



AYSO Region 92 – Player Ratings Policy

Board Approved – 21 Oct 2013

Purpose

The primary purpose of rating players is to evaluate the overall soccer ability of each player in order to support AYSO's Balanced Teams philosophy. Coaches are responsible for supporting this process to ensure all players are rated. Although a player's physical attributes and coordination will change between soccer seasons, an honest assessment of each player's current ability is critical to maintain the integrity of the team formation process. It is imperative that ALL ratings are kept confidential. Players and parents are not to be informed of their own or other player's ratings.

Player ratings will be used for team balancing in the U6 through U14 divisions and as an aid to All Stars selection in the U10, U12 and U14 divisions. Coaches must do the best they can to rate their players in comparison to the other players in the division that they have seen play. At the year-end ratings meeting, coaches will have the opportunity to make adjustments as needed. The goal is to have balanced teams for next season.

A 1 through 10 rating system is to be used in all Divisions (U6 through U14) with the assumption that the majority of players will fall in the 4, 5, 6 range. A worksheet will be provided to the coaches to help evaluate each player. This worksheet should be used to calculate each player's rating in comparison to the other players in the division.

Prior to the Season

Players without a Region 92 rating coming in to U8, U10, U12 and U14 divisions in the fall will require an assessment to determine the player's skill level. This includes new players to AYSO, players who did not play in the previous fall season, and players from other Regions.

Middle of the Season

Each Division Commissioner will provide their coaches with a single page division roster (listed by team with each player's uniform number and name) by the middle of the season. An asterisk will be placed next to the child of each coach. Each coach will use this sheet to familiarize and assist in the assessment of all players at the year-end ratings meeting. This will assist each coach at the ratings meeting by

providing familiarity with equal rated players on other teams, provide similar comparisons for the rating of each coach's son or daughter, and provide reference for the All Star team ballot.

All coaches are encouraged to assess all players in the division by attending other games during the season using the division roster for reference.

At the End of the Season

As the end of the soccer season approaches, we must lay the groundwork for next year. The player evaluation worksheet will help next year's coaches and commissioners to rate players properly for the Team Formation Process. The players will not see the information, so do not be "kind" and rate all of your players above average. Teams will be better balanced for next season if you provide an accurate rating of your players that is neither too harsh nor too lenient.

This is not a perfect process. You probably do not know all the players in the division; however, after a couple months together, you do know your own players pretty well. This should allow you to rank your team's players relative to each other. You also know how many games you won, lost or tied. This gives you a general idea of how strong your team is relative to the other teams in the division. If your team won almost all of its games, then some of your players should rate very well. Likewise, if you lost almost all of your games this year, the players may not rate as well. We must share this information with each other in order to come closer to the AYSO ideal of balanced teams.

The Division Commissioner will remind the coaches of the criteria to be used and advise that the players need to be rated in the context of where their skill level is across the whole division rather than within their own team. Each coach will be provided a ratings packet that includes a ratings worksheet to assist in formulating player ratings. If you have any questions regarding the ratings process, please contact your division commissioner.

Steps:

All players are to be given an initial rating by their own coach by the last game of the regular season. The Division Commissioner is responsible for collecting the ratings.

The Division Commissioner will make a division grid from the Team Evaluation Forms showing each team and all the players' ratings. The rating for a son or daughter of a coach will not be included on this grid because their rating will be determined separately by blind ballot of all coaches as discussed below.

At the completion of the regular season (and by the date specified by Area), the Division Commissioner will hold a year-end ratings meeting. The meeting's goals will be to ensure that players' ratings are correct and, for the U10, U12 and U14

divisions, to select candidates for All Star selection. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Division Commissioner will make all final decisions.

Attendance at the year-end ratings meeting is mandatory. Teams may be represented by a coach, assistant coach or team parent who is knowledgeable of the team's ratings as well as ratings of other players in their division.

The grid will be distributed at the meeting and any corrections or adjustments (either higher or lower) to the ratings will be made based on the collective agreement of the coaches who are present. Coaches should bring a team picture to help with any discussion of a particular player on their team. The goal is not to go back and forth as to who the highest rated player is, but rather to cluster groups of players together in terms of their overall ability and impact as players. We want to group together the top tier of players (regardless of how many there may be), then the next tier of players, and then the next, all with the goal to achieving balanced teams for the following season.

Two rating numbers should be given to a player who has played extensively in goal during the regular season. One should be the rating for goalkeeper and the other as a field player. The goalkeeper (GK) rating may be used in consideration as an All Star candidate.

The son or daughter of each coach will be rated by blind ballot. Following the agreement of ratings for all other players and their placement or replacement on the ratings grid, each coach will receive a ballot containing the names of each child of each coach (including their own). Each coach will indicate their rating for each player on the list, consistent with the other players on the ratings grid. The Division Commissioner will then review the ballots to determine the "common ground" or area for discussion. For example, if there are 10 teams and the ratings for a coach's child comes back with (1) 9, (1) 8, (4) 7's, (3) 6's and (1) 5, then there should be discussion between the coaches of 7 vs. 6 as the child's final rating. The Division Commissioner may conduct another blind ballot for that player if consensus is not reached during further discussion. If the blind ballot shows a majority rating, the Division Commissioner will announce that rating. The Division Commissioner will break a tie.

The Division Commissioner will forward the finalized ratings grid with all players in the division to the Regional Commissioner. The ratings will be inputted into the Region's player database in eAYSO for use the next season in team balancing and formation.

At the end of the meeting, the Division Commissioner will collect the grids and all other paperwork from each coach for proper disposal as the ratings information is not to leave the meeting. Confidentiality must again be stressed.