

AYSO REGION 76 FIELD USAGE FEE FAQ'S

Dispelling the Myths¹

1. **Q: I keep hearing that AYSO has a lot of money – Is this true, and what does this really mean?**

A: There have been rumors floating around our community for some time that AYSO Region 76 makes a big profit every year and has large amounts of money at its disposal. These rumors are totally untrue, yet they persist and cause unnecessary difficulties for our region in dealing with the City and R&P Staff.

Region 76 has provided its financial statements to the R&P Commission and also gave them to the Beverly Hills Courier (see the front page article on July 17, 2009). There is nothing to hide – AYSO Region 76 operates at a breakeven level annually (subject to a reserve for capital projects and an appropriate operating reserve as required by sound and prudent business practices and AYSO National -- annual revenues of approximately \$300,000 and a reserve of approximately \$25,000).

2. **Q: How about the assertion that is often heard – e.g. that AYSO makes a lot of money inasmuch it charges significant registration fees, yet doesn't need to pay for its referees (unlike other sports such as baseball and basketball) -- Is this an accurate statement?**

A: Statements like this are uninformed, inaccurate, and just plain ignorant. Our financial statements are available for all to examine, and anyone willing to take the time to do so would immediately understand that our fee structure is set to cover our operating costs – it is that simple. Having volunteer referees simply means that we don't have that particular line item as an operating cost – nothing more. On the other hand, we have plenty of other operating costs that other sports may or may not have. The point is that each sport is different, and every sports organization must make its own decisions as to what should and should not be provided to its participants. It is up to the organization itself and its participants to determine if a particular sports organization provides appropriate value to its participants. We strongly believe that this decision is one that must be made by the sports organization and its participants, and NOT by R&P and/or the City Council.

¹ This is Part 4 in a series of FAQ's ("frequently asked questions"), designed to provide in-depth information to our participants on the subject of field usage fees. Additional FAQ's may be published in the near future, and all of them will be featured on our website, www.ayso76.org.

3. Q: Why is there so much fuss about the money AYSO accumulates for capital projects, as discussed in Question No. 2 above?

A: We have no idea. Over the years, AYSO Region 76 has from time to time collected funds from its registration fees earmarked for future capital projects. By accumulating funds over time in this manner, Region 76 has been able to make significant capital contributions back to our city – contributions such as \$200,000 towards the new turf field and lights at our High School.

Region 76 believes that collecting money for capital projects over time is less burdensome than trying to raise significant sums all at once. Further, it should be noted that to the extent Region 76 has significant non-resident participation in its program, every one of its non-resident participants has contributed to our city through these capital improvement projects.

4. Q: Who actually operates AYSO Region 76?

A: AYSO Region 76 is an organization run entirely by volunteers who collectively contribute in excess of 20,000 hours per season to make our program run as well as it does. Residents and Non-residents alike contribute to our region and our kids, making our program one that the City of Beverly Hills is very proud to have. It provides joy to our children, who learn through sports the elements of our core philosophies: Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Positive Coaching, Player Development, Good Sportsmanship, and Open Registration. AYSO Region 76 is all about developing our children, and everyone who volunteers his or her time helps us achieve that goal.

5. Q: Why does AYSO Region 76 believe non-residents are beneficial to our youth sports programs and to our city?

A: There are a number of compelling reasons:

- Non-residents bring commerce into Beverly Hills throughout the year.
- Diversity, especially in the field of youth sports, is healthy and important. It helps us teach important lessons to our children.
- Non-residents are responsible for contributing roughly one half of the \$380,000.00 raised by AYSO to fund capital improvement projects in our city and for the benefit of our community.
- Parents of resident *and* non-resident players alike volunteer their time, and provide great benefit, to all of our children .

6. Q: What are the incremental costs to Beverly Hills in allowing non-resident children to play youth sports in our city?

A: The incremental costs to our city resulting from the inclusion of non-resident players in our sports programs are very small. First, we should remember that residents have priority in registering for our program. As for wear and tear to the fields, there is no appreciable difference that results from having non-resident players. We have five artificial turf fields. For these fields, their use by our youth sports organizations is minimal as compared to the use they receive from our local schools. The biggest factors in the deterioration of these fields are the sun, rain and smog. Actual use accounts for a very small part of the field deterioration process. If we were to eliminate non-residents from our youth sports programs, the cost to maintain the Beverly Hills fields would not change in any material sense.

7. Q: Doesn't the R&P department have a policy of charging non-residents more than residents for participating in the numerous programs it runs?

A: Yes -- for many of the programs operated by the city, R&P charges an additional fee of up to 25% for non-residents. This difference is far less than the 300% that the youth sports fee is requiring our youth sports organizations to pay. The R&P department operates many programs where non-residents outnumber residents, but it would be difficult for anyone to argue that participation by such non-residents does not benefit and enrich our City in one manner or another.

8. Q: So how can we help AYSO and the other youth sports groups on these very important issues?

A: For now – just stay in touch with us, and continue to read your emails regularly. We will be organizing a community-wide response in the very near future, and that is where we are likely to need your help.