

# AZ State League Format

revision 7/21/2008

Please note three very important facts:

- (1) AZSL is designed to bring together the best teams in the state in an environment that nurtures fair play, provides growth and development of elite level players, encourages competition, mentors referees, provides reward for success, and qualifies teams for state cup.
- (2) AZSL will be the premier league in the state with every game being a meaningful game toward the road to State Cup.
- (3) AZSL is not intended to replace any existing league and we encourage teams to support their local leagues.

## **1.1 What is AZ State League:**

AZSL is a league run by Arizona Youth Soccer Association. It has an oversight committee chaired by an AYSA board member and a board of trustees made up of representatives of member clubs. The day to day operations of the league are run by a league director.

## **1.2 Is AZ State League a qualifying league for State Cup:**

AZSL is one of many leagues throughout the state that teams can play in to qualify for state cup.

## **1.3 Who is eligible to play in AZ State League:**

Any team that is registered through AYSA and meets the following requirements:

- (1) Club must provide a home field on Saturdays. AZ State League games will have priority over other league games.
- (2) Each team will sign a waiver and AYSA indemnification that states in part that the team upon entering the league will forfeit its rights to use any other league in the state to qualify for State Cup, should the team through violation of AZ State League rules be dismissed from the league.
- (3) Each team will sign a waiver and AYSA indemnification that states in part that the team upon entering this league will forfeit its rights of a 30 day notice prior to the start of state cup play to be placed in bad standing and therefore ineligible to play in state cup.
- (4) The club president must sign off approving the team playing in the league under these conditions.

## **2. Player Eligibility:**

Player eligibility is governed by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. A player may not be on the roster of more than one AZSL team.

## **3. Team Rosters:**

- A. Players must be registered with the appropriate age group for the current seasonal year, in accordance with USYSA Rule 221.2. The number of transfers is limited to five. The

number of releases and adds is unlimited during the season provided the roster does not exceed eighteen (18) players. U17/18 may roster up to 22 with 18 players set for game day.

- B. U11-14 teams must enter competition in the age group in which they are registered with AYSA.
- C. Current U15-U18 teams will be allowed to play up.
- D. A player may move from a tier 2 or tier 3 team to a tier 1 team without the move being considered a transfer.
- E. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters (Rule 221.1) between the League and State Championships by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions.
- F. A team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request, stating the reason why the release has been requested, has been made to and approved by, the State Association on a form provided.
- G. Division I for U11-14 are invited teams that previously placed in the top 8 of the prior seasons State Cup plus four other teams chosen by the league committee. In older divisions (15-19) the top 7 from the prior seasons State Cup will be invited to play in division I and the 8<sup>th</sup> team from State Cup will be the first team in Division II. The remaining slots in Division II will be filled by the LOC.
- H. Players participating in AZ State League may play on any valid AYSA player pass for the current season.

### **3.1 Guest Player Rosters:**

For all divisions no player may play on more than one AZSL team. So a loan player cannot be from another AZSL team. Therefore any OPEN League player may be loaned to any of age AZSL team except for the restrictions below.

For U11-U14:

Three loan players are allowed.

However, the small sided rule (**Rule 13 below**) limitations apply so no U10 or U11 player would be allowed to be loaned to a U12 team.

U10 Flight I OPEN League players may not be loaned to a U11 AZSL team.

For current U15 to U-18:

Three loan players are allowed for U-15 teams and above.

**3.2 Member Passes** Valid US Youth Soccer member passes will be used for AZSL play. All US Youth Soccer member passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo and be laminated. All coaches on the sideline must have a valid USYS coaches pass for the team.

### **3.3 Game Day Rosters:**

Game day rosters may be updated up to the Friday morning (6:00 Am) prior to the game.

**NO PLAYER MAY PLAY IN THE AZSL ON A US CLUB SOCCER OR AYSO PLAYER PASS.**

### **4. AZ State League Bylaws and Rules:**

A copy of the AZSL Bylaws and Rules will be placed on the AYSA ([www.azyouthsoccer.org](http://www.azyouthsoccer.org)) and AzSoccerEvents ([www.azsoccerevents.com](http://www.azsoccerevents.com)) shortly. These rules are patterned after National Cup and USYS Region IV league.

### **5. Registration deadline:**

For all teams August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **6. State Cup Seeding:**

The 2008 AZSL season results will be used for State Cup Flighting for the U11 and U12 age groups only.

Each subsequent year the next U-11 group will use the league for State Cup seeding.

So in 2009 for U-13, U-12, and U-11 and so on and so on.

For 2008 teams in the ages U13 to U-19 will use the current system for seeding for state Cup

### **7. How Do I register a team for AZSL:**

AZSL teams will be able to register at [www.azsoccerevents.com](http://www.azsoccerevents.com) or [www.azyouthsoccer.org](http://www.azyouthsoccer.org) through the Got Soccer League Scheduler program. This is the only place that teams may use to register for AZSL. This should help to simplify the process since most teams will already be in the Got Soccer system.

### **8. Format of AZ State League:**

The format is an 11 game league play style for U11-14 and a six game schedule for U15-U19.

## **2008-2009 AZSL Play Dates**

**U11 to U14 TEAMS – 11 games with two blackout dates**

**September 13, 2008**

**September 27, 2008**

**October 4 2008**

**November 8, 2008**

**November 15, 2008**

**November 22, 2008**

**December 6, 2008**

**December 20, 2008**

**January 10, 2009**

**January 31, 2009**

**February 28, 2009**

**March 14, 2009**

**March 21, 2009**

**U15 to U18 TEAMS – six games with two blackout dates**

**September 12, 13, 14, 2008**

**September 26, 27, 28, 2008**

**October 3, 4, 5, 2008**

**November 1, 2, 2008**

**November 7, 8, 9, 2008**

**November 15, 2008**

**NOTE: The league reserves the right to re-schedule an entire weekend in case of a rainout.**

**ANY TEAM THAT FAILS TO PLAY ALL ITS SCHEDULED GAMES INCLUDING MAKE UP GAMES MAY BE PLACED IN BAD STANDING AND BE IN-ELIGIBLE FOR STATE CUP PLAY.**

**Teams joining this league agree to waive the opportunity to play in another qualifying league and waive the 30 day bad standing notification to AYSA for placing a team in bad standing.**

**8. 1 AZSL Brackets:**

- (1) U11 to U14 teams will have Division I of 12 teams. The top eight from the prior state cup will be invited. The remaining four slots will be filled by
  - (a) From the next tier of state cup finishers.
  - (b) From a vote of the club members based on the one club one vote system, no matter how many teams the club has in the league.
- (2) U14 to U19 will have two seven team divisions. The top eight from the prior state cup will be invited. The remaining four slots will be filled by
  - (a) From the next tier of state cup finishers.
  - (b) From a vote of the club members based on the one club one vote system, no matter how many teams the club has in the league.

## **8.2 AZ Sate League Fields:**

AZSL will use a combination of Regional fields and club home fields.

U-11-14 will be played at both club home fields, and regional fields.

U-15-19 games will be played on both club and regional fields.

If you club is submitting a home field, the field must be approved by the league. It must be of adequate size and condition and age appropriate. Due to referee scheduling the home field provided must have enough time slots available to accommodate all AZ State League teams in the club.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE LEAGUE SCHEDULE ONLY ONE GAME ON ONE FIELD.**

## **9. Discipline**

Any Red Card that would normally carry a one game suspension, (double yellow, foul language, last man, etc) the referee will submit a report to the league and return the player pass to the coach. A league suspension compliance form must be completed and returned to the league director before the player is cleared to resume play.

Red Card and Yellow card offenses must be reported to Got Soccer when the Home team submits the game score.

Got Soccer now will line through the players name on all future game cards until the compliance form has been submitted and the league updates the program.

Any Red Card that would normally carry more than a one game suspension (violent conduct, spitting at anyone, fighting, leaving the bench during a fight, etc) the referee will pull the player pass and submit a report to the league with the pass. The league D & R committee will review the report and any documentation sent to the committee by the ejected individual. These hearings will be by internet and/or phone.

If the committee deemed the incident to be severe enough a formal hearing may be called.

All suspensions must be documented through a league compliance form and the player may not play until the completed suspension for has been submitted and approved by the league.

Any coach that plays a suspended player will be immediately suspended from the league until a hearing is held and discipline has been served.

## **10. Fees:**

The entry fee for the league is \$225 plus referee fees.

U11-14 total fee \$585.00 (referee fees of \$32.50 for 11 games).

U15-18 total fee \$465.00 (referee fees of \$40.00 for 6 games).

The clubs have requested that they pay referee fees upfront and the league will be responsible for paying the referees.

This fee covers:

1. Field Rental
2. Equipment
3. Site Director Fees
4. League Director Fees
5. Assignor Fees
6. Schedule Program
7. Administrative Costs
8. Referee Fees for U-11 to U14 will be \$35-\$15-\$15 or \$360.00
9. Referee Fees for U15 to U18 will be \$40 -\$20-\$20 or \$240.00

No performance bond will be required.

**11. Coaching conflicts** will be considered only if the coach/trainer is listed as the Head Coach at the time of registration. An individual coach/trainer may be listed as the Head Coach for only two teams in AZSL to have a coach conflict repaired.

## **12. Sideline Spectators**

In ALL games, teams and their spectators will be on the same side of the field. Coaching from the sidelines will be permitted as long as the guidelines are followed. Coaching is defined as “giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position.” Continuous and/or non-stop direction will not be permitted. Coaches must remain within the “coaching area” defined as 15 yards on the team’s side of the halfway or midfield line. Coaches should remind spectators that they are not permitted to coach.

Failure to remain in the “coaching area” could result in the issuance of a verbal caution to the coach by the referee. Persistent infringement of leaving the “coaching area” could result in issuance of a second verbal caution, thereby resulting in immediate ejection of the coach.

Teams listed at the top of the bracket and their spectators/supporters will sit on the east or south side of the field. Teams listed at the bottom of the bracket and their spectators/supporters will sit on the west or north side of the field. Under no circumstances will spectators sit immediately behind the Assistant Referee. Spectators/supporters will sit between the end of the coaching box and the 18 yard line to the right of the coaching box. The AZSC Committee reserves the right to restrict where spectators may sit depending on the field situation. Spectators are not permitted in bleachers directly behind the team area (if the fields have bleachers). Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the behavior of their spectators. Foul/abusive/ derogatory language of any kind or in any language will not be tolerated and could result in the coach’s suspension.

**13. U-11 teams** will play 8 v 8 in AZSL. **No U-11 players or teams will be permitted to play in the U12 division.**

**14. Travel:** All teams from all clubs in all age groups will travel.

**15: Score Cards:**

The home team must print the Got Soccer game card and bring it to the game.

The home team is responsible for calling in the final score to Got Soccer (within two hours of completion of the game) including Yellow and Red cards and fax the completed score card to the AYSA office within 24 hours.

**For additional information contact:**

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