Sponsored by AYSO Region 13 Pasadena/Altadena/La Canada, California

2026 Region 13 Thanksgiving Tournament

Nov 27, 28 & 29, 2026

Referee Plan

The following are guidelines that the AYSO Region 13 Thanksgiving Tournament will apply for referees in our 2026 tournament:

Commitment Requirements	A. Each team participating in the 2026 Fall Thanksgiving Tournament must provide at least 1 crew consisting of 3 qualified referees. B. The Region 13 Thanksgiving Referee Information Form must be completed, approved by the Region Referee Administrator, and returned with the Team Application. C. Each referee team will be asked to officiate a minimum of 3 matches during the tournament. These may be game assignments or standby assignments, which will be considered equal in terms of earning the referee deposit refund. D. If all assignments are completed, the entire referee deposit of $300 will be refunded within 14 days of the completion of the tournament. If only partial assignments are completed, then a partial refund will be provided equal to the proportion of assignments completed. E. The deposit refund check will be returned to the address shown on the Team Application form. F. Remember: the quality of officiating is largely dependent upon the experience and abilities of the referees you provide.
Qualification Requirements	A. Each referee must be a current AYSO registered volunteer with Current Risk Management and Certified per AYSO National Guidelines including Safe Sport Training, Safe Haven, Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion Awareness Certified. B. Each referee must be versed in the Laws of the Game, including current law changes and capable of applying the laws according to the spirit of the game. C. Each referee may only represent one team in the tournament. D. Players in the tournament will not be allowed to officiate. E. Coaches in this tournament are strongly discouraged from officiating so that scheduling of referees with the best experience and without conflicts can be accomplished. If an exception is warranted due to lack of other referee volunteers, this must be approved in advance by the Thanksgiving Tournament Referee Administrator. F. Youth referees will only be allowed if they are not a player in the tournament. Care must be taken when considering whether to allow a youth referee to officiate in the heated environment of a competitive tournament. These referees must have their Youth Volunteer Application form with them at all times and present it to any Tournament official upon request.
Uniform Requirement	A. All referees must be in full Uniform as defined by AYSO and USSF, including the AYSO Badge. B. The Gold uniform will be considered the primary color of referee uniform for this tournament. The referee crew will be expected to change to an alternate color in case of conflict with either of the teams' uniforms. C. Referees not in uniform will not be permitted to referee games, and their team's referee deposit may be subject to forfeiture.
Competency Requirements	A. Referees will be assigned to games as follows: U-10: Regional Badge or higher U-12: Intermediate Badge or higher U-14: Advanced Badge or higher Assistant Referees may be of a lower badge level. Any exceptions must have the prior written approval of the Referee Administrator. B. Every effort will be made to assign referees to neutral games at their level of competency or below. In rare cases, referee crews may be asked to split up in order to meet these goals.

Tournament Rules	A. Referees will be expected to familiarize themselves with and uphold the tournament rules, AYSO guidelines and FIFA laws. Any failure of the referee to uphold these rules may be cause for dismissal from the tournament and will place a team's referee deposit refund in jeopardy. B. Only the diagonal system of control will be used. C. Referees will be expected to fill out the game cards and to keep track of substitutions. Substitutions will be on the quarter - no free substitutions. D. Referees will be expected to note on the back of the game cards and to fill out misconduct reports immediately after the game in which a misconduct (caution and/or send-off) was issued to a player or coach, or if there were spectator interference problems, or any other action that merits a report. E. Referees will be expected to turn in all completed game cards and misconduct reports to the Field Monitor immediately after each game.
Referee Schedules	A. Referee schedules will be posted on the tournament website within a week of the tournament. Each team will be expected to ensure that the referee schedule and check-in instructions have been provided to their referee crew.
Use of Local Referees	A. Additional referees will be provided by the host Region, including from the surrounding Regions and Areas to ensure all games are covered by qualified referees. These referees will be provided assignments on a stand-by or fill-in basis. Priority will be given to referee crews to ensure an opportunity to earn their deposit refund.
Referee Check-In	A. All referees will be expected to check in at the Referee Station upon their arrival at the tournament, to register and to collect their Referee Voucher. B. At check-in, each referee team will be provided with a summarized set of tournament rules that they will be expected to administer. C. Referees are expected to check in at the Referee Station at least 30 minutes prior to their assigned game. Failure to appear on time may result in a replacement referee crew being assigned to the field. Once a replacement crew has been assigned, they will have priority and the original crew must report to the Referee station for alternative assignment.
Referee Mementos	A. Referees will be provided with a meal ticket for food and drink at the concession stand for each day that they officiate. Chilled water and snacks will also be available at the Referee Station. B. Participating referees will receive a tournament t-shirt, flipping coin and pin as mementos to thank them for their contribution.
Address:	Referee forms must be mailed with the Team Application to: Tournament Director Region 13 Thanksgiving Tournament 711 W. Woodbury Road, Unit E Altadena, CA 91001
Contact Information:	Questions regarding referee requirements should be directed to: E-mail td@ayso13.org Web site https://www.ayso13.org/programs/tournaments/thanksgiving/