their parent/spectators.

- c. Sideline coaching is limited to four coaches from each team. They shall be limited to a technical area that extends 10 yards from the half way line to the top of the penalty area.
- d. Negative comments and complaints about refereeing are not allowed.

XI. Field of Play

- a. Dimensions, marking, goal area, penalty area, corner area, and goals will be at the discretion of the tournament staff. All efforts to conform to FIFA Laws will be made.

XII. Teams

- a. A player may not play on more than one entered team.
- b. Teams discovered to have ineligible players or not to have played eligible players in attendance shall be disqualified from further competition. Previous matches played by a disqualified team will be recorded as 1-0 wins for the opposing teams, regardless of the initial results.
- c. The home team is that which is listed first in the schedule.
- d. The home team shall change jerseys when there is a conflict in uniforms. The home team should have some pennies available if they do not have a jersey change.

XIII. Player Safety

- a. All players must wear shin guards in all tournament games.
- b. Players shall not be allowed to participate in any game with any type of cast or splint.
- c. It is recommended that all players wear soccer shoes, tennis shoes, or similar type athletic shoe. Players may not wear metal cleats. Cleats that have toe cleats must be inspected by the referee to ensure they are safe to play in. Some cleat configurations wrap the cleat across the toe, however, toe cleats like the ones found on baseball cleats are not allowed.
- d. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player.
- e. Players shall not wear jewelry of any kind.
- f. Any player with a medical alert necklace or bracelet may wear it in competition if secured to the body with clear medical tape.

XIV. Referee Reimbursement Program

- a. Each regions (AYSO) or team (non-AYSO) will receive a refund of part of the referee deposit fee according to the following schedule.
 - i. For each game centered by an accredited referee in uniform: \$25.00.
 - ii. For each game completed by a trained assistant referee in uniform: \$12.50
- b. The refund is limited to \$100.00 per team. The total refund for each team for the entire tournament is \$100.00, the amount deposited.
- c. Only AYSO accredited referees (or AYSO cross trained USSF Referees) will be permitted to center games.
- d. The tournament referee administrator will make all decisions on game assignments.
- e. To receive credit, the referee and assistant referees must sign the game report card, and legibly print their name and the name of the team that is to receive credit. This card must be returned to the Referee Tent at the end of the game.
 - i. Note: Club Lines (parents asked to help on the sidelines to call balls in and out) will not be counted toward deposit refunds.

XV. Medical Emergencies

- a. The tournament will provide, at the very minimum, one medical specialist who will remain in contact by radio with tournament staff.
- b. In case of a medical emergency, tournament staff will coordinate communications with local emergency services, as needed.
- c. Local emergency services will be notified of the date and times of the tournament in accordance with AYSO National policy.
- d. Field monitors will be the first to respond to any incidents or injuries, and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff by radio. Tournament participants are encouraged to report any concerns immediately to the field monitors and also to respectfully follow any instructions given by the field monitor.

XVI. Disputes and Rules Interpretation

- a. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are neither grounds for nor subject to protest or dispute.
- b. All protests must be reported to the Tournament Director or Assistant Director for consideration of review.
- c. All protest decisions are final.
- d. The Tournament Director retains the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules at their discretion, to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants.