



AYSO 498 Madison AL Sportsmanship Program



One of the core philosophies of AYSO is “Good Sportsmanship”. This embodies all that we do, whether it is as parent, a coach, or player, a referee or any other person involved with our region. Year after year, Region 498 is filled with many, many acts of great sportsmanship. Unfortunately, most of these are overlooked in favor of a few complaints about the bad call, the overbearing coach, a foul-mouthed kid, or the shrieking parent to name a few. **We would like to recognize the good!**

Program Objectives:

The Sportsmanship Program utilizes a rating system to reward and reinforce positive behavior during games. Points are awarded by the game officials.

Point System: The point system is based on a three-point scale (0, 1, 2, 3) in which both positive and negative sportsmanship by players, coaches and spectators is recognized through the addition or subtraction of sportsmanship points. Sportsmanship points will be awarded as follows:

- Exceptional = 3
- Average = 2
- Below Average = 1
- Unacceptable = 0

Sportsmanship points will be reported weekly as part of the team standings. Two scores will be assessed, one for players and one for adults which included coaches and spectators. A typical score for one game will be 4 (2 for kids, 2 for adults). Sportsmanship Program Example Scenarios: Note that these are very much based on two criteria: **the misconduct recognition referees are trained to look for, and the AYSO mission that sets us apart.** Applying it to players AND adults will help recognize that. This is NOT an exhaustive list.

- For players, any incidences of sportsmanship-oriented cautions (i.e. would warrant a Yellow Card regardless of age) that are recorded as “Unsporting Behavior”, “Persistent Infringement” or “Dissent” would deduct a point.
- For players, any sending-off offenses would deduct a point. This includes swearing, spitting at a person, or fighting, before, during, or after the game.
- For adults, any incidences that could be classified as "unsporting behavior", or "persistent infringement", or dissent, would deduct a point. i.e. If that adult had been a player, would they have been cautioned? A point deduction is warranted.
- For coaches, in addition to the above, any incidences that fail to respect the AYSO philosophies (Good Sportsmanship, Everyone Plays, Player Development, and Positive Coaching) would deduct a point.
- For coaches, a final score with a goal difference of 6 or greater would deduct a point.
- For moments of EXCEPTIONAL Sportsmanship, the referee will be able to give the game coin(s) used for the initial toss to the player (or adult) that exhibited this behavior.
- Players, parents and coaches from team cheers when opponent scores: +1
- Complimenting the opposing team on good plays: +1
- Team recognizes the efforts of the other team with a tunnel or other positive gestures: +1



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- Injured player, opponent deliberately and proactively kicks the ball out of play rather than continue on goal: EXCEPTIONAL Sportsmanship (to be recognized and rewarded by the Referee).
- After “quarter” substitutions, team is unusually slow (2 minutes or longer) to take the field as coach considers this a “time-out”: -1
- Reckless tackle: Unsporting Behavior Caution: -1
- Persistent parent dissent: -1
- No handshakes with referees or players from the other team post-game: -1 (even if most do it... if not all it is still NOT good sportsmanship).
- Coach dissent (by words OR actions, before, during or after the game) -1

Application of Points Sportsmanship points will be assessed for all games in the region for the all age groups. For each Fall and Spring seasons the top 10 teams will be given Sportsmanship Awards with a gift card, gift certificate, pizza party for the team. Examples value of the award are 1 x \$100.00, 5 x \$50.00 and 4 x \$25.00.

Sportsmanship points will be used as qualification criteria for Area/State/National tournament play:

During the regular season, the award of two or more "0" sportsmanship points in either category (players or adults) will, by default, disqualify a team from Area level post-season tournament play. All “0” awards will be reviewed by the responsible referee, Division Coordinator, the Regional Coach Administrator and the Regional Referee Administrator.

Any disqualified team has the right to appeal to the Sportsmanship Committee.

The appropriate Division Coordinator or appointed board member will initiate an investigation for every game where a below average (1) or unacceptable (0) sportsmanship is identified. Upon review, the Regional Commissioner may proceed with one of the three hearing processes:

- Level 0 No Action: The situation is understandable and forgivable and no guidance or corrective action is necessary.
- Level 1 Verbal Counseling: A regional board member will contact the head coach and discuss the incident in person or by phone.
- Level 2 Formal Warning: The Regional Coach Administrator (RCA) meets with Head Coach and Assistant Coach for additional fact finding. Written recap with any recommendations from RCA to coaches involved will follow no later than one day prior to next game.
- Level 3 Regional Hearing: Parties will meet with the Sportsmanship Committee for questions and answers. The Sportsmanship Committee will make a recommendation and forward it to the Regional Commissioner. The recommendation can range from verbal counseling to removal of the coach or player. The Regional Commissioner will either approve or modify the recommendation.

If a referee issues frequent or unreasonable 0-point reviews, the Sportsmanship Committee will look into the matter and may discuss the practice with the referee or RRA to ensure sportsmanship points are being awarded in a consistent manner across the region.