

AYSO Criminal Background Check Policy 2009

Since January 1, 2001, all American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) regions, areas, and sections are required to comply with the AYSO policy on criminal background checks. AYSO acts as the criminal background requesting entity unless specific arrangements have been approved in writing by the AYSO National Executive Director.

1. Any person wishing to volunteer in AYSO shall be subject to a criminal background check, with a strong focus on the following:
 - Coaches of sports teams
 - Assistant coaches of sports teams
 - Officers, board members, and staff who lead or organize children's activities
 - Referees
2. Any person wishing to volunteer in AYSO must complete an AYSO volunteer application form each year, either online or by using the hard copy form, and submit a signed copy to the region. The application form includes a Criminal Background Check Release. All requested information must be provided by the applicant, including Social Security number, driver license number (or other state issued photo I.D. if the applicant does not drive) and date of birth.
3. The region must send the original copy of all such volunteer applications to the Safe Haven Department at the National Support & Training Center (NSTC) in Hawthorne, CA in a timely fashion such that the most sensitive criminal background checks can be completed prior to the start of any playing season.
4. Criminal background checks are performed on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The responses on the AYSO Volunteer Application Form may target certain individuals for automatic background checks.
5. Each Region must designate at least one person as the Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) who must act as the liaison between the Region and AYSO for purposes of enacting this policy.
6. To ensure compliance with all applicable laws, the AYSO Safe Haven staff members at the National Support & Training Center in Hawthorne, CA are the only people authorized to initiate, review or have access to criminal background reports (unless sanctioned in writing by the National Executive Director). In all cases, the results of any criminal background check must be kept strictly confidential. These reports must be kept in a locked, secure location, for a period as indicated by applicable law or until the person is no longer a volunteer, whichever is later.
7. The Notice of Duty to Review Criminal Record process is initiated by the Safe Haven Department of AYSO. When a negative determination is made, a copy of the criminal conviction report received by the Safe Haven Department must be sent to that volunteer applicant in an envelope marked "Confidential – to be opened by addressee only," along with the Notice of Duty to Review Criminal Record cover letter.
8. If a conviction is disclosed or discovered, AYSO Safe Haven Staff must make a decision on whether or not the applicant may be used based on the following guidelines and partial Table of Convictions and advise the region of its decision. As used in this policy, the term conviction refers to a conviction entered after a trial, after a guilty plea or after a plea of no contest/*nolo contendere*.
 - Any application form that does not contain honest answers or that

misrepresents the number, type or gravity of any such conviction(s) will not be approved irrespective of the nature of the offense or the time that has transpired since the conviction.

- Any individual on probation or required to complete a court ordered rehabilitation or other such program following a conviction for a crime appearing on the Table of Convictions will not be considered to serve as a volunteer until all terms and conditions established by the court have been satisfied and proof of completion submitted to AYSO.
- Any person convicted of a crime against or otherwise involving a minor at any time in the past will not be approved to be a volunteer.
- Most felony convictions will result in a negative determination. Evidence of multiple convictions, either felony or misdemeanor, are likely to also result in a negative determination. Where a conviction is remote in time or where the applicant's conduct since the conviction(s) indicates rehabilitation or lack of risk to the membership and the program, some leeway may be provided, but only with the concurrence of the RC and CVPA.
- Persons convicted of a crime of violence or other serious crime against a person (including major sex offenses) within the prior 20 years should be disqualified from any position listed in policy paragraph #1 above.
- Persons convicted of a theft related crime or fraud within the prior 15 years should be disqualified from any position involving the handling of funds or property.
- Persons convicted of a serious substance abuse crime within the past 10 years should be disqualified from any coaching position or any position that leads children's activities.
- Persons convicted of less serious crimes of violence, substance abuse or one of the listed miscellaneous crimes

within the past 5 years should be disqualified from any coaching position or any position that leads children's activities.

- DUI: Persons convicted of driving while under the influence within the preceding 3 years will be disqualified from holding the position of team coach or assistant coach. Persons convicted of driving under the influence within the preceding 3 years may be accepted for other volunteer positions with the understanding that they are prohibited from driving any child or AYSO volunteer other than immediate family members to or from an AYSO activity.
9. If any discretion is exercised in the application of this policy, it must be exercised in a uniform manner, so that substantially similar convictions and circumstances result in substantially similar treatment of potential volunteers. The CVPA or Regional Commissioner (RC) will be immediately notified when a negative determination is made, or if there are issues related to an application. The specific results leading to a negative determination must remain confidential unless the applicant is willing to reveal the results to the RC or CVPA.
 10. Because of the serious implications to the entire AYSO organization, all regions, areas, and sections must comply with the decisions made by the Safe Haven Department of the NSTC under this policy.

Table of Convictions

This is a partial list only.

Violent Crimes & Serious Crimes Against a Person

Aggravated Assault	Hit and Run Causing Injury/Death
Aggravated Battery w/ Firearm	
Armed Robbery	Kidnapping
Arson	Murder
Assault	Possession of Explosives
Attempted Murder	Preventing a 911 Call
Battery	Terrorism
Blackmail	Reckless Homicide
Child Abandonment	Robbery
Child Abduction	Second Degree Murder
Child Pornography	Stalking
Cruelty to Animals	Solicitation for Murder
Domestic Battery	Tampering w/Food or Drugs
Endangering the Life or Health of a Child	Threatening Public Officials
Exploitation of a Child	Treason
Extortion	Unlawful Restraint
Harboring a Runaway	Vehicular Car Jacking
Hate Crime	Vehicular Endangerment
Home Invasion	Violation of Order of Protection

Less Serious Crimes Against a Person

Harassment	Intimidation
Harassment of Jurors or Witnesses	Obscene Phone Calls
Involuntary Manslaughter	Simple Assault
	Restraining Order

Sex Offenses

Bigamy	Lewd and Lascivious Behavior
Child Pornography	Obscenity
Criminal Sexual Abuse	Pandering
Criminal Sexual Assault	Pimping
Criminal Transmission of HIV	Prostitution
Distribution/Sale of Pornography to a Minor	Public Indecency
Indecent Exposure	Sex with a Minor
Indecent Solicitation of a Child	Sexual Exploitation of a Child
Keeping a Place of Prostitution	Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Theft-related Crimes

Bid Rigging	Looting
Bid Rotating & Kickbacks	Money Laundering
Bribery	Misuse of Credit Card
Burglary	Possession of Burglary Tools
Check Kiting	Tax Evasion
Fencing of Stolen goods	Theft of Intellectual Property
Forgery	Ticket Scalping
Industrial Espionage	Welfare Fraud
Interference with Public Contracts	

Fraud

Deceptive Sales	Mail and Wire Fraud
Fraudulent Advertisement	Odometer Fraud
Insurance Fraud	Public Aid Fraud

Serious Substance Abuse Crimes

Abuse of Prescription Medicines	Possession of Marijuana, more than one ounce
Criminal Drug Conspiracy	Possession of Illegal Substances
Distribution of Alcohol to Minors	Sale or Manufacture of Illegal Substances
Illegal Transportation of Controlled Substances	

Miscellaneous Substance Abuse Crimes

Driving Under the Influence	Possession of Marijuana (less than 1 oz.)
Drunk in Public	Sale of Alcohol to a Minor
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	

Miscellaneous Crimes

Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm	Interference with Judicial Proceeding
Concealing or Aiding a Fugitive	Obstructing Justice
Criminal Damage to Property	Legislative Misconduct
Criminal Trespass	Obscene Phone Calls
Discrimination in Sale of Real Estate	Perjury
Disorderly Conduct	Reckless Conduct
Driving without a License	Reckless Driving
Driving without Insurance	Repeated Traffic Offenses
Environmental Crimes	Tampering with Public Records
Gunrunning	Unlawful Possession of Weapons
Identity Switching	Unlawful Use of Body Armor
Illegal Gambling	Unlawful Use, Sale, or Discharge of a Metal Piercing Bullet
Impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer	Vandalism
Unlawful Sale of Firearms	