

Why **YOU** want to be an AYSO Soccer Referee

1. If you are even reading this, it indicates a concurrence with the notion that America's greatness is built on the concept of community involvement and community service. Americans fundamentally want to be involved with their community. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is an all volunteer organization, dedicated to developing the hearts, minds, and bodies in American's youth. You can be a volunteer.
2. You want to do something about improving the health of the young people in our community. AYSO is a titan in the battle against wasting young lives to TV, video games, and spectator sports. Soccer is universally accessible sport. Players do not have to be tall, strong, fast, or particularly gifted to have an enjoyable time. They just have to be able to run and kick a ball. This is how you can help reduce youth inactivity that leads to diabetes, obesity, and eventually cardiovascular disease.
3. If you have a stressful job (and who doesn't?), being a center referee is a tremendous diversion that forces you to make stress a distant memory. As you control two teams, the flow of the game, the coaches, and the parents to insure all players are having a safe, fun, and fair game; it becomes impossible to remember much less obsess about problems with your job. After this Saturday morning escape, Monday morning is much easier to face.
4. If you have reached "middle age" you know (and if you haven't you will find out) that it only seems that your clothes are shrinking. Unless you make a conscious effort to remain active you will age faster and rapidly lose your health. When you become a part of the AYSO referee program you will start to feel better and will enjoy a more healthy body. There is no exercise more enjoyable than trying to keep up with over a dozen kids running up a field of freshly cut green grass.
5. You will enjoy being the most knowledgeable person on the pitch (soccer field)! There are only 17 laws (rules) that you can easily learn. Fortunately for you, most of the parents have not bothered to learn them, so you are always "the smart one". Law 5 says you are always right anyway. Beware; after you leave the pitch this is no long necessarily true and your spouse may have a different idea about you being right all the time.
6. Your child wants to play soccer and every team needs a few volunteers to make it all possible: coaches, administration, referees, etc. When you volunteer to be referee you will learn the dark secret of the "men in black". People think it is hard, strenuous, stressful, and takes a lot of time. The reality is that it is fun, easy, and takes the least amount of time of almost any worthwhile volunteer activity. Without volunteers, your child will NOT be able to play soccer and being a referee is the easiest and takes the least about of time, with the most reward.
7. When you become a referee other myths are dispelled for you.
 - a. Myth: Women can't be referees. Fact: They make great refs.
 - b. Myth: You have to be in great shape. Fact: The better shape you are in the more you will enjoy the game, but you can do it now!
 - c. Myth: The parents and coaches are onerous. Fact: Well, actually that is generally true but the good news is that like the kids you generally find them easy to ignore.
 - d. Myth: The game is complicated. Fact: The game is easy and the training only takes a few hours to learn everything you need to be a success.
 - e. Myth: You have to be young. Fact: Some refs are in their 80's.
 - f. Myth: You can't do it. Fact: That is just total fiction and ridiculous. You will have a great time!

See you on the pitch!!!