

## Protection Through Education

### NCACE Standards Accreditation

Accreditation and adherence to the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education's national standards provides AYSO with across-the-board recognition and validity for AYSO's certification programs.

**AYSO training, certification and continuing education** features AYSO certified instructors and complete instructional plans. The in-house certification program provides every volunteer with the highest level of protection at the lowest possible cost. Additionally it offers the hope that every AYSO child will be treated with understanding, compassion and respect.

## Child and Volunteer Protection

You are entering an



By entering this **Kids** zone, you agree to the following:

- Kids are #1.
- Fun, not winning is everything.
- Fans only cheer, and only coaches coach.
- No yelling in anger.
- Respect the volunteer referees.
- No swearing or abusive behavior.
- No alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
- No weapons.
- Leave no trash behind.
- Set a proper example of sportsmanship.

If you can agree to the above, we welcome you.

**AYSO - it's for the kids!**



## Help Fulfill the AYSO Promise Apply to Be a Volunteer

Apply in person at a registration event or go to [www.eAYSO.org](http://www.eAYSO.org) and complete a volunteer application. Print out two copies, and bring along a driver's license or other U.S. government issued photo identification to present to your local Region. Keep your AYSO ID# for future training opportunities.

### AYSO Online Training

AYSO offers a variety of training opportunities online via webinar or as self-paced training sessions. Learn about the vision and philosophies of AYSO, Safe Haven® guidelines on child and volunteer protection and the importance of fostering an environment that enriches children's lives.

See our schedule of webinars (live instruction over the internet) or our self-paced online training courses at: <http://www.AYSO.org/training.aspx>

To take the AYSO's Safe Haven courses please visit: <http://www.AYSOTraining.org>

Use your AYSO ID# and last name to log in. Once you're logged in, click on the "COURSES" link in the navigation bar. Then click on the link under the "SAFE HAVEN®" title. Print out a copy of the certificate at the end of the course to record your successful completion.

### AYSO Takes The Lead!

AYSO is the leading advocate for child and volunteer protection.

### AYSO Creates A Safe Haven®

Child and Volunteer Protection Now and into the Future



**American Youth Soccer Organization**  
(800) 872-2976 | [www.AYSO.org](http://www.AYSO.org)

American Youth Soccer Organization



A Child And Volunteer Protection Program For AYSO Volunteers

Certification Through Educational Courses Dealing With Protection Issues

The Leading Program To Protect Children



# Safe Haven<sup>®</sup>

## Child & Volunteer Protection Now And Into The Future

AYSO's Safe Haven<sup>®</sup> program protects its two most vital resources: players and volunteers. As part of this program, AYSO has implemented a number of initiatives to ensure child and volunteer protection.

The **Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA)** is a required Regional Board position responsible for promoting and implementing Safe Haven Policies including:

- Collection and screening of volunteer applications from every volunteer each year.
- Checking Volunteer references.
- Ensuring that all AYSO Coaches and Referees are Safe Haven certified and trained.
- Maintaining Player/Youth supervision protocols throughout the Region.

In order to afford AYSO Volunteers maximum protection under the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, AYSO requires all volunteers to:

- Complete and sign a Volunteer Application each year.
- Be authorized to carry out their job by the appropriate AYSO entity.

- Act within the scope of an AYSO job description and AYSO policies, guidelines and procedures.
- Be Safe Haven certified and trained.

**Training and Certification** is the only way to ensure the fulfillment of the AYSO vision and the protection of Volunteers and Players so AYSO requires that:

- All Coaches, Referees and Board Members be trained and certified.
- Practices & games may only be held with an AYSO trained and certified Team Coach.
- Official games may only be conducted with an AYSO trained and certified Referee.

### **Player and Youth Supervision**

**Protocols** hold the Head Coach responsible for all players until they are picked up by the designated adult or otherwise leave the area as approved by parents or guardians. All AYSO activities require:

- One adult for every 8 or fewer children.
- A minimum of 2 adults present at all times.
- At least 1 adult must be of the same gender as the players.
- No adult should ever be alone with a child other than their own.
- A "Buddy System" of a minimum of 3 individuals.

For safety reasons, AYSO does not encourage allowing players to walk or bike home alone from practices or games.



AYSO, like many youth organizations today, asks adult volunteers to submit character references and agree to background checks in order to protect players, volunteers and Region resources.

AYSO's **National Background Check Policy** authorizes the National Safe Haven Department to conduct background checks and determine whether or not certain convictions, particularly convictions involving violence, crimes against another person or substance abuse, should disqualify an individual from volunteering with AYSO. The National Background Check Policy is available online at [www.ayso.org](http://www.ayso.org).

Safe Haven policies and **eAYSO**, AYSO's player and volunteer registration system, provide the highest levels of data security and encryption measures in order to secure volunteer personal identity information.

AYSO promotes Safety Awareness and Injury Prevention, requiring Regional Safety Directors and providing recommendations for goalpost and field inspections, severe weather contingencies, site emergency response plans and first aid kits.

**Kids Zone** encourages appropriate sideline behavior and **Codes of Conduct** for Coaches, Referees, Parents and Players, defining how to work, play and act in the AYSO family-friendly environment. Every AYSO venue is a Kids Zone.

