



AYSO Challenge – Region 678 Valencia United Program

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The following are supplemental guidelines unique to the Region 678 Valencia United Challenge Program. These guidelines support and are in addition to the Section 10 Challenge guidelines approved by the AYSO National Board of Directors.

REGION CHALLENGE ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The Region 678 Board is responsible for the administration and management of its Valencia United Challenge program under the oversight of Area 10S. Region 678 will support the program by approving and filling key positions on its Regional board in conjunction with the Area Challenge program. In general, these positions are an extension of existing positions on the Regional Board, but the Board reserves the right to appoint new or existing board members to these positions, provided they attain the necessary certifications/training.

These positions include, but are not limited to: (Please refer to Section 10 Challenge Guidelines for role descriptions):

- Area Challenge Vice President (Regional Commissioner)
- Regional Challenge Coordinators (RCC)
- Region Challenge Registrar (Can be an Area position)
- Other positions that will share some responsibilities include treasurer, coach director, CVPA/Risk Management, Safety, Secretary and Referee Administrator, etc.

TEAM ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Beyond what Cal South mandates, Region 678 will require each team has the following official team personnel, that are **appropriately licensed and have both Safe Haven and the club Risk Management certifications. They must also be AYSO Registered volunteers.**

- **Challenge Head Coach:** Each team must have one designated Head Coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.
- **Challenge Assistant Coach:** Each team must have at least one designated assistant coach, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications.
- **Challenge Team Manager:** Each team will be required to have a Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. Team Manager will liaise with Regional Challenge Coordinator and appropriate registrar and be responsible for ensuring

team registration, compliance and coordination of volunteer participation within home region. Team manager will ensure that team finances for the team account (if applicable, for example, collection of referee fees) are documented and will submit detailed records upon request to the Region/Area/Section. (Detailed below)

- **Challenger Assistant Team Manager/Treasurer:** Each team will be required to have a back-up Team Manager, who will attain all required AYSO and non-AYSO certifications. The Assistant Team manager will assume Team Manager responsibilities in the absence of the Team manager or assist/share responsibilities.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM REQUIREMENTS

A team and players must:

- Be dual registered in both AYSO and a non-AYSO club league (Cal South and Coast League).
- Each team is required to fulfill volunteer requirements detailed in the Challenge Team Volunteer Program that are designed to “GIVE BACK” to Region 678 to compensate for the significant volunteer support it requires to run the Challenge Program and to help enrich the Region 678 experience overall. This includes volunteer tasks and refereeing, etc.
- Every player at the 12-year old level must take the Referee Certification Course
- Each coach/team manager must sign a Coach-Challenge Agreement.
- Each Player Family must sign a Player/Parent Agreement.
- Agree to meet all financial obligations as set by Region 678. All AYSO Challenge fees are due no later than April 1. Payment should be made to Region 678. Any arrangement for a deadline extension must be made between the Region and Player Family. A player may seek sponsorship or apply money raised through fundraising.

NON-AYSO CLUB GUIDELINES & REGISTRATION FOR TEAMS & PLAYERS

Eligibility to Participate in Challenge

The mission of the Challenge Program is to develop players in a highly competitive environment, but even more important, is to foster a love of the game. **Therefore, Region 678 reserves the right to approve or deny fielding a Challenge team in any division.** Region 678 will make its approval or denial based on a team’s prior performance, overall skill level, and other factors, such as, if a majority of players had a successful Extra or All-Star seasons the prior year, or the recruiting class was exceptional.

The final determination will be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner. The opportunity to appeal will be at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner.

Team Size: Although Cal South has established limits for team sizes, **Region 678 policy limits team size further to ensure that players enjoy as much field time as possible, while giving the team ample reserves.** A team may petition for additional players and adding players above the limit will require Regional Commissioner approval.

Region 678 Recommended team sizes. Teams need region approval to exceed these limits:

- 8-9 year olds (7v7): 11 players.
- 10-11 year olds (9v9): 13Players
- 12-14 year olds (11v11): 16 Players
- 15-18 year olds (11v11): 18 Players

Age Policy

Note: In non-AYSO gaming circuits, players are permitted to “play up” in older age divisions.

Ability to “play up” is subject to Regional Commissioner approval in part based on the player’s proven ability to perform against higher competition, maturity, the player and family’s sportsmanship, etc. **Parents must confirm in writing to the Regional Commissioner that they approve of their child playing up and acknowledge any inherent risks.**

Team Registration with Non-AYSO gaming circuit

Funds for team registration with the Coast League (\$450 as of 2014) must come from player registration fees set by the host Region. The forfeit bond (\$150) is paid for by Region 678 and will stay with the region, even if the team disbands.

Team Name and Uniform

All Region 678 teams will participate under the “Valencia United” brand. Teams may choose to append the name with a nickname such as “Valencia United Legends” or other, which is subject to Region approval. Only approved Valencia United logos should be used on team apparel.

Region 678 Valencia United teams will wear the same uniforms approved by the Region Challenge Coordinator. Uniforms will support the region’s signature Orange as the primary color and a complementary color of white or black.

AYSO Challenge program must include AYSO logo into their club name and logo. The AYSO Logo must be printed on all uniforms; they may, also, have their own Club Name/Logo/Shield on the uniform.

COACH SELECTION PROCEDURE

Coach selection process will follow Section 10 Guidelines.

PLAYER SELECTION

Player selection process will follow Section 10 Challenge guidelines with the following additions.

- Each year, all players must tryout, regardless if they played on a team the year before.
No player is guaranteed a roster spot prior to tryouts.
- Region 678 will use at least 2 neutral evaluators and the coach to rate players in multiple categories (skills, speed, aggressive, game awareness, etc) at tryouts.
- All participation and ratings must be documented by the Region and be available to the ACD and Area upon request.
- Based on ratings and observations of evaluators, a pool of “Challenge caliber” players will be selected. The pool will be 1.25 times the size of the maximum amount of players allowed on a team in that age division. (i.g. if the maximum is 18 players, the pool would be 23, rounding up). This formula is a guideline for the pool, but if circumstances warrant, the pool may exceed this limit, with Region Challenge Coordinator approval. Having a pool 1.25 times larger than the team maximum will give coaches some latitude in creating a team to fit their coaching style, while also ensuring that only qualified players will be considered.
- At the conclusion of tryouts, the Coach will select a team only from the approved “Challenger-caliber” pool of players.

- A coach may elect to take less than the maximum team size with Region approval. However, if the team decides to add a player later, it will be subject to the Section 10 Challenge Guidelines on Replacement Player restrictions.
- Players selected are notified immediately followed by those not selected. Notification of all players not being assigned to a team is always handled in a professional and caring manner.
- Players initially rostered on an AYSO Challenge program team must make this team their top priority and must not be permitted to participate on Primary core, or Extra team, without Area approval and a valid rationale for exemption.

Multiple teams in one age division: In the event there are two teams in a given division, no priority will be given to either team. However, if a team has earned a higher level (silver or gold) than the second team, the team will be given the opportunity to retain at least the minimum of players required by the non-AYSO club organization to retain their higher playing level. Success in retaining the minimum amount of players will largely depend on the coach and the playing experience he provided the past year. The region will not force players to stay on a team unwillingly. Challenge's goal is to retain top players and volunteers and coach–player chemistry is a vital factor in creating a positive experience.

This will be accomplished by:

- Having open tryouts for all players.
- The coach of a higher level team will be allowed to invite all or some of his players back provided they attended tryouts and made the “Challenge Caliber” player pool.
- The second coach may elect to extend an invitation to those same players.
- In cases where a player is invited by both coaches, players and their parents will decide which team to join.
- If a player refuses an invitation and is not invited by the second coach, the player will not participate in the Challenge until invited, or is free to tryout for Extra or play in the Region 678 Primary program.

Accepting non-AYSO teams: Region 678 is open to accepting outside teams who wish to join AYSO Challenge, provided they:

- Attend open tryouts so other Challenge coaches have access to their players.
- Accept the AYSO Valencia United name and uniform.
- Agree to pay established Challenge Registration fees.
- Agree to meet established Challenge Volunteer Requirements.
- Obtain necessary AYSO and non-AYSO certifications .
- Do not adversely affect a given Challenge age division within Region 678.
- Meet AYSO and non-AYSO league deadlines and requirements.

Note: The possibility exists that an outside team may apply to join Valencia United after tryouts have concluded and teams have been selected. If so, the Regional Commissioner may choose to give the team a tryout exemption and accept the team in tact, provided they agree to attend open tryouts the following year AND, that the team will not recruit from players already committed to an existing Challenge team until open tryouts are held for the following season.

Replacement Player Policy & Supplemental Tryouts:

Challenge teams may add players or hold supplemental tryouts provided they comply with Section 10 Challenge guidelines on replacement players.

Recruiting: Solicitation from other regions is strongly discouraged. All suspected “Poaching” should be brought to the immediate attention of the Area Challenge Director and Area Director. Teams may however, publicize their program, but are discouraged from targeting any region that also offers a Challenge Program. Any team or team official found to be recruiting beyond reasonable means of contact are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from a team.

Please note that when a coach ASKS a player or parents of a player to be a “Guest Player” (prior to getting the other coach’s approval), it is not considered poaching. Also having a coach “chat” with parents is not considered poaching, unless they are “recruiting” and this can be substantiated.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

Currently, Challenge season ends for Region 678 teams at the conclusion of State Cup. At that time the team may choose to continue as a “Tournament team” which is different than a Fall Challenge team:

- Participation is by coach invitation only.
- Players are not automatically included on a tournament team, even if their Fall coach is coaching a tournament team. Tournament play is outside the scope of the Fall season.
- A coach has the option to extend invitations to all or some players, and add additional players to the roster who did not participate in the Fall season.
- No player should expect to automatically be included in tournament play as the non-league tournament season is outside of the Fall Season and is not bound to the Fall Season tryouts.
- By the same token, no player is required to participate in the tournament season for the teams they played for in the Fall.
- This is an opportunity for coaches to recruit new players and for players to perhaps try new teams.
- Funds collected and paid out for tournaments (AYSO and non-AYSO) for post-season play (entrance fees, referee fees, etc) must be documented by player, and those detailed records should be retained and must be submitted upon request to the Region/Area/Section if requested.

MISCONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Region 678 complies with all Section 10 Challenge guidelines regarding misconduct, discipline and dispute resolution for In-Game and Non-Game violations.

REFUND POLICY

Refund policy: All Fees are due for the fall season by April 1. Players are entitled to a full refund up until April 1.

