

Burlingame AYSO Referee Respect Campaign

If you want your child to play in Burlingame AYSO or you want to coach a team, we want you to commit to the AYSO Kids Zone principles.

This sign will be posted on all AYSO fields this season and we will assume you agree with the code of conduct by your presence on the field.

There is a key item that we want to draw your attention to.

Respect the volunteer referees

In AYSO, all referees are volunteers. Some of them have kids playing AYSO soccer but many do not. Many of them are teenagers.



In Burlingame we have experienced a severe shortage of referees over the last few seasons. AYSO policy is to have a three person referee team for all U10 games and above. Many of the Burlingame games have only one referee and sometimes we have none and one of the team coaches or a parent, often with no training, has to step in.

AYSO has the referee policy for good reasons:

- player safety
- fairness
- follow the rules
- allow coaches to coach
- allow parents to cheer

Over the past few years, we have had a reasonable intake of new referees. Unfortunately, many drop out of the program.

The #1 reason referees give for dropping out of the program is the attitude that coaches and supporters have towards the referees. Essentially a lack of respect.

This season, we will have a lot of new referees and we want to keep them. We have introduced a referee mentoring program to help and encourage referees with the technical side of refereeing a game. We need your help to ensure that the referees do not feel that they go into a hostile environment when they step onto the soccer field.

AYSO will not tolerate the following:

- abuse shouted at the referee or assistant referee
- criticism of a referee decision, wherever it is directed
- ignoring the basic rules that apply to coaches and supporters, such as:
 - coaches straying outside the 'technical area'
 - supporters encroaching onto the sideline – they should be 3 or more yards away
 - supporters behind the goal lines
 - any of the kids zone rules

Bottom line: AYSO – it's for the kids!