

## Turkey and Post-Season Team Player & Coach Selection in Region 70

### Background

The selection process for both coaches and players for Turkey, All-Star, and travel teams has at times been a source of complaints and controversy. The following procedures, developed by a committee of Region 70 Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners and approved by the Regional Commissioner, should result in more transparency and a better perception of our select team program by our member families. The procedures are intended to promote a level of equity and fairness that is consistent with the goals, guiding principles, and philosophy of AYSO.

The Region has also incurred significant unrecovered expenses by fronting tournament registration fees for its select teams. New procedures address this issue so that all of our member families are not subsidizing an activity that is enjoyed by only a few.

### Player Selection

1. **NOTIFICATION & ELIGIBILITY:** Open tryouts will be conducted for all U-10, U-12, and U-14 select teams. Every effort will be made to notify all Region 70 players of the tryout times and dates. Team coaches must email their players' families and announce tryout details at practices and games. Tryout details will also be posted as soon as possible on the Region's website. A make-up tryout date will be scheduled for players who are unavailable on the first tryout date. Only players who are registered in Region 70 and who have played in the AYSO-mandated minimum number of regular season games are eligible for its select teams. At the tryout or before, players and their families must be informed of the expected financial and time commitments required for select teams.
  
2. **TRYOUT FORMAT:** Players will register as they arrive for a tryout and will be assigned numbers. If a player's parent is sufficiently trained, qualified, and willing to serve as a tournament referee, he or she can declare it at that time. The duration of the tryout should be sufficient to allow a fair and adequate assessment of players' abilities; the recommended duration is two hours. Tryouts must be planned in advance and structured to evaluate the following player qualities:
  - a) Speed over various distances
  - b) Passing accuracy over various distances
  - c) Finishing ability (shooting). Goalkeeper skills can be evaluated simultaneously.
  - d) Dribbling, including the ability to shield and hold the ball.
  - e) Ball control (trapping) under pressure.
  - f) Scrimmage to simulate game-type play and decision-making. Player performance in scrimmages should be given more weight than the individual skills listed above.

Select team coaches who are unsure how to evaluate the above skills should contact the Regional Coach Administrator or Asst. Coach Administrator for suggested drills or assessments.

3. **CHOOSING PLAYERS:** Active head coaches in each Division are encouraged to attend their Division's tryouts. Coaches in attendance will constitute an ad hoc player selection committee, participating both in evaluating and selecting players for the teams. The Division's Commissioner, if present, may be part of the ad hoc committee as well and may have a vote. If player ratings have been updated to reflect performance during the current season, they may be used to help selection. At the conclusion of their Division's tryout, head coaches and the Division Commissioner will vote to select players. Coaches and the Commissioner may vote only if they have seen all players over both tryout dates. The vote of the head coach of the select team will be weighted twice as much as other coaches in attendance. (If the Commissioner is also the head coach of a select team, the vote counts twice as much as other coaches' vote.) In the event of a conflict that cannot be resolved by a vote of the ad hoc selection committee, the ultimate decision will rest with the head coach. Under such circumstances, All-Star coaches may defer final selection until they are able to watch players under game conditions and form a more complete evaluative opinion. In order to make the select team experience available to as many Region 70 players as possible, coaches must select the maximum permissible number of players for their rosters. For the same reason, if a first-year player in the Division is tied with a second-year player at the end of the tryout, the second-year player will be chosen; the assumption is that the first-year player will very likely be chosen the following year. If numbers permit, up to two Turkey Tournament teams may represent Region 70. In that case, player talent should be equally divided between the two teams. Preference in player selection, all selection criteria being otherwise equal, may also be shown toward players whose parent has served as a referee in our Region and is able to serve as a referee in tournaments in which the team will participate. Special preference may not be shown toward friends or relatives of team players, former select team players, children of coaches or Commissioners, club or school team players, or any other player who does meet the merit-based criteria outlined above. Player selection decisions and details as to both practice dates/times and tournament play will be communicated through postings on the Region 70 website: [www.ayso70.org](http://www.ayso70.org)

### **Coach Selection**

1. **NOTIFICATION & ELIGIBILITY:** Division Commissioners must formally notify all of their coaches by email of the existence of select teams, and the coaches must be asked to express their interest in being either a head or assistant coach for any of the teams. Both the Regional Commissioner and the Regional Coach Administrator are to be copied on the email. Only active coaches in a Division are eligible to serve as head coach or assistant coach of the select teams for that Division.

2. **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:** Division Commissioners will recommend the coaches who will represent their Divisions, subject to rules of eligibility and subject to the approval of the Regional Commissioner and the Regional Coach Administrator, who should have the final say on who will represent Region 70. Deciding criteria should be the coach's availability, including attendance at both tryout sessions, commitment, knowledge of the game, ability to help players to develop, game-day demeanor and behavior, and adherence to AYSO philosophies such as good sportsmanship and positive coaching. It is understood that no guarantee exists that the child of a select team's head coach will make that team. If his or her child is not chosen, the coach may continue to coach or may resign and be replaced by another coach, subject to the rules above. If two coaches express interest in coaching both Turkey Tournament and All-Star teams and if they otherwise meet the above criteria, then one coach should be assigned to each team. Appointment of select team coaches is at the discretion of the Regional Commissioner and Regional Coach Administrator; coaches who violate AYSO principles, rules, or regulations or who act as anything less than exemplary ambassadors for Region 70 will be replaced.

### **Travel Teams**

1. **DEFINITION:** A travel team is one that elects to continue beyond the normal season-ending AYSO schedule of Area, Section, and Tri-Sectional tournaments. Travel teams are economically self-sufficient, excepting scholarship players.
2. **COACH SELECTION:** The Division Commissioner recommends the travel team coach, subject to the rules and regulations above and subject to the approval of the Regional Administrator and the Regional Coach Administrator. Coaches may be removed if they are not exemplary ambassadors for Region 70.
3. **PLAYER SELECTION:** Players should have registered and played with Region 70 in the current season. In the event that a player cannot attend a tournament and in the judgment of the coach the team will be short-handed, other AYSO-registered players may be added to the roster for that tournament only as guest players. Players are to be informed of travel team financial and team obligations ahead of being selected and are expected to commit to a five-tournament schedule that may extend to May or early June.
4. **TEAM FINANCES:** Players and their families will confirm their understanding of and willingness to commit to their financial responsibilities with a check made out to Region 70 for an amount to be determined by the coach but which will substantially cover that family's portion of the travel team's expenses. The Region will draw from those funds for tournament registration fees.