



## The 34<sup>th</sup> Ron Denine Memorial Mission Viejo Classic AYSO Invitational - 2026 Tournament Rules



CATEGORY	RULE
<b>1) JURISDICTION</b>	<p>A. Unless otherwise noted, the current AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Section 11 and FIFA Laws of the game will be used for this tournament. The following rules are intended specifically for this tournament ONLY!</p> <p>B. The Tournament Committee (incl. Tournament Director, Assistant Director(s), Field Director, Referee Director, and other designated staff) will have jurisdiction over all games played. Disputes will be resolved by the end of the soccer day. Referee judgment calls are NOT subject to dispute or protest!</p>
<b>2) FEES</b>	<p>A. Entry fee and referee deposit must accompany tournament application and will be returned if application is not accepted. Fee must be paid via Credit Card at the time of online registration or a single check for each team. Credit Card payment is preferred method.</p> <p>B. Fees are: U10 \$850 (entry fee \$550 plus referee deposit \$300), U12 \$900 (entry fee \$600 plus referee deposit \$300), U14 \$950 (entry fee \$650 plus referee deposit \$300), U16 &amp; U19 \$1000 (entry fee \$700 plus referee deposit \$300).</p>
<b>3) ACCEPTANCE</b>	<p>A. Applications are due by <b>May 6, 2026</b>.</p> <p>B. Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis, based on completed application (see Team Application Form for criteria). Teams will be notified by email within 48 hours of receipt of their applications.</p> <p>C. Teams not accepted into the tournament will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list.</p> <p>D. The primary form of communication between the Tournament and applying teams will be email and the Tournament website. Teams must designate a Team Contact on their application who has email and Internet access.</p>
<b>4) REFUNDS</b>	<p>A. Teams withdrawing 30 days or more before the tournament will be issued a full refund minus any transaction fees.</p> <p>B. Teams withdrawing less than 30 days before the start of the tournament will only be issued a refund (minus any transaction fees) if a replacement team can be found.</p> <p>C. If the tournament is canceled and cannot be rescheduled, a full refund will be issued.</p> <p>D. For teams that are eligible, referee deposit refunds will be mailed no later than 60 days after the end of the tournament as long as refund information is available in the tournament application. Referee deposit refunds will be on a prorated basis, comparing the number of assignments completed versus the number required. (See item 8 Referees for requirement information)</p>
<b>5) RAINOUT/ CANCELLATION</b>	<p>A. Should the tournament be rained out on the original date, there will be no rain out dates. In this case teams will receive a refund, less the costs of any pre-ordered items which were not included in the registration fee. These pre-ordered items will be sent to the team.</p> <p>B. If the tournament is cancelled due to weather after partially completing and it cannot be rescheduled to be completed, refunds will be made to teams on a prorated basis, based on the number of actual games played after a deduction of items the team has received, and which were not included in the registration fee.</p> <p>C. If the tournament cannot be held due to weather or other conditions beyond the control of the tournament hosts, then a full refund will be sent to all teams, less the cost of any pre-ordered items which were not included in the registration fee. These pre-ordered items will be sent to the team.</p>
<b>6) PLAYERS/TEAMS</b>	<p>A. Players on participating teams must be properly registered in AYSO system and have played in AYSO during a MY25 season. Player Medical Release Forms in electronic or digital format, will NOT be accepted. Hard copies are required. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all players meet eligibility requirements.</p> <p>B. The team roster must be verified and approved by each player's Regional Commissioner. Roster changes may be submitted (with the written approval of the Regional Commissioner); however, these changes should be received by the Tournament Registrar prior to the tournament.</p> <p>C. 3 Guest Players (players from a different Region) will be allowed for each team. Guest Players are required to have the approval of both the Guest Player's Regional Commissioner and the Host Team Regional Commissioner (see Guest Player Form).</p> <p>D. Coed teams will be accepted; however, they must play in the boy's divisions only.</p> <p>E. Divisions U-16 and U-19 will play 11-v-11, and there will be a roster limit of 18 players per team. Division U-14 will play 11-v-11, and there will be a roster limit of 15 players per team. Division U-12 will play 9-v-9, and there will be a roster limit of 12 players per team. Division U-10 will play 7-v-7, and there will be a roster limit of 10 players per team.</p>

	F. All players must play at least half of each game. Violation of these player rules exposes a team to protest and renders them subject to forfeiture of game and possible disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
<b>7) COACHES</b>	<p>A. Each team is limited to one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach only. These coaches must be the ones listed on the Official Team Roster.</p> <p>B. Each AYSO Coach/Referee must have a current AYSO membership year volunteer application form on file, provide their AYSO ID number, have a current/valid Sterling background check, and be trained in AYSO Safe Haven CDC Concussion Awareness, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest.</p> <p>C. Both Head Coach and Assistant Coach must have Certifications as follows:  U-10: U-10 Certification or higher  U-12: U-12 Certification or higher  U-14: Intermediate Certification or higher  U-16/U-19: Advanced Certification or higher</p> <p>D. Coaches are expected to set an example for their team in exhibiting proper AYSO behavior and Kids Zone behavior. Coaches are expected to remain in the technical area during games and only enter the field of play as requested by the referee.</p>
<b>8) REFEREES</b>	<p>A. Each team in the tournament will provide a crew of 3 referees to receive their referee refund. These referees will be assigned a minimum of 3 games, based on their qualifications.</p> <p>B. Each AYSO Coach/Referee must have a current AYSO membership year volunteer application form on file, provide their AYSO ID number, have a current/valid Sterling background check, and be trained in AYSO Safe Haven CDC Concussion Awareness, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. If the tournament has discovered a referee that is not a current registered volunteer, the referee will be disqualified and will be reported to his/her regional commissioner.</p> <p>C. Only the diagonal system of control will be used to referee the games.</p> <p>D. Referees for U-16/U-19 games must be AYSO Advanced or above.  Referees for U-14 games must be AYSO Advanced or above.  Referees for U-12 games must be Intermediate or above.  Referees for U-10 games must be Regional or above.</p> <p>E. Youth referees (acting as the referee) must be at least 2 years older than the age group they are refereeing.</p> <p>F. All referees must be in full Uniform as defined by AYSO and USSF, including the Referee Badge. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games, and their team's referee deposit may be subject to forfeiture.</p> <p>G. If all assignments are successfully completed, the Referee Deposit will be refunded (see REFEREE PLAN for more details).</p> <p>H. Referees are expected to check in at the Referee Station at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned game. Failure to appear on time may result in a replacement referee crew being assigned to the field. Once a replacement crew has been assigned, they will have priority, and the original crew must report to the Referee station for alternative assignment.</p> <p><b><u>I. Players in the tournament will not be allowed to referee.</u></b></p> <p>J. Coaches, who are referees, will be allowed to represent their team only.</p> <p>K. Referees will be expected to uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament and will place a team's referee deposit refund in jeopardy.</p> <p>L. Referee Deposits will be refunded within 60 days of the tournament, if referee assignments have been completed. Partial refunds will be given based upon the number of game slots completed.</p>
<b>9) FIELDS</b>	<p>A. All fields will be set up and taken down by the tournament staff and volunteers.</p> <p>B. Trash cans will be provided at each field. Teams will be expected to clean up all trash in their area before leaving.</p> <p>C. Please observe the following Facility Use Rules and City of Mission Viejo parks regulations while attending the tournament.</p>
<b>10) FORMAT</b>	<p>A. This is a pool-play tournament.</p> <p>B. Each age division will be bracketed into playing pools. Each team will play a minimum of 3 preliminary play games within their respective pools. Where there are sufficient teams, divisions will also be separated into multiple competition flights.</p> <p>C. Teams will advance from qualifying pools based on pool play standings points. See Advancement section below for details.</p>
<b>11) CHECK-IN</b>	A. Teams must check in 60 minutes prior to their first game and must present Game Cards for as many games as the team will play in the tournament (including medal-round games). The Game Cards must be properly

	<p>completed with the players listed first name-last name in uniform order. The players listed on the game cards must match the approved roster submitted with the team's application.</p> <p>B. Each coach or team representative must provide AYSO Player Registration forms with original ink signatures for verification by tournament officials.</p> <p>C. Coaches must have these Player Registration forms with them at all times and ready for presentation to Tournament Officials.</p> <p>D. Late arriving players must be escorted to the check-in station by a team official along with their Player Registration Form and be cleared by the Tournament Staff before participating in any games.</p>									
<b>12) FIELD MONITORS</b>	<p>A. There will be a tournament Field Monitor assigned to each field and will report to the Tournament Field Director. Field Monitors will check in teams prior to each game and present the verified game cards to the match referees.</p> <p>B. At the conclusion of the game, the match referees must return the completed game cards to the Field Monitor.</p> <p>C. Field Monitors will be the first to respond to any incidents or injuries and will be in contact with the rest of the tournament staff by radio. Tournament participants are encouraged to report any concerns immediately to the Field Monitor, and also to respectfully follow any instructions given by the Field Monitor.</p>									
<b>13) GAMES</b>	<p>A. Pool play games will consist of 25 to 30-minute halves depending on the age division (see chart below) with a five-minute half time. There will be a running clock during the match including substitutions. There will be no time added on for injuries or time wasted in qualifying rounds. Games will be expected to end on time and may be shortened if they started late. Pool play games may end in a tie.</p> <p>B. Championship games will consist of 25 to 30-minute halves depending on the age division (see chart below) and must have a winner (see Medal Round rules below).</p> <p>C. Game duration shall be as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Pool Play</th> <th>Semi, Final Rounds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U10-U12:</td> <td>25-minute half</td> <td>25-minute half</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U14-U19:</td> <td>30-minute half</td> <td>30-minute half</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>D. The "home" team will be the first team or top team listed on the game schedule and will be responsible for providing the game ball. The home team will be situated on the North or East side of the field, and the visitor will be situated on the South or West side. Spectators must remain on the side of the field designated for their team. The home team will change jerseys or wear pennies in the event of a color conflict with the visitor team. If there are any questions, the referee will determine whether this is necessary.</p> <p>E. There will be no warming up on the field. Teams must warm up prior to taking the field. As soon as the previous game has ended, teams must clear the field and the teams for the next game must take their places.</p> <p>F. Home teams will choose a side to attack visiting teams will kick off</p> <p>G. FORFEITS: Teams must check in at the designated Field Coordinator Station 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. There will be a five-minute grace period at the start of the game for a team to take the field before a forfeit is declared. The score for a forfeit match will be 1-0 (See STANDINGS for the points to be awarded). For U-10 division teams, there is a minimum of 5 players on the field to continue a game. For U-12 the minimum number is 6 players. For all other divisions, there must be a minimum of 7 players to continue a game. If a team cannot fill the minimum number of players, the game will be abandoned, and a forfeit will be declared. In case of teams' expulsion from the tournament the remaining of the teams in the same pool will be awarded a score of 1-0 win</p> <p>H. SUSPENDED GAMES: The Tournament Committee may determine to end matches early if field schedule is behind due to game delays, interference, or if weather conditions provide unsafe conditions; and may distribute awards according to games played and points. The Tournament Committee will determine the outcome of any single game which is terminated prematurely (due to inclement weather, participant injury, or interference by outside party, etc.).</p> <p>I. ABANDONED GAMES: if any pool play games cannot be played due to circumstances beyond the control of the tournament, the final standings of the pool will be determined by applying the Winning Percentage formula (Total Points Earned in all Game Played divided by Total Points Possible for the Number of Games Played) to each team in the pool. Note. This does not apply to games which were shortened due to a late start. Only the Tournament Director or designee can declare a game to be abandoned or not played.</p>	Division	Pool Play	Semi, Final Rounds	U10-U12:	25-minute half	25-minute half	U14-U19:	30-minute half	30-minute half
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U10-U12:	25-minute half	25-minute half								
U14-U19:	30-minute half	30-minute half								
<b>14) SUBSTITUTIONS</b>	<p>A. Substitutions shall be allowed at halftime and approximately mid-way through each half for divisions U10 through U14 and will be recorded on the game cards by the referee.</p> <p>B. All substitutions must be approved and recognized by the referee. Substitutions may be made for injured players; however, they may not return until the beginning of the next quarter and will be considered as having played the current quarter (exception: an injured player not replaced may return to play at any time with the referee's permission).</p> <p>C. Substitutions in U16/U19 will be monitored substitution according to the AYSO Special Program for U16/U19 Play. Playing time for each player will be recorded on a special time monitoring form by a tournament official. Substitutions will be allowed at:</p>									

	<p>THROW IN - by the possessing team, in this event the opponent team may substitute</p> <p>GOAL KICK- by either team</p> <p>KICK OFF-by either team</p> <p>PLAYER INJURY- in this event the opponent team may substitute one on one basis.</p>
<b>15) STANDINGS</b>	<p>A. Standings for pool play games will be determined on the “ten-point system” as follows:</p> <p>WIN = 6 points</p> <p>TIE = 3 points</p> <p>LOSS = 0 points</p> <p>GOAL = 1 point (one point per goal scored up to a maximum of 3 per game, win or lose)</p> <p>SHUTOUT = 1 point (for an <u>earned</u> shutout, including a 0-0 tie)</p> <p>FORFEIT = 8 points (scored as a 1-0 win)</p> <p>RED CARD/ = 3 points deduction per the tournament director discretion (Player, Team Official, Spectator)</p> <p>EJECTION</p> <p>B. Winners of ties in standings will be determined as follows:</p> <p>Head-to-head competition</p> <p>Goals allowed – total (fewest number advances)</p> <p>Goal differential (goals scored less goals allowed, up to 5 goal differential max per game)</p> <p>Coin toss or Penalties (formerly KFTPM) if time allows.</p> <p>C. For divisions that qualify to have wild card teams, wild card teams will be the team(s) with the highest standings' points from all teams in the division who are not automatically advancing.</p> <p>D. Standings will be updated at least hourly online. The deadline to challenge the posted results will be at the conclusion of Pool Play.</p>
<b>16) ADVANCEMENTS</b>	<p>A. Pool winners (and in some cases wildcard teams) will advance to medal round play.</p> <p>B. Teams will play semi-final and/or championship final matches, depending on the number of teams in each pool and the format of play for that flight.</p>
<b>17) MEDAL-ROUNDS</b>	<p>A. All medal round matches ending in a tie at end of regulation time, shall be decided by FIFA Penalties (formerly KFTPM).</p>
<b>18) AWARDS</b>	<p>A. Medals will be presented to coaches and players on teams that make either the final or semi/consolation games.</p> <p>B. A tournament pin will be presented to each player and coach.</p> <p>C. A Team Trophy will be awarded to the coach of the winning team in each age division.</p>
<b>19) CONDUCT</b>	<p>A. All Coaches will be expected to set a positive example for the team and will be held responsible for the actions of their team including spectators. All spectators must remain behind the control line and between the 18-yard lines. Two coaches maximum per team, and they must remain in the marked coaching area (within ten yards either way from midfield).</p> <p>B. At the conclusion of each match, the referees will be required to complete a game misconduct report for <u>all</u> misconduct during the game, as well as any incidents of interference by spectators.</p> <p>C. Any coach or spectator ejected must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field (out of sight and sound) and will be prohibited from attending the next scheduled game. Any player sent off (red carded) must immediately leave the vicinity of the game (under supervision of their parent or Safe Haven-certified adult) and may not return to the field of play during the current game, including for the post-game handshake, and may not be substituted for, and is suspended from participation in the next game.</p> <p>D. Any violent conduct red card or ejection will result in that player/coach/spectator being barred from the remainder of the tournament.</p> <p>E. If it is determined that an ineligible player has participated in a game, the team will forfeit all games in which that player participated illegally. Furthermore, if it is determined that the coach knowingly played a player illegally, that coach will be barred from further participation in the tournament.</p> <p>F. It is mandatory to play a scheduled game. If it is determined that a coach willfully fails to have his team participate in a scheduled game, the coach will be dismissed from the tournament, and the incident will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner.</p> <p>G. All conduct problems will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner.</p> <p>H. All Serious Incidents will be reported to the respective Regional Commissioner as well as Area, Section and National Office.</p>
<b>20) MEDICAL/FIRST AID</b>	<p>A. There will be a First Aid station at the main tent where participants may receive ice, etc. for minor injuries.</p> <p>B. Field Monitors will communicate via radio to call the first aid staffer to the field where first aid is requested.</p> <p>C. If an injury is serious, the Field Monitor or Safety Director will have a mobile phone to call 911 for emergency response.</p>

	D. Directions to the nearest hospital/urgent care center will be available at the First Aid station/HQ Tent.
<b>21) UNIFORMS/SAFETY</b>	<p>A. All players must wear the approved AYSO uniform only. All players on the same team must wear matching uniforms (goalkeeper excepted – may have a different jersey – the AYSO logo is recommended but not required).</p> <p>B. Each player's uniform must be marked with a permanently affixed unique number that matches the uniform number on the Game Card and may not exchange numbered jerseys with any other player during the game including the goalkeeper.</p> <p>C. Garments may be worn under the uniform (i.e. long sleeves, etc.) during inclement weather; however the match referee will be the judge of what should be allowed or not.</p> <p>D. No player will be allowed to participate in any game with any type of cast or splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area to participate shall disqualify the team member from participation.</p> <p>E. AYSO will not prohibit the use of knee braces by players in AYSO events and programs providing that the brace is adequately covered and padded in the judgment of the referee, to eliminate the possibility of its causing injury to the other players on the field.</p>
<b>22) PROTESTS</b>	<p>A. Protests will be considered only for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ineligible player has played.</li> <li>• One or more registered player(s), present and in uniform, has not played the required one half of the game (except for illness or injury as recorded by the game referee).</li> </ul> <p>B. All protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 1/2 hour of the completion of the game.</p> <p>C. All protests will be heard by a Protest Committee of at least three persons selected by the Tournament Director. In all cases, the members of the Protest Committee will be unrelated to either team involved in the protest. ALL PROTEST DECISIONS ARE FINAL!</p> <p>D. Referee judgment calls are FINAL and are not grounds for nor subject to protest or dispute!</p>
<b>23) RULES INTERPRETATION</b>	The Tournament Director retains the right to interpret and apply the tournament rules to the optimum benefit of all tournament participants.