

AYSO Region 870
Progressive Play Bylaws
Enacted: May 30, 2008

1. Purpose

AYSO Region 870 recognizes that some players wish to play soccer at a more competitive level while remaining part of the spirit and organization of AYSO. This document establishes policies for the creation of *Progressive* teams following AYSO guidelines for All Star Teams. Progressive teams shall be formed based on player ability. AYSO Region 870 Progressive teams shall be a Secondary Program to Region 870's Primary Soccer Program.

2. Divisions

- a) Progressive teams shall only be formed in U10 and higher divisions. Coed Progressive teams are strongly discouraged due to a lack of viable competition. Progressive teams should be formed to correspond with established divisions in the neighboring leagues and tournaments in which the team wishes to compete.
- b) To ensure eligibility for tournaments, Progressive divisions shall strictly adhere to the July 31 age cutoff established by USSF except where tournaments and leagues allow 8th grade waivers for U14 divisions. In such cases, 8th grade waivers shall be granted at the sole discretion of the Regional Commissioner.

3. Players

To be eligible for participation on a Progressive team a player must meet the following requirements:

- a) The player must be registered for the Region 870 Primary Program before he or she participates in any Progressive activity, including tryouts.
- b) The player must complete tryouts and be evaluated by the panel of Progressive coaches.
- c) The player must participate in at least half of the Primary Program. A Progressive player who misses more than three Primary Program games during a single season (Fall or Spring) shall not be eligible for participation in Progressive matches or tournaments unless an exception is granted by the Regional Commissioner.
- d) Players must participate on a Progressive team matching their age and gender division unless an exception is granted by the Regional Commissioner.
- e) Players shall comply with all AYSO policies for player conduct and equipment.
- f) *Reserve players* – Reserve players provide Progressive teams with backups in the event that a primary roster member becomes unable to participate.
 - i. Reserve players may practice with Progressive teams, but they may not play in any matches or tournaments while in reserve status.

- ii. If a primary roster member is replaced with a reserve player, the primary member must be removed from the roster and the reserve player is added to the roster as a player. The outgoing player may not be returned to the roster unless approved by the Regional Commissioner.
- iii. Reserve players may, but are not required to, purchase a team uniform. The reserve player must have a team uniform before being added to a roster.
- iv. Reserve players must meet all other Progressive player eligibility requirements, including Primary Program and tryout participation.

4. Coaches

To be eligible for coaching a Progressive team a volunteer coach must meet the following requirements:

- a) The coach must submit a current AYSO volunteer application.
- b) The coach must be approved by the Region 870 Board.
- c) Progressive coaches should also volunteer for the Primary Program as a coach, assistant coach, or in another capacity approved by the Board. Exceptions shall be granted for Progressive coaches who do not have children participating in any Region 870 programs.
- d) Progressive teams must have a coach and assistant coach, both of whom are registered and trained by the Region. At least one coach on each team should be of the same gender as the players. If a coach of the appropriate gender is unavailable, another volunteer of the correct gender (with a properly submitted AYSO volunteer application) shall be designated to attend all team practices, games, and activities.
- e) Coaches must comply with the spirit and letter of AYSO policy, even when participating in non-AYSO tournaments or games.

5. Teams

- a) Teams shall only be formed if eligible coaches have been identified and approved.
- b) Players shall be selected for Progressive teams based on the player skill evaluations conducted at tryouts.
- c) If more than one Progressive team is formed in a given division, players shall be distributed evenly among each team based on skill evaluation scores obtained during tryouts.
- d) Per USSF recommendations, roster sizes shall be limited as follows:
 - i. U10-U11: 11 players
 - ii. U12: 13 players
 - iii. U13-U19: 15 players

- e) Each Progressive team must provide at least one volunteer referee to Region 870. In return, the Regional Referee Administrator shall schedule officials for Progressive team home games.
- f) Progressive teams shall purchase unique uniforms for use during matches and tournaments.
 - i. Players are solely responsible for uniform costs.
 - ii. Uniforms must display the AYSO logo and comply with all AYSO uniform requirements.
 - iii. Each jersey must display a unique player number. Numbers may not be repeated.
 - iv. Uniforms may not display the name of the player or team.
 - v. To prevent tournament disqualifications resulting from team color conflicts, Progressive teams shall obtain and use home and away jerseys.

6. Tryouts

- a) All Progressive players must attend and complete tryouts, which includes a player skill evaluation.
- b) Tryouts shall be publicly advertised to all Region 870 members. Tryouts shall be open to all players registered for the Region 870 Primary Program and who are eligible for the divisions in which Progressive teams are being formed.

Scheduling:

 - i. Primary tryouts should be scheduled in June prior to the Primary Program team formation meeting. Multiple primary tryout sessions may be scheduled, but all sessions should be completed prior to July 1.
 - ii. Secondary tryout sessions may be scheduled after July 1, subject to the approval of the Region 870 board. Secondary tryouts are usually scheduled to fill unexpected team vacancies or to provide additional Progressive opportunities to players prior to the Spring season. When scheduling secondary tryouts, care must be taken to ensure that the tryout sessions are well publicized to all eligible Primary Program members.
- c) Tryouts shall be conducted by all Progressive coaches and at least one Regional board member who is not a Progressive coach. These persons shall constitute the Progressive player selection panel. The panel shall consist of no fewer than three people, at least one of whom is a board member.
- d) Tryouts shall begin with a parent meeting which clearly explains the purpose and scope of the Progressive program, as well as player and parent expectations for Primary and Secondary program participation and expenses.
- e) The skill evaluation shall include clearly defined activities which measure each player's individual and team performance. Ratings criteria shall be based on

measurable observations as well as performance evaluations made by experienced coaches.

- f) Players shall be selected by the Tryout panel. Selections shall be made based solely on the findings of the skill evaluations.
 - i. Selected players shall be informed in a timely manner.
 - ii. Non-selected players may be offered the opportunity to participate as reserve players. Each team's reserve player depth should be determined by the respective team's coaches, and reserve players should be selected based on their skill evaluation scores.
 - iii. Selected players who do not wish to immediately commit to the Progressive team due to financial or scheduling concerns may opt to participate as reserve players.
 - iv. The Tryout panel shall immediately submit its selection findings to the Region 870 board for use in Primary Program team formation. The board will make every effort to evenly distribute Progressive players among Primary program teams to ensure team balance.

7. Expenses

The Progressive program shall be financially self-sustaining. Participants will pay for all costs related to Progressive play, including uniforms, travel, tournament fees, and league fees. Progressive participants shall comply with all AYSO accounting and reporting requirements.

To defray program costs, Progressive teams and participants may conduct fundraiser activities at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner.