



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

MOTION

Title: 2027 National Games RFP
Date: August 7, 2024
Agenda Request by: M. Winegar, NED
Contact Person: Matt Winegar
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Organization? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, provide detailed cost impacts/projections for consideration.
Additional Documentation Attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bylaw/Rules & Regs # _____ or Proposed # _____
Effective Date of Proposed Change:

RECOMMENDED MOTION LANGUAGE:

That the National Board of Directors authorize the issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2027 AYSO National Games.

BACKGROUND:

The AYSO National Games are typically held every two years. The 2025 National Games will be hosted by Section 11 in Irvine CA.

DISCUSSION:

The draft National Games RFP builds on previous bid documents and reflects the input of several volunteers and staff who have been involved in recent National Games events.

DRAFT

INVITATION TO PROPOSE

AYSO 2027 NATIONAL GAMES

PROPOSALS DUE NOVEMBER 18, 2024

The AYSO National Games

The National Board of Directors (NBOD) of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), invite AYSO Sections to submit proposals to host the 2027 AYSO National Games (NG2027). The National Games are a hallmark of the AYSO player and parent experience. For over 30 years, AYSO Regions have submitted teams to play in the National Games as determined by lottery. The National Games are above all else an opportunity for AYSO players and families to interact with players and families from different parts of the United States. National Games have been conducted in various areas of the Country, with Southern California and Hawaii being the most frequent venues. The Games have typically been held every other year.

A key feature of the National Games is the SOCCERFEST event, usually held on the day before competitive play begins. At SOCCERFEST, players and coaches are assigned to scrambled teams to foster interaction among players and families from different parts of the Country. Many consider SOCCERFEST and opening ceremonies to be the highlights of the National Games event.

Request for Proposals (RFPs)

AYSO Sections may propose to host the National Games to be held in 2027. The 2025 National Games will be held in Irvine, California, hosted by Section 11, who also hosted the 2023 Games. The National Games have been transitioned to a Section-hosted event, with support from the AYSO office. As such, Section volunteers take responsibility for the planning and execution of a successful event, and the Section enjoys any proceeds from the event.

The level of effort and time required to plan for the Games should not be underestimated and should be carefully considered before submitting a proposal. The most challenging aspect of hosting a National Games is typically recruitment of sufficient volunteers, specifically referees, check-in staff, and field monitors, particularly in Sections that do not have a concentrated AYSO footprint. A plan for planning and execution of the Games is a critical element for award of a National Games bid. Prospective host Sections shall include an organization chart that identifies the NG planning and registration team as well as the on-site management plan. Assume a need for a volunteer base of up to 75 volunteers scheduled per day, exclusive of referees, depending on the field layout and game schedules.

Sections take responsibility for the costs of hosting the Games, as well as retaining the proceeds that may derive from Games income. The AYSO Office will assist in the promotion of the Games as well as provide sponsorship assistance as requested. A plan for planning and execution of the Games is a critical element for award of a National Games bid.

Proposal Contents

Proposals shall address the proposal requirements in the following order:

1. Budget

The Proposal shall present a preliminary budget to identify the following at a minimum:

- a) Anticipated team registration fees by age division, and registration income
- b) Estimated Income from sponsors and other contributions.
- c) Identification of potential local sponsors.
- d) Estimated costs for fields, equipment, and supplies.
- e) Anticipated subsidies of any kind
- f) Designated use of any proceeds/profits from NG2027 income

2. Venue(s)

- a. Preference is for a tournament with one site. If multiple sites are proposed, they should be no more than 30 minutes driving time from one another. Typically, a minimum of 25 and as many as 30 fields of various age group dimensions may be required.
- b. Proposed NG2027 venue(s)/field(s) location as well as the location for the opening ceremonies. The venue(s) should be within one hour's driving distance of a major airport. Travel and accommodation expenses are a major consideration for prospective teams.
- c. Number of fields and breakdown by age division
- d. Total number of teams to be accommodated by age division.
- e. Identification of AYSO programs to be hosted in addition to the AYSO Core program teams (e.g., Extra, EPIC, Alliance, etc.)
- f. Parking management plan and any fees for parking
- g. Plans for on-site vendors and sponsors.
- h. On-site food service.
- i. Venue Insurance requirements.
- j. Provide a map of the venue(s) along with identification of nearby hotels and attractions/activities.

3. Organization

- a. The Proposal shall contain a tournament organization chart identifying by name the following positions at a minimum:
 - i. Section Director
 - ii. Tournament Director
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Registrar(s)
 - v. Safety Director
 - vi. Referee Administrator
 - vii. Coach Administrator
 - viii. Site(s) Manager(s)
 - ix. Volunteer Coordinator
 - x. CVPA
 - xi. Special Events Coordinator
 - xii. Housing Coordinator

4. Accommodations and Transportation

- a. Identify sufficient local and cost-effective hotels and other accommodations or third-party vendor to manage the anticipated out-of-area teams and families and distance from venue. Depending on venue location and appeal, as many as 10,000 players, family, and volunteers may have to be accommodated. Approximately 1500 rooms in close proximity may be required to accommodate the anticipated attendance. A third-party accommodations partner should be considered.
- b. Identification of a headquarters hotel and/or facilities for volunteer and coach meetings and briefings, supplies and equipment storage and assembly, etc.
- c. Sufficient supplies of rental vehicles and/or public transit to serve the anticipated number of participants.

5. Tournament Rules

- a. Acknowledge compliance with all applicable AYSO rules and regulations relating to the play of soccer.
- b. The NG2027 tournament rules and regulations shall be submitted to the AYSO Office no later than six months in advance of the NG2027 for compliance review.
- c. Rules shall be explicit with respect to the eligibility of players and coaches to take part in the NG2027.
- d. At a minimum, all players must have been registered AND participated in the preceding MY27 fall and/or spring season. All coaches AND assistant coaches must be respective AYSO age division certified as well as having all other required certifications.

6. Finances and Registration

- a. The NG2027 shall use the AYSO finance systems of record as well as the registration system of record and comply with all applicable AYSO financial policies.
- b. Plan for controls for any on-site food and retail sales.
- c. Designation of a National Games Treasurer.

7. Lottery

- a. The proposal shall identify the plan for conducting the NG2027 lottery.

8. Safety/Risk Management

- a. The proposal shall include a preliminary safety plan to include identification of on-site emergency medical services and capabilities, and availability of EMS transport, and medical center identification. AEDs shall be provided.
- b. A final safety plan shall be submitted no later than six months prior to NG2027.
- c. Information concerning typical weather conditions during the tournament period and any special accommodations required to address local weather issues such as extreme heat, humidity, storms, and lightning, hurricanes, tornados, etc.

9. AYSO Office Services

- a. The AYSO Office will provide promotional assistance as well consultation with National sponsor and partners as to participation. All coordination with National sponsors and partners shall be through the AYSO Office, and shall include the host Section Director and Tournament Director as desired.
- b. The AYSO National budget shall support the attendance of the National President, National Executive Director, Section Board liaison, and National Games liaison. The Proposal shall identify any additional support that the respective Section may find desirable. Such support shall be at the discretion of the NBOD, funds and other considerations permitting.
- c. Approval of the National Games logo and collaterals.
- d. Review of all sponsor and partnership agreements.

10. Volunteer Recruitment and Management

- a. The proposal shall present a plan for the recruitment and management of volunteer resources, with a focus on the recruitment of sufficient certified AYSO referees to cover the scheduled number of SOCCERFEST and competitive games, including playoffs. As many as 450 referees may be necessary, of whom, half should be certified as Intermediate or above to provide qualified officials based on age group. Referees associated with participating teams may have to prioritize referee assignments.
- b. Preliminary tournament organization chart. A final organization chart with personnel assignments, contacts and emergency contacts shall be submitted no later than six months before the NG2027.
- c. All NG2027 volunteers shall be registered as AYSO volunteers no later than 90 days before the NG2027.
- d. Plan for volunteer recognition and appreciation.

11. Tournament Schedule

- a. Provide a preliminary NG2027 event schedule. The Section is given latitude as to the NG2027 schedule. The schedule should consider the time of the year, typical local weather, and endurance of youth players.
- b. Identify desired dates for the NG2027. Games are typically held in July.
- c. The schedule shall include some type of SOCCERFEST event as well as opening ceremonies, including preliminary agenda, and coach and referee orientations.
- d. Identify any player and/or family or youth-oriented external events or activities as part of the NG2027, or available to families on their own.

12. Awards/Gifts/Premiums

- a. Identify any competitive and/or sportsmanship awards to be presented to players and/or teams.
- b. Identify desired gifts or premiums to be distributed to players and/or coaches, and referees (pins, coins, shirts, etc.)

NG2027 Selection Process and Schedule

The AYSO National President shall appoint a NBOD NG2027 liaison as well as a NBOD NG2027 Selection Committee. The Committee shall recommend the award of the NG2027 to the full Board of Directors for approval. Site visits by an NBOD liaison and/or staff to verify the merits of a proposal may be required.

Preliminary NG2027 Schedule (not inclusive):

- i. August 2024-NBOD approval of Request for Proposals, and issuance of RFP
- ii. September-Zoom call with prospective Section hosts to answer any questions.
- iii. November 18, 2024-Proposals due; appointment of NG2027 Selection Committee
- iv. January 2025-NBOD Award of NG2027; appointment of NBOD NG2027 liaison
- v. Summer 2026-NG2027 Lottery
- vi. November 1, 2026-Deadline for execution of NG2027 MOU
- vii. January 2027-Final NG2027 Budget, Safety Plan, and Organization Plan due.
- viii. July 2027- AYSO 2027 National Games

Resources

The 2019, and the 2023 National Games were very successfully hosted by Sections 7 and 11, respectively. Sections considering submitting a proposal for NG2027 are strongly encouraged to consult with the following individuals for insights and perspectives:

Audrey Castreje, Section 11 Director, 2023 and 2035 NG
Clyde Asato, former Section 7 Director, 2019 NG
Irwin Kavy, Past National Tournament Chair
Margie Close, NBOD

Attachments

Draft National Games MOU

