



### **What Is AYSO Plus?**

AYSO Plus is a select pilot program that has been implemented by AYSO Section 11 (Southern California) – Area K (Huntington Beach), Area L (Southern Orange County) and Area Q (Central Orange County) that is one level above traditional recreational soccer. The objective of the AYSO Plus program is to provide top players within each region a more competitive playing experience than traditionally offered through the recreational program alone.

For AYSO Plus, teams are formed in the spring through a tryout process. The AYSO Plus program is played during the same time frame as the fall recreational AYSO program (e.g. August thru November). AYSO Plus games are played on BOTH Saturday and Sunday, with players expected to be able to play on both days. The AYSO Plus program allows each Region that desires to participate to have one boy's and one girl's team in competition in the following age groups:

- U11 (age 10 and born between 8/1/97 to 7/31/98)
- U12 (age 11 and born between 8/1/96 to 7/31/97)
- U13 (age 12 and born between 8/1/95 to 7/31/96)
- U14 (age 12 and born between 8/1/94 to 7/31/95)

Note that AYSO Plus is played in one year age brackets, as opposed to the competitive recreational program that has two year age brackets (e.g. U10, U12, and U14). Players are never allowed to play down in age bracket, and only with rare exceptions requiring Regional board approval is a player allowed to play up, based on their skill set and playing ability. Older players in the U16 and U19 age brackets already play on an inter-regional basis, and thus there is not a need for AYSO Plus at these age levels.

### **How is the team selected?**

To try out for this program, a parent or guardian must sign a waiver form for the player. We prefer that the players register for fall AYSO prior to tryouts. Check the region web site for registration dates. The waiver form can be found on the region web site Plus information page (<http://www.ayso41.org/bwp/mainaysopluspage.php>)

Tryouts will be held from mid April to early May on three or four days. Each child will be rated on their ball handling skills, offensive and defensive ability, game sense, speed, endurance, and attitude. Rating of players will be performed by Coaches and Administrators from Region 41. Trainers with AYSO Soccer Camps will help run the drills and manage the tryout process. Part of the rating process will include the family's commitment to the plus program and the player's availability during the fall season. During and after the tryout process, coaches will contact parents about player commitment, family commitment and other activities that may conflict with the Plus program

At the conclusion of the tryouts, the ratings are totaled, the players are ranked, and the coaches form their teams. Players will be notified of the results by June 15, hopefully sooner. Players that do not make the team but are registered will automatically be registered to play recreational soccer in the fall.

### **How much does AYSO plus cost?**

The normal AYSO registration fees apply. The fee includes uniforms. If the team chooses to enter into any tournaments, fees will apply - this is usually \$15 to \$35 per player for each tournament.



**What's the difference between club soccer and Plus?**

- The most important difference is that AYSO plus adheres to the AYSO philosophy - **Everyone Plays**. Players who arrive on time to the games will play at least one-half of the game - guaranteed. In some clubs, less skilled players frequently sit on the bench for the entire game or even the entire season. Area Plus games are played locally - South Orange County, with perhaps a couple games in Costa Mesa, Irvine, Tustin, etc. There will not be overnight travel to Lancaster, San Bernardino, San Diego, etc. as often seen with club teams.
- The fees - AYSO - \$95, as explained above. Many clubs charge in excess of \$1700 for fees, plus tournament fees, plus uniform fees, etc. often costing more than \$4,000 for a year.
- AYSO is an all volunteer organization. Our region, our coaches, referees etc. are not paid staff.

	<b>AYSO Plus</b>	<b>Club Soccer</b>
<b>Playing Time</b>	At least half game	No guarantee
<b>Fields</b>	Local	Anywhere
<b>Cost</b>	Standard registration fee (\$125) plus tournament fees	\$1,200 - \$4,000

**Can my child play club and Plus?**

Most club teams have players and parents sign a contract that requires that soccer for that club will be the primary activity and will have priority over other activities, including other soccer teams. The commitment required for both competitive teams is usually too much for kids this age. Current Region 41 rules prohibit club players from playing on a plus team.

**How Does AYSO Plus Compare with Club Soccer?**

AYSO Plus teams are comprised of registered players from within each respective Region. AYSO Plus is equivalent to club soccer at the upper Bronze or lower Silver level of play. Club soccer balances its teams by having different levels of play.

- Bronze
- Silver
- Silver Elite
- Gold
- Premier

All new club teams start at the bronze level, with only the top 2 or 3 teams from each pool advancing to a higher level of play in the subsequent year. Poor performing teams can be demoted from higher to lower levels of play. AYSO Plus teams can, and often do participate in club soccer tournaments following the fall and spring seasons that are geared toward the Bronze or Silver level of competition.

**What about the coaches?**

Coaches are trained through AYSO clinics and hold a minimum of an Advanced Coach certification, with many of the coaches also holding a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Series D or E State coaching license.

For additional information, or questions, please contact the Laguna Niguel Region 41 Plus Coordinator, Dave Bunetta, at [plus@ayso41.org](mailto:plus@ayso41.org)