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AREA 4U POLICY ON COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AT AYSO GAMES

Soccer is an exciting sport with a lot of action, and therefore lends itself to action photography. But it must be recognized that AYSO is focused on children, and that parents have unique concerns regarding their children and privacy rights, especially since the widespread advent of digital photography has made the posting of photographs on the Internet so easy.

Area 4U rents fields from cities, counties, school districts, and other entities, and therefore has legal control of those facilities during the time periods of the rental. These fields are open to AYSO sponsored activities and participants only, including players, coaches, parents and invited guests.

Area 4U recognizes that, while our games are held in public places, that mere fact does not allow commercial activity to take place during AYSO games and events, without specific approval of the home region.

Any photographers not directly associated with a specific region, or commercial photographers wishing to take photographs for sale, must receive approval from the home region prior to any photographs or videos being taken. Photographs and photography for the purposes of this policy is defined as wet film still photography, digital still photography, and video of any technology.

Regional permission may be in writing or via email, and may be granted only by the following regional representatives: Region Commissioner, any Assistant Region Commissioner, or Area 4U Director.

In addition, before any photographs are taken, a release form must be signed by a parent of each child photographed. Such release form must state whether the photographs will be posted on a web site or accessible via the internet. **Any photographer posting to a web site must present the region with a written statement acknowledging and warranting that such web site is in full compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA"). In no case may any child's photograph be identified by name.** Photographers are barred from taking photographs of any child for which permission has not been obtained by signature of a parent. A coach's signature is not a valid proxy for a parent's signature.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in sanctions to the photographer or company involved, including possible legal action.

Signed AD 4U – Regional commissioners of area 4U

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