

## Points of Focus (in AYSO On-Line Referee Training Course) for Officiating U08 Games

The AYSO On-Line Referee Training Course is designed to teach volunteers how to referee U10 games. It therefore covers more information than is needed for officiating at U08 matches.

**Please don't be concerned** by some of the more advanced concepts that you'll hear about in the On-Line Course: several topics covered in the On-Line Course don't apply to the U08 game and may be ignored by those seeking certification as U08 Officials. (Of course, if you want more information, please feel free to dive in!)

**Please do focus** on the following as you go through the Course:

- Pre-game activities (such as inspecting the field, the goals and the players)
- Starting the game (for example, where players must be at the starting kick-off)
- Reasons for stopping the game (such as fouls and substitution breaks)
- How to restart the game after you stop it (examples include throw-ins and corner kicks)
- Post-game activities (such as supervising the player handshake)
- AYSO philosophies (what we think makes AYSO special, such as an emphasis on good sportsmanship).

**What's in the Course that don't you need?** There is no offside at U08 games, and there are no penalty kicks and no goalkeepers. We also don't use assistant referees or club linesmen, and we don't show yellow and red cards to young players. Those all become part of the game as players get older, but for now, please devote only as much time as you wish to the parts of the On-Line Course that address these topics.

**A few other points** about the On-Line Course:

- The distances on younger players' fields are shorter than on fields used by older players (U12 and above). You'll hear references in the course to "10 yards." For U08 games, references to "10 yards" generally should be "6 yards." For U10 games, references to "10 yards" generally should be "8 yards."
- The reasons for stopping a game are the same for all levels of play, but once the game is stopped, there are minor differences in how the game is restarted. In U08, all free kicks are direct free kicks (which means that a goal may be scored directly from the kick). There are no indirect free kicks, and as mentioned, there are no penalty kicks.
- You'll see a sample of a field with all the required markings. When you get to a U08 field, do not be concerned if you don't see any markings relating to the penalty area: there is no penalty area on a U08 field.

**Local information:** Also, in our Region (Region 418 Chicago Lakefront):

- Referees do not collect game cards in regular season games
- All U08, U10, and U12 games must end at five minutes before the hour, regardless of when they start
- No slide tackles are allowed.