



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

Contents

Overview of Region 878 Player Pathways.....	1
All-Star and Select Tournament Program.....	2
Program Cost and Registration.....	2
Tournament Selection.....	3
Select Roster.....	3
Select Player Eligibility.....	4
Select Coach Eligibility.....	5
Extra Program.....	6
Program Cost.....	6
Program Structure.....	6
Extra Season Dates.....	6
Player Selection.....	7

Overview of Region 878 Player Pathways

Region 878 offers three programs to support the players that want a more competitive level of play. These programs have varying levels of program structure, cost, and commitment levels. The details of the programs are defined further within the document.

Scholarship funds are not available for All-Stars, Select or Extra. There may be team-level opportunities to raise funds for some activities which can mitigate the cost of the program. Each team will determine their fundraising efforts.



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

All-Star and Select Tournament Program

The All-Star - Select program is an opportunity for players in the 10U-19U divisions to continue the competitive program in the spring season by participating in AYSO tournaments. An All-Star team is created and will participate in the Area 10D All-Star tournament. The winners of this tournament will continue to the Section All-Star tournament. Once the All-Star tournament has been completed, the team will determine if they want to convert to a Select team for the tournament season.

A Select team is composed of a coach, assistant coach, team manager and the appropriate roster size for that division. All volunteers must have completed all volunteer requirements prior to being approved for the team. All volunteers and players must be approved by the board for inclusion on the Select team. Additional eligibility requirements for the players and coaches are included within this document.

The Select season is designed to provide the players with expanded exposure to more challenging competition. For a team to do well in this environment requires commitment from the player and the family to attend practices regularly, communicate with the team volunteers, and exhibit good team skills. To provide a competitive level of play, the teams participate in tournaments throughout southern California and there are opportunities to participate in tournaments outside of California.

Program Cost and Registration

The All-Star tournament has a base cost of \$60.00 and includes one jersey (home), shorts, socks, and standard operational fees.

If a team converts to Select, additional costs will be incurred. These costs will include an additional jersey (away), pictures, additional operating costs for the extended season. Tournaments will be an additional cost based on decisions made at the program and team levels. These fees will vary depending on the age group, the number of players, and the tournaments selected.

The tournament fees will be collected via a payment plan within the registration program. The exact cost will be determined as the tournaments are determined but the anticipated amount will be a total of between \$ 500-750. If the team opts to complete fundraisers, the amount collected and submitted to the region will be pro-rated per player and credited through the payment plan.

Players wanting to participate in the All-Star program are required to register for the program within the registration portal at hesperiaayso.org in a two-step process. The initial registration submission must be done prior to the tryout period. This registration will not incur a cost.

If selected, players will be activated for the program at which time the initial payment is due. This amount will be \$60.00 and must be submitted by December 5th, 2024.

Additional payment will be due and payable in an installment plan through the system. These scheduled payments permit the teams to submit tournament applications and payments in a timely manner to secure spots. The anticipated payment schedule is as follows:



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

Date	Amount
January 31, 2025	\$200.00
February 16, 2025	\$200.00
March 8, 2025	\$200.00

Tournament Selection

The decision of which tournaments to participate in are decided at the team-level. The teams typically aim to attend three-six tournaments between February-June. The 16U and 19U select season will be modified, due to C.I.F. requirements, and limited tournament availability.

The 10U-14U select season will begin with the opportunity to participate in the Area All-Star Tournament. The Area All-Star tournament is typically held in January/February in Lancaster. At this tournament, the teams may qualify for the Section All-Star tournament held in February/March in Bakersfield. These tournaments do not have a referee fee associated but do require the region to participate in staffing referees and field monitors.

Additional tournament opportunities will be selected from December-January/February at the program level. Teams have the ability to participate in additional tournaments than those determined at the program level but additional funds and administrative efforts are required to make that happen.

Region 878 teams will strive to attend the same tournaments to allow for the support of each other and the children. If a Region 878 team is not accepted to a tournament, due to the age division being full, closed, or unavailable, an alternate tournament will be allowed, provided all paperwork was turned in on time.

Select Roster

- Select teams are typically same-gendered. In the event not enough players of one gender in an age group are eligible and interested, the Regional Board may vote to approve a coed team in that age group.
- Select teams will be composed of a full roster, as follows unless not enough players express interest in the program.
 - 10U – 9 players (Up to 10 players allowed at Board discretion)
 - 12U – 12 players (Up to 12 players maximum)
 - 14U – 14 players (Up to 15 players allowed at Board discretion)
 - 16U/19U – 15 players
- Rosters will be reviewed and approved by the Region Board within one week of coach submission.
- The Region Board will evaluate the roster for approval. In the event a Board Member is the coach for a division, or their child participated in that division, that Board Member will not participate in the vote for that division, and no special consideration will be given to that Board Member's child(ren). The evaluation will be conducted on the following aspects:
 - Player Eligibility
 - Player evaluations are conducted during the season.
 - Any behavioral concerns identified during the season by the player or family members.



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

- In the event a player is under consideration, but does not meet one of the conditions above, the Board will provide feedback to the coach.
- If there are enough players and coaches to form more than one Select team in a division, the Board will discuss the possibility at that point. In the unlikely event that the Board approves a second Select team, then both teams would be “drafted” by the Select coaches under the supervision of a Board Member with no connection to either coach or the division, in order to promote more balanced teams.
- Coaches will be responsible for contacting all players that participated in the try-outs to provide the status of their inclusion with the team. This includes contacting players that did not make the team and providing constructive feedback for that player to improve their chances in upcoming seasons. This must be done within 72 hours of receiving your approved roster names. The coach will then notify the registrar that the team is ready for registration. At this time, the registrar will activate the accepted players and an email will be sent to the email on the account.

Select Roster Adjustments

To create the environment for a cohesive team that is focused on player development, we discourage enacting roster changes throughout the season. We understand that sometimes it is necessary to allow the team to complete the Select season and therefore the following guidelines are defined.

- Players may only be replaced if they do not wish to continue into the Select Season or due to illness/injury.
- Coaches may be allowed to bring up to two guest players to a tournament (tournament regulations determine), provided these players meet all eligibility requirements, and the changes are approved by the Regional Commissioner.
- Players may be recruited from neighboring regions after the conclusion of the All-Star tournament, if the region does not have a Select team or that player is not on their Select team, and both Regional Commissioners approve.
- A Select Team may choose to end their season at any time and shall inform the Regional Board of this decision.
- If the approved Coach is no longer able to commit, and an eligible coach is unable to be found, the Select Season will end.
- If the number of players from the primary Select roster who are interested in continuing falls below the number of players on the field for the age group, the Select Season will end.

Select Player Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Select program, players must have been registered for the Fall Season and must have played in at least half of the regular season games they are eligible for. If a player has a medical reason for missed games, this must be documented with a physician’s note and submitted to the regional board to maintain Select eligibility. Players must be in the 10U division or higher in order to be eligible for Select. Players may only play in the division they participated in during the Fall season.

When considering player inclusion in the program, the coaches consider the following:

- Player’s technical skill level
- Player’s tactical awareness
- Player’s ability to play at a more competitive level.
- Player’s coachability
- Player’s sportsmanship
- Player’s attendance at practices and games



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

- Behavior of the player’s family/spectators
- Player behavior
- Player’s ability to cooperate with teammates.

Select Coach Eligibility

Coaches will be selected based on the eligibility and criteria defined. This is to ensure that the team meets the requirements for the tournaments.

- Coaches interested in coaching in the Select program must complete the online Competitive Program Coach Application and submit the application to the Region Board by October 15th of the given year.
- Coaches may apply for a division other than that which they coached in fall. Teams will be given first to applicants who coached in each division during fall season. If no applications from a coach in that division are received, other applications will be reviewed.
- A coach may apply to coach multiple divisions but may only be rostered as Head Coach to one team. Coaches may be the Head Coach on one team and Assistant Coach on a second. Coaches may not be rostered to more than two Select teams.
- Coaches interested in coaching a Select team, must meet the following requirements.
 - Demonstrated a firm knowledge of, and commitment to, the AYSO 6 Core Philosophies
 - AYSO Safe Haven renewed within the last two years.
 - CDC Concussion Awareness Training renewed within the last two years.
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training
 - SafeSport Training & all applicable updates
 - LiveScan Fingerprint for AYSO
 - Division-specific Coach Training as follows:

DIVISION	CERTIFICATION
10U	12U COACH
12U	12U COACH
14U	INTERMEDIATE COACH
16U	ADVANCED COACH
19U	ADVANCED COACH

- The Regional Board will review the applications received and will submit a virtual, closed vote to determine the head coach and the assistant coach. The following will be considered when making the determination.
 - Consistency with commitments made within the program to their team and region.
 - Demonstration of AYSO Philosophies and Values on the field
 - Testimony from coaches in the division regarding applicants



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

- o Testimony from referees with experience officiating the applicants' team(s).
- o Testimony from players and parents on applicant's team

- In the event a Board Member applies to coach a team, and is not the only applicant for that division, then that Board Member will abstain from the vote, and will be given no special consideration in comparison to the other Board Members.

Extra Program

The EXTRA program is a side-by-side program (the player cannot participate in another AYSO program concurrently) that allows players aged 10U and above to compete in a more competitive level of play. Players participating in EXTRA are ineligible to participate in Core or Select Programs. Teams in this program travel to play other EXTRA teams in a ranked setting, with end of season playoffs, and have the option to participate in AYSO tournaments during the Spring Season.

The EXTRA program is conducted in coordination with Section 1, Section 10, and Section 11 and all guidelines and rules established based on a merged entity. If a union is not created with the various Sections, we will abide by the specific rules established in the Section we are participating in (typically Section 1). EXTRA teams are allowed at the discretion of Section 1, Section 10, Area 10D, and Region 878. At any point, any of these organizations may request a player, coach, spectator, or team be removed from the EXTRA program, to benefit the overall experience for the players.

Program Cost

The Extra Circuit season is \$180.00 and includes the National Player Fee, two jerseys (home and away), shorts, socks, pictures, and a fee for participation in the EXTRA season circuit.

Program Structure

The Extra teams are registered for play within their local Region. These teams will participate in a competitive season comprised of games scheduled with other Extra teams. The games may be played in Section 1, Section 10, or Section 11 (spanning southern California) and the circuit of play will be dependent on the location of other participating Regions. The goal is to localize gameplay to minimize travel by permitting Section 1, Section 10, and Section 11 to play as one program.

Extra Season Dates

The Extra season is eligible to begin with practices on August 1, 2024. Circuit gameplay will span from late August to November. Teams advancing due to circuit play will continue with playoffs.

At the closure of the circuit play, the team will have the opportunity to decide if they wish to participate in tournaments from December through July. Tournaments will require additional fees collected based on tournament selection.



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

Player Selection

EXTRA players are chosen through tryout evaluations conducted by Advanced certified coaches with no connection to the team.

- Players interested in the EXTRA program must register for the tryout-based program online prior to attending tryouts. Players must attend at least 1 tryout date to be considered for the team. Players who do not attend at least 1 tryout will not be allowed to be rostered to the EXTRA team.
- Attendance at an EXTRA tryout does not guarantee placement on the EXTRA team. The top players in attendance at tryouts will be offered a spot on the EXTRA team.
- No factors beyond performance in EXTRA tryouts may be used to determine eligibility for EXTRA team. Regardless of any knowledge of players from past seasons, coach experience, or recommendation, only performance at tryouts will be used to roster EXTRA team.
- EXTRA coaches will be selected by the Region Board and have no input on the EXTRA roster. EXTRA coaches must meet all training requirements for the age group they are rostered to coach, including:
 - a. Current volunteer application and background check
 - b. AYSO LiveScan Fingerprint
 - c. SafeSport Training
 - d. Safe Haven Training
 - e. CDC Concussion Training
 - f. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training
 - g. Division-Specific Coach Training

Age Group	Required Training
10U	10U Coach
11U	12U Coach
12U	12U Coach
13U	Intermediate Coach
14U	Intermediate Coach
15U	Advanced Coach

- In order for our Region to host an EXTRA team in an age group, we must have appropriate referee support to assist with home games. This means we must have certified referees not coaching the EXTRA teams at the following levels:

Age Group	Required Training Level
10U	Regional Referee
11U	Intermediate Referee
12U	Intermediate Referee



Player Pathways – Competitive Programs

13U	Advanced Referee
14U	Advanced Referee
15U	Advanced Referee

- These badge requirements apply only to the Referee for EXTRA matches. Assistant Referee positions may be filled by any certified official whom the Regional Referee Administrator deems competent to officiate these higher-level events.
- EXTRA Coaches and Referees may be asked to attend additional meetings by the Section 1 EXTRA program.