

## PARENT LETTER #2

TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ -U- \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Team \_\_\_\_\_ Players and Parents

From: Coach \_\_\_\_\_

### **Child Protection; Drop Off, Pick Up, Late Pickup Policy Two Adults Required**

AYSO requires that at least two adults be present at all practices and games. This means when you drop off your child at practice you cannot leave until the parent designated to stay for the entire practice has arrived. Another parent dropping off a player does not count. You may not leave your child at practice unless both the designated parent and I are present.

### **Pick up Policy**

Please arrive at or before the time the practice is over to pick up your child promptly. If you are late, and I have not been able to reach you by telephone from the field; the designated parent and I will wait 10 minutes. If you have not arrived within 10 minutes of the end of practice and I have not been able to reach you by phone, I will take your child to the Albuquerque Police Department Ozona Substation (Ozona west of Wyoming) and you can meet me there to pick up your child. Please do not create a problem by repeatedly being late to pick up your child at the end of practice.

### **Games**

The same drop off and pick up policy for practices apply at all games.

### **Lightning/Adverse Weather**

AYSO policy prohibits practice when lightning is visible. That means that when lightning is visible in or from our practice field (even over the valley or west mesa areas) practice is canceled immediately. It is your responsibility to return immediately to the practice field and retrieve your child. The same policy applies to games.

### **Lightning Shelter Plan**

We are required to move players to shelter in the event of lightning. Since there are no commercial buildings adjacent to our practice field (and probably not our game field(s)), players will be sheltered in vehicles. This means we have to have enough vehicles at the practice to hold all 17 players in the event of lightning. We need to have enough parents with vehicles at practice, at all times, to shelter the remaining players.

### **Late or Missed Practices or Games**

If your player will be late or will miss practice or games, please call me in advance. Practice plans, drills, scrimmages, and game lineups are based on the number of players on the team. A phone call, from the parent, not the player, is all I ask.

### **PRACTICE RULES:**

Arrive dressed and ready to play at or before the practice time.

Properly equipped:

1. No jewelry
2. Shin guards
3. Suitable practice clothes

4. Water bottle (filled with water)
5. Size \_\_\_\_\_ ball—properly inflated
6. Positive attitude—ready to cooperate and work hard
7. Pick up promptly at the end of practice

Parents are always welcome to come to practice and observe— better yet to participate.

### **Assistant Coaches**

I need at least one and preferably two assistant coaches. Skill and tactical coaching is more effective if we can divide the players into smaller groups. I will be away at least two of the eight games on Saturdays this fall. If we have no assistant coach, there will be no practices and no games when I am away. No experience or soccer skill is required—just be willing to come and have fun with the kids. The more help I have, the more fun and benefit the team will have. The assistant coaches will need to attend the AYSO Child/Volunteer Protection training (2 hour) course.

### **Referees**

It is the responsibility of the parents on this team to provide at least one certified referee into the AYSO program in exchange for AYSO providing a referee for our games. Prior soccer experience is not required, nor is it required that a parent be able to referee games at this level. As long as we contribute a certified referee to the process, the parent referee can do games at a younger level which will free up more experienced referees to officiate at older age levels. The next referee clinics are

\_\_\_\_\_.

This team needs at least two (2) certified assistant referees to line at our games. Being able to line properly, including the understanding and proper application of the offside law is essential for our players. AYSO has a 3-½ hour ASSISTANT REFEREE CLINIC to train you to do this. The clinic is offered on \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Team Attitudes and Goals**

Soccer is considered the "Gentlemen's' Game." The laws of soccer were developed around the philosophy of fair play and courtesy toward other players. Along with the fun and soccer skills development, this team will emphasize positive coaching, developing good sportsmanship and leadership, and player attitudes. We will be fair, positive, and encouraging toward our teammates, other players, coaches, and referees. We will congratulate the other team and thank the referee after every game - win or lose. We will be positive and supporting to our teammates at practices and at games.

No player (or coach) is perfect and we will all make mistakes at practices and games. We will enjoy (and cheer) our successes and learn from our errors. Criticism, blame, name calling, and any negative behavior toward each other (including acting "friendly" to school or classmates and "ignoring" other teammates) is not allowed.

Every team has players with different skill levels and physical abilities. More advanced players are expected to show positive leadership and help other players and the coaches at practice. No one player is more important to the team than any other.

As a coach, I will not tolerate horseplay, or inappropriate language or conduct at practices or games. Any player who chooses not to cooperate at practice will sit out the remainder of practice until I can speak with the parent(s).

### **Parent/Player Handbook; Parent Pledge**

Enclosed with the packet is your copy of the AYSO Parent/Player Handbook. Please read the handbook and pay particular attention to the sections on soccer etiquette, and the parents' code. Please fill out the Parent Pledge form and return it to me at the next practice.

### **Goal Mouth Newsletter**

The fall Goal Mouth newsletter will be mailed by Labor Day weekend. One newsletter is mailed per family (usually addressed to the youngest player in the family). The Goal Mouth has important information, including game schedules, game field locations and directions, contact information, and AYSO policies and information. Read the Goal Mouth when it arrives and keep it so you can refer to it during the season.

### **Game Schedules**

The game schedules are still being finalized, I will get you a copy as soon as I receive it. Any time we are the last scheduled home team of the day, it will be our responsibility to take down the nets, corner flags, and other equipment and take them with us. We are then scheduled as the first home team the following and it is our responsibility to arrive at the field early to put the equipment back up properly for the use of all teams at that field that day. The first game is Saturday, September \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Team Rosters**

A copy of the team roster accompanies this memo. Please call me with any corrections or changes. The roster will be updated from time to time as needed. This roster is for the private use of the members of our team. It is not to be copied or distributed to any third parties.

### **Problems**

If you have any questions, problems, suggestions, you are always welcome to call me in the evenings until 10:30 p.m. If you have a problem you cannot resolve with me, your next level of contact is the Division Commissioner. His telephone number is on the Team Roster.

### **Team Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_ has volunteered to be our team manager. \_\_\_\_\_, thank you very much for your help. \_\_\_\_\_ will be in charge of coordinating the schedule for mothers to attend practices, arrange for snacks, and set up a team telephone committee so that if games are delayed or canceled, we can get the word out without either \_\_\_\_\_ or myself having to call a dozen and a half parents.

### **Coaching Objectives**

This fall, we will emphasize basic ball control skills in order to begin to execute game tactics. Soccer is a dynamic, tactically complex game where players, not coaches, must make and execute, on average 8 to 10 tactical decisions per minute. We will be working on what decisions to make, how to play in groups (both offensively and defensively) and the ball control skills necessary for team play. As the season progresses, we will work on restarts (throw ins, goal kicks, corner kicks, free kicks, etc.) with set plays and how to defend against those plays. We will emphasize having fun and improving to try to win games. We will not organize practices or game participation solely to win games. At games, players will be playing different positions from week to week to learn the skills and techniques necessary to effectively play (and to defeat the opponent) at those positions.