

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association

Policies & Rules Manual



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PREFACE

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

Soccer's world governing body is the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The delegates of the associations of France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland signed the articles of foundation. In 1905, the English Football Association enrolled in FIFA along with Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

FIFA is comprised of each country's national soccer associations and is responsible for promoting and organizing the game of soccer throughout the world. FIFA also determines the basic playing "Laws of the Game." Those Laws are available from the Federation in a special booklet. Today more than 150 million people throughout the world play soccer and in a given year up to one million referees officiate more than 20 million matches. FIFA governs all aspects of the game.

United States Soccer Federation (USSF)

United States Soccer Federation (USSF) is the national governing body for all levels of soccer in the United States. It was formed in 1913 and affiliated with FIFA the following year. U.S. Soccer is also recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as provided in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. The Constitution, Rules, Policies and Procedures of the Federation have evolved over a period of time to govern the game of soccer and protect the interests of all participants, players, officials, administrators, clubs, leagues, national state associations and the Federation. Therefore, they must be accepted and observed by all members of the Federation until changed in accordance with the procedures provided therefore. USSF governs the following:

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA)

Mission

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association promotes the game of soccer for all youth players in Minnesota. We promote the importance of education, self-esteem, diversity and teamwork in a safe, fun environment, allowing players to develop to their fullest potential in soccer and life.

National Charge to Provide Opportunities Throughout the State

Each National State Association has the responsibility to provide and coordinate opportunities for every player in every part of its assigned territory to play soccer at the developmental, intermediate and advanced levels.

Programs

RECREATION PROGRAM

Recreational soccer provides youth players with the opportunity to play in an appropriate environment. The focus of recreational soccer is toward participation and fun over competition. Recreational soccer is a learning program for youth players organized within their Member Club.

RECREATION PLUS PROGRAM

Recreation Plus is a program designed to allow the recreational player an opportunity to participate in sanctioned activities involving teams outside their Member Club.

MYSA COMPETITIVE LEAGUE PROGRAM

The Competitive League program includes a varying number of structured groups of four or more teams joined for the purpose of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competition policies defined in the following sections of this document.

MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE

This is an invitation-only interstate sanctioned league for U14 – U18's administered by US Youth Soccer Region II.

DISTRICT SELECT PROGRAM

This is an ODP experience offered for 11-13 year-old players. A State Select pool of up to 36-50 players per birth year attends a regional camp in the summer.

This pool is selected through district tryouts and a festival conducted in the fall. Districts train 4 to 6 times for approximately a month under the supervision of district coaches. In the late fall all the districts meet for a one day festival at which time the state staff selects the pool.

The district select program allows for sustained training and identification for the youngest age group of the ODP.

STATE SELECT/OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SS/ODP)

The mission of the State Select/ODP is to identify those players in the state with high ability and potential. These identified players will then be coached, developed and presented to the US Youth Soccer regional and national coaching staff at the annual regional camps where they are evaluated and further developed for possible qualification and participation on regional and national teams.

The state program holds tryouts in the spring. Pool teams consisting of approximately 24-30 players are selected by birth years (January 1 through December 31). Eligible players will turn 14 to 18 sometime during the year. Prior to regional camps, pool teams are reduced to 18 player travel rosters. These 18 players will attend the summer regional camp. Benefits for the players include:

- a. An opportunity for recognition and selection to regional and national squads;
- b. Development through training conducted by state and regional staff coaches in addition to interstate competition.

INDOOR PROGRAM

Starting after the 2003 Fall Season, MYSA may sanction Indoor Programs. Currently MYSA does not sanction indoor league play.

PLAYER/ADULT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association has adopted the US Youth Soccer *Kidsafe* Program. Information regarding the program and the implementation by the Member Club can be obtained from the MYSA State Office. All Member Clubs and their administrators, coaches, and other registered adults are subject to MYSA's Player/Adult Protection Program including completion of an informed consent/disclosure statement.

1.0 AFFILIATION & REGISTRATION

1.1 Membership Categories and Competitive Status

1.1.1 Affiliate Members

Affiliate Members of the MYSA are all youth amateur soccer organizations organized, domiciled and operating within MYSA's territory, which are in good standing with the MYSA and USSF, and which are currently registered with the MYSA. An Affiliate Member must have youth players among its participant members as defined below.

1.1.2 Extraterritorial Members

An Extraterritorial Member is any youth amateur soccer organization organized, domiciled or operating outside MYSA's territory, which is permitted to join the MYSA pursuant to a written agreement between the MYSA and such organization's home state soccer association and USSF. An Extraterritorial Member must have youth players among its participant members as defined below.

Extraterritorial Member Recreational and Recreational Plus programs are administered through their home National State Association and are not registered with MYSA.

1.1.3 Member Clubs

A Member Club is any Member Club.

1.1.4 Participant Members

Participant members of the MYSA are all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators or officials who are currently registered with the MYSA by an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member. Participant Members may not independently organize teams for participation in MYSA activities.

1.1.5 Individual Members

Individual Members of the MYSA are all individual persons who are not Participant Members. Individual Members may not independently organize teams for participation in MYSA activities.

1.1.6 Associate Members

All amateur soccer organizations in MYSA's territory, which do not meet the requirements of Member Clubs, shall be Associate Members. Associate Members may not independently organize teams for participation in MYSA activities.

1.1.7 Competitive Status

- a. Only Affiliate Members with Competitive Status and Extraterritorial Members may apply to enter teams into MYSA competitive leagues or form Tournament and Tournament Only teams.
- b. An Affiliate Member with or without Competitive Status may administer a Recreational program and form Recreational and Recreational Plus teams.

1.2 Membership Requirements, Application Procedures, Membership Renewal, and Change in Competitive Status

1.2.1 Affiliate Members

1.2.1.1 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- a. PROVISIONAL STATUS. Groups or organizations that are interested in affiliating with MYSA may be granted provisional status. Provisional status may only be held for a period not to exceed six (6) months

and is not renewable. While on provisional status, a group or organization may register players for the purpose of conducting a Recreation program and fielding Recreation Plus teams. A group or organization on provisional status has no voting rights in MYSA. Applicants applying for provisional status must meet the following provisional membership requirements:

1. Submittal of the appropriate Affiliate Membership fee and application form.
 2. Proof of any of the following: a) Articles of Incorporation submitted to the Secretary of State or Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State, b) Current incorporation status of a parent organization along with a current Certificate of Compliance or c) Government affiliation along with a current Certificate of Compliance.
 3. A list of administrators' names, telephone numbers and addresses along with necessary individual registration fees. In addition, before participating in any MYSA activity, administrators must pass a background check conducted by an MYSA-specified agency.
- b. Minimum Requirements for Recreational Status: Applicants, who submit a completed application to become an Affiliate Member and meet all the following requirements, will be accepted as Affiliate Members. Applicants who submit teams into competitive leagues or form Tournament and Tournament Only teams must meet the additional requirements for competitive status. Applicants seeking to become an Affiliate Member of MYSA must submit all of the following:
1. The appropriate Affiliate Membership fee and application form;
 2. Proof of any of the following:
 - a. Articles of Incorporation submitted to the Secretary of State or Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State;
 - b. Current incorporation status of a parent organization along with a current Certificate of Compliance;
 - c. Government affiliation along with a current Certificate of Compliance.
 3. Copies of the applicant's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
 4. A list of administrator's names, telephone numbers and addresses, along with necessary individual registration fees. In addition, before participating in any MYSA activity, administrators must pass a background check conducted by an MYSA-specified agency;
 5. A list of fields including location and street addresses with zip codes;
 6. A letter which identifies the geographic area that the applicant intends to serve, including any geographical limitations or requirements in its bylaws;
 7. A written plan for referee education and recruitment including the name and phone number of the program coordinator. This plan should include provisions for increasing the number of referees available and improving the quality of the referees as the applicant's program grows;
 8. A written plan for coaching education and recruitment, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator, with provisions for increasing the number of coaches available and improving the quality of the coaches as the applicant's program grows;
 9. A written plan for player development, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator, with provisions for recreation and recreation plus programs;
 10. A written plan for risk management, which complies with the MYSA Risk Management Policy, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator.
- c. Additional Requirements for Competitive Status. Applicants who wish to offer teams in competitive leagues or form Tournament or Tournament Only teams must also meet all the following requirements:

1. The applicant will register a minimum of four competitive teams (U9 and older). This requirement may be waived if the Board of Directors approves a request for a waiver which is submitted by January 1 for the summer season and by April 1 for the fall season of each soccer year. Final approval of the application for competitive status will not be given until teams are registered or a waiver is granted for the first year;
2. A written plan for field access adequate to support the projected number of teams. The plan must include a list of field identifiers and location with appropriate documentation of access from the public or private organization that controls access to each field. MYSA reserves the right to limit the number of competitive teams if an inadequate number of fields are available;
3. A plan for referee development and assignment approved by a certified referee assignor. The plan should include details that address the provision of a sufficient number of referees for the projected number of games and a description of the mentorship program that the applicant anticipates using;
4. Applicants who wish to enter teams in competitive leagues or form Tournament or Tournament Only teams for the fall season must complete the above requirements by April 1 of the same year. Applicants who wish to enter teams in competitive leagues or form Tournament or Tournament Only teams for the Spring/Summer season must complete the above requirements by October 1 of the year preceding the Spring/Summer season;
5. The new Affiliate Member will have an annual review for the first three years of membership. During this period, its Competitive Status is subject to revocation by the Board of Directors if the Affiliate Member fails to comply with the requirements of approval.

1.2.1.2 PROCEDURES FOR NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- a. The MYSA office staff will examine the documentation required in section 1.2.1.1 and advise the Board of Directors of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance.
- b. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to accept an application for Affiliate Membership as complete, or reject any application found to be incomplete or inadequate.
- c. The Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the Competitive Committee, will make the final determination of the district assignment of an Affiliate Member.

1.2.1.3 RENEWAL OF AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

- a. In order to renew an Affiliate Membership in MYSA, an existing Affiliate Member who is in good standing with MYSA must submit the following to the MYSA State Office by September 1 of each year:
 1. The appropriate Affiliate Membership fee and application form;
 2. Proof of any of the following:
 - a. Current incorporation status;
 - b. Current incorporation status of a parent organization along with a current Certificate of Compliance;
 - c. Government affiliation along with a current Certificate of Compliance.
 3. Copies of the Affiliate Member's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, if not already on file with MYSA or if changes have been made;
 4. A list of fields, including locations and street addresses with zip codes;
 5. A list of administrators upon election;
 6. Any written plan required in section 1.2.1.1. which has been revised during the previous year.
- b. The MYSA office staff may examine each Affiliate Member's conformance or nonconformance to the requirements of this section and may investigate each Affiliate Member's adherence to its written plans required in section 1.2.1.1. The MYSA office staff shall advise the Board of Directors of its findings after examining or investigating any Affiliate Member.
- c. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to determine whether an Affiliate Member is in good standing under MYSA Bylaws Article 2.306.

1.2.1.4 EXISTING AFFILIATE MEMBERS WISHING TO CHANGE FROM RECREATION STATUS TO COMPETITIVE STATUS

Existing Affiliate Members who have Recreation Status but wish to have Competitive Status may do so by meeting the requirements of section 1.2.1.1 following the same timelines as described in section 1.2.1.2. The MYSA office staff will examine the documentation required and advise the Board of Directors of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to determine qualifications, to accept an application as complete, or reject any application found to be incomplete. If the application is found to be complete, the Affiliate Member will be granted Competitive Status. The Affiliate Member will have an annual review by the Board of Directors for the first 3 years of Competitive Status. Competitive Status is subject to revocation by the Board of Directors if the Affiliate Member fails to comply with the requirements for initial approval for Competitive Status.

1.2.2 Extraterritorial Members

1.2.2.1 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBERS

Applicants who wish to enter teams in competitive leagues or form Tournament and Tournament Only teams for the fall season must complete the following requirements by April 1 of the same year. Applicants who wish to enter teams in competitive leagues or form Tournament and Tournament Only teams for the Spring/Summer season must complete the following requirements by October 1 of the year proceeding the Spring/Summer season.

In order to apply for Extraterritorial Membership in MYSA, a new applicant must submit the following:

- a. The appropriate Extraterritorial Membership fee and application form;
- b. Proof of any of the following:
 1. Current incorporation status;
 2. Current incorporation status of a parent organization along with a current Certificate of Compliance;
 3. Government affiliation along with a current Certificate of Compliance.
- c. Copies of the applicant's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
- d. A list of administrator's names, telephone numbers and addresses. In addition, before participating in any MYSA activity, administrators must pass a background check conducted by an MYSA-specified agency;
- e. A list of fields, including locations and street addresses with zip codes;
- f. A cover letter identifying the geographic area that the applicant intends to serve, including any limitations or requirements in its bylaws;
- g. A written plan for field access adequate to support the projected number of teams. The plan must include a list of field identifiers and location with appropriate documentation of access from the public or private organization that controls field access. MYSA reserves the right to limit the number of competitive teams if an inadequate number of fields are available;
- h. The applicant will register a minimum of four competitive teams (U9 and older). This requirement may be waived if the Board of Directors approves a request for a waiver which is submitted by January 1 for the summer season and by April 1 for the fall season of each soccer year. Final approval of the application for competitive status will not be given until teams are registered or a waiver is granted for the first year;
- i. A plan for referee development and assignment approved by certified referee assignor. The plan should include details that address the provision of a sufficient number of referees for the projected number of games and a description of the mentorship program that the applicant anticipates using;
- j. A written plan for referee education and recruitment, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator. This plan should include provisions for increasing the number of referees available for projected number of games and improving the quality of the referees as the applicant's program grows;

- k. A written plan for coaching education and recruitment, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator, with provisions for increasing the number of coaches available and improving the quality of coaches as the applicant's program grows;
- l. A written plan for player development, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator;
- m. A written plan for risk management, which complies with the MYSA Risk Management Policy, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator.
- n. Written proof of good standing with their National State Association and written approval to affiliate with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association for the purpose of competitive league play;
- o. Applicants who have been determined to meet the requirements of this section may be admitted as an Extraterritorial Member. The Board of Directors may consider additional criteria for the good of the membership based on the specific contractual relationship with each National State Association;
- p. The new Extraterritorial Member will have an annual review for the first three years of membership. During this period, its competitive status is subject to revocation by the Board of Directors if the Extraterritorial Member fails to comply with the requirements of approval.

1.2.2.2 PROCEDURES FOR NEW EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBERS

- a. The MYSA office staff will examine the documentation required in section 1.2.2.1 and advise the Board of Directors of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance.
- b. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to determine qualifications, to accept an application for Extraterritorial Membership as complete, or reject any application found to be incomplete.
- c. Applicants who have been determined to meet the requirements of section 1.2.2.1 by the Board of Directors may be admitted as Extraterritorial Members.
- d. The Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Competitive Committee will make the final determination of the district assignment of an Extraterritorial Member.

1.2.2.3 RENEWAL OF EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP

- a. In order to renew an Extraterritorial Membership in MYSA, an existing Extraterritorial Member who is in good standing with MYSA and their own National State Association must submit the following to the State Office by September 1 of each year:
 - 1. The appropriate Extraterritorial Membership fee and application form;
 - 2. Proof of any of the following: a) Articles of Incorporation submitted to the Secretary of State or Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State, b) Current incorporation status of a parent organization along with a current Certificate of Compliance or c) Government affiliation along with a current Certificate of Compliance;
 - 3. Copies of the Extraterritorial Member's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, if not already on file with MYSA or if changes have been made;
 - 4. A list of fields, including locations and street addresses with zip codes;
 - 5. List of administrators upon election;
 - 6. Any written plan required in 1.2.1.1 which has been revised during the previous year;
 - 7. Written proof of good standing with their State organization and written approval to affiliate with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association for the purpose of competitive league play.
- b. The MYSA office staff may examine each Extraterritorial Member's conformance or nonconformance to the requirements of this section and may investigate each Extraterritorial Member's adherence to its written plans

required in section 1.2.2.1. The MYSA office staff shall advise the Board of Directors of its findings after examining or investigating any Extraterritorial Member.

- c. The Board of Directors will have the authority to determine whether an Extraterritorial Member is in good standing under MYSA Bylaws Article 2.407.
- d. The MYSA retains the right to accept or reject any Extraterritorial Member.

1.2.3 Associate Members

All amateur soccer organizations in the MYSA's territory who do not meet the requirements for Affiliate Membership may become Associate Members by applying in writing to the Board of Directors and paying the appropriate annual fee. Associate Members must also submit list of the names and addresses of all its administrators. In addition, before participating in any MYSA activity, administrators must submit a completed registration form, informed consent/disclosure form, and pay the appropriate registration fee. Associate Membership must be renewed by September 1 each year.

1.2.4 Individual Members

Individuals who are not Participant Members as defined in the bylaws may become Individual Members by applying in writing to the Board of Directors and paying the appropriate annual fee. Individual Memberships must be renewed by September 1 of each year.

1.2.5 Officer Registration

To affiliate, renew affiliation or remain in good standing, an Affiliate, Extraterritorial or Associate Member must provide a list of the names, telephone numbers and addresses of all its administrators. In addition, before participating in any MYSA activity, administrators must pass a background check conducted by an MYSA-specified agency.

1.2.6 False Application Information

Any member who provides false information as part of the application for membership or renewal of membership shall be subject to expulsion from the MYSA. All membership and registration fees will be forfeited.

1.3 Player Registration

Before participating in any MYSA activity, players must submit a completed registration form and submit the appropriate registration fee.

1.3.1 Residency Rule

- a. US Youth Soccer Rule 201: A player must register in the state in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school or college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or division of the college or university is located. Any other questions of residency may be determined by the state in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver's license.
- b. Any foreign players who are ineligible for State Cup, Region Cup, or National Championship competition by US Youth Soccer policies are also ineligible for MYSA competitive league play and district and state tournament competition.
- c. For purposes of league play and State Cup, a foreign player must reside and attend school in the area served for the 6 months prior to the beginning of the playing season. The Competitive Committee may make exceptions to the above state residency requirement on a case-by-case basis.

1.3.2 Types of Teams

US Youth Soccer Rule 103: USYSA recognizes two types of team genders:

- (1) Teams with females only are girls' teams.

(2) All other teams are boys' teams

1.3.3 Age Levels

1.3.3.1 Birth Year Cutoff Dates:

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
U6	8-1-04 to 7-31-05	8-1-05 to 7-31-06	8-1-06 to 7-31-07
U7	8-1-03 to 7-31-04	8-1-04 to 7-31-05	8-1-05 to 7-31-06
U8	8-1-02 to 7-31-03	8-1-03 to 7-31-04	8-1-04 to 7-31-05
U9	8-1-01 to 7-31-02	8-1-02 to 7-31-03	8-1-03 to 7-31-04
U10	8-1-00 to 7-31-01	8-1-01 to 7-31-02	8-1-02 to 7-31-03
U11	8-1-99 to 7-31-00	8-1-00 to 7-31-01	8-1-01 to 7-31-02
U12	8-1-98 to 7-31-99	8-1-99 to 7-31-00	8-1-00 to 7-31-01
U13	8-1-97 to 7-31-98	8-1-98 to 7-31-99	8-1-99 to 7-31-00
U14	8-1-96 to 7-31-97	8-1-97 to 7-31-98	8-1-98 to 7-31-99
U15	8-1-95 to 7-31-96	8-1-96 to 7-31-97	8-1-97 to 7-31-98
U16	8-1-94 to 7-31-95	8-1-95 to 7-31-96	8-1-96 to 7-31-97
U17	8-1-93 to 7-31-94	8-1-94 to 7-31-95	8-1-95 to 7-31-96
U18	8-1-92 to 7-31-93	8-1-93 to 7-31-94	8-1-94 to 7-31-95
U19	8-1-91 to 7-31-92	8-1-92 to 7-31-93	8-1-93 to 7-31-94

NOTE: US Youth Soccer age year is August 1 to July 31. For teams traveling to out-of-state tournaments after August 1, use the age cutoffs for the following season.

1.3.3.2 PROOF OF AGE

- a. **According to US Youth Soccer Rule 204:** proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a *Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card* (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

1.3.3.3 PLAYER REGISTRATION ON A TEAM AT AN OLDER AGE LEVEL

- a. Players are encouraged to register in their appropriate age group. However, unless otherwise provided in these policies, players will be allowed to register at an older age level at the discretion of the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member registering the team.
- b. U8 and younger players may not register on a U11 or older team.

1.3.4 Player Transfer and Release

1.3.4.1 PLAYERS BOUND TO MEMBER CLUB

- a. A player is registered to an Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member the moment the player (or for a player less than 18 years of age, the player's parent or guardian) personally or electronically signs the Affiliate Member's or Extraterritorial Member's registration form and submits a portion of, or the full amount of the fees required by the Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member, subject to 1.3.4.1.b. Affiliate Members or Extraterritorial Members may collect a separate tryout or evaluation fee and may require completion of a separate tryout or evaluation registration form solely for the purposes of tryouts, evaluations or other similar events. Completion of only a separate tryout or evaluation form does not bind either party to the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member.
- b. The open period for registered players who are considering playing for any Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member in the following season begins the day following completion of the final match of the MYSA State Tournament. Affiliate Members and Extraterritorial Members, their administrators, board members, coaches (paid or unpaid), parents, independent contractors and/or entities used for purposes of administering tryouts, evaluations or other similar events used to form teams for the following soccer season may not schedule such an event until the day following completion of the final match of the MYSA State Tournament. Tryouts or evaluations are allowed for U9 and U10 teams once league play is completed since there is no State Tournament for U9 and U10 teams.

Advertisements, emails or other forms of communication announcing tryouts, evaluations or other similar events by any Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member are not subject to the restriction. An Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member found in violation of this rule will be fined in accordance to the MYSA Fees & Fines schedule set by the Board of Directors. Individuals involved in the organization and/or running an event in violation of this rule are subject to sanctions: verbal or written reprimand, game(s) suspension, partial or full season suspension, temporary or permanent suspension. Recruiting a player who is bound to a club is also prohibited.

1.3.4.2 PLAYER TRANSFER OR RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Once registered with a Member Club, a player is bound to the team to which the Member Club has assigned the player for that soccer season, except as otherwise provided by MYSA Bylaws or these policies.
- b. A registered player not assigned to a team by his/her Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member at least three weeks prior to the MYSA team registration deadline must, at the player's request, be released.
- c. A registered player may request a transfer from his/her Member Club. Transferred players must be released by the original Member Club before the player may be registered by another Member Club.
- d. Member Clubs must allow player transfers for the following reasons:
 1. Player relocation to a different community that exceeds a reasonable travel distance; or,
 2. Player's desire to play on a team in a more competitive division than that offered or available with the player's current Affiliate Member. If the transferred player is registered by the receiving club at the same or lower competitive division where the player was transferred from, the transfer will become null and void.
- e. Upon request, a player may be voluntarily released by an Affiliate Member.
- f. Inter-Club transfers (from one Member Club to another) must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form, signed by both Member Clubs and must be approved by the appropriate Competitive Representative of the original Affiliate Member's or Extraterritorial Member's home district.
- g. Transferred players, who have been issued member passes without the proper and fully executed transfer forms, are not eligible to play and will be considered illegal players until the fully executed form is on file at the MYSA office. It is the responsibility of the club receiving the transferred players to ensure that all the paperwork required is properly signed and filed with MYSA.

1.3.4.3 LIMITS ON DROPPED PLAYERS

- a. A dropped player is one who is involuntarily released by a Member Club and not put on another team sponsored by that Member Club. After the Member Club assigns players to a team, no team may unilaterally drop more than 3 players unless players fall within guidelines for Premier team formation.
- b. The Member Club's registrar and the MYSA office must be notified of a dropped player.
- c. A player that has been injured and cannot continue to compete in the remaining season at the time of the request, as certified by a medical doctor, at the Member Club's option, may be dropped. This dropped player will not count towards the number of dropped players.
- d. A player that voluntarily drops from any Member Club's team will not count towards the number of dropped players for that team as long as the member pass is surrendered to MYSA accompanied by a Voluntary Drop Form. The player in question may not join any other team for the duration of the playing season when the drop occurred.

1.3.4.4 Addition of Players

- a. Any team may add players not previously registered to another affiliated member at any time during the soccer season as provided by the guidelines listed below:
 1. Team does not have a complete roster as defined for each age group. This rule cannot be used to over-roster players.
 2. Team has not dropped any players from their roster, as defined in 1.3.4.3., unless a medical doctor certifies that the player(s) dropped will not be able to play the remainder of the season from the time of the request or the player has dropped voluntarily. The member pass(es) of the dropped player(s) must be surrendered to the MYSA office before any new member pass(es) may be issued.

Players previously registered to teams that have folded are eligible to be added to a team. A player is eligible to play 5 days after the registration has been received by MYSA.

1.3.5 Affiliate Member Responsibilities

- a. A Member Club is responsible for assigning a player to a team. A player shall be assigned to only one youth team at a time in a soccer season except as described in section 6.3.c.
- b. A Member Club who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information to affect a player registration or transfer or prevent an otherwise legitimate player transfer will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- c. The 21-Day Policy for Players begins the moment a player signs a club registration form, submits a registration fee and/or submits a tryout fee. An Affiliate Member (club) shall have twenty-one (21) days to submit the registration and associated fees (primary registration fee) to the MYSA State Office for the player to receive insurance coverage. If the registration and associated fees are not submitted within twenty-one (21) days, insurance coverage will not commence until the registration and associated fees are submitted.
- d. Registration forms (paper and/or electronic) must clearly identify the affiliate member, in a minimum of 14 point type, that the player is registering with. If the registration form does not clearly identify the affiliate member, the registration is null and void. Questions on the clarity of the identification will be resolved by the MYSA Appeals Committee. There is no further appeal of the decisions of the Appeals Committee.

1.4 Team & Coach Registration

1.4.1 MYSA Competitive League Team Registration

- a. In order to register a team for MYSA competitive league play, the Member Club must pay the appropriate fee and submit required information in a format specified by MYSA.
- b. U9 and U10 teams must have at least 8 and no more than 12 players to register as a team; U11 and U12 teams must have at least 10 and no more than 14 players to register as a team.
- c. U13–U15 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 18 players to register as a team. U16–U19 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 22 players to register as a team.
- d. Club Presidents and the Competitive Committee as described below in sections 4.2.2.2 and 4.3.2.2 may grant exceptions to maximum roster size.
- e. A fine will be assessed to the Member club for each team dropping from a league after the schedule is set. This fine is in addition to the forfeit of any team or player registration fees previously paid or due.
- f. Team status earned during the previous spring/summer season play at all levels, Premier, C1, C2, C3 and any other levels that may subsequently be added, will remain with the sponsoring club. Team rosters will have no restriction on the number of returning players, unless that team decides to play MRL. In that case that team roster must match at least 75% of the team that plays MYSA league or it forfeits its league spot/status. In the event an affiliate or extraterritorial member club with the MYSA becomes disaffiliated for any reason, a team's status earned in the previous summer season will be allowed to transfer to another MYSA affiliate or extraterritorial member club in good standing. The number of players registered from the team, for the new club, must be greater than 75% from the previous summer season roster.
- g. If at any time, a competitive status becomes more selective and/or difficult to obtain, it cannot occur until one full soccer year after the AGM where the rule was passed. This would also include any motion of the Board of Directors. Note: Competitive status refers to Premier, Classic and Midwest Regional Leagues.

1.4.2 Tournament-Only Team and Tournament Team Registration

1.4.2.1 TOURNAMENT-ONLY TEAMS

- a. In order to register a Tournament Only Team the Member Club must pay the appropriate player and team fees and submit required information in a format specified by MYSA by the published date.
- b. Players may be added to Tournament-Only Teams at any time.
- c. Information about Tournament-Only Teams is in section 6.3.b.

1.4.2.2 TOURNAMENT TEAMS

- a. In order to register a Tournament Team the Member Club must pay the appropriate player and team fees and submit required information in a format specified by MYSA according to published guidelines.
- b. Players may be added to Tournament Teams at any time.
- c. Information about Tournament Teams is in section 6.3.c.

1.4.3 Coach Registration:

Before participating in any MYSA activity, coaches and team managers must submit a completed registration form, successfully complete the MYSA background check process and pay the appropriate registration fee. Any registered adult who may work with players in a coaching capacity must have a laminated properly prepared pass with his or her photo and signature.

1.5 Youth Participation in Adult Games

Youth players will be allowed to play an unlimited number of adult games without losing their youth eligibility provided the following procedures are followed:

- a. The player must be registered with an MYSA team, and have a member pass.
- b. A youth player may have an Adult member pass at the same time he/she holds a youth member pass.
- c. Procedures for receiving permission to play Adult:
 1. Fill out MYSA's Application for Youth Participation in Adult Games. This must be signed by the player's youth coach.
 2. Mail or bring the completed application and the player's current US Youth Soccer member pass to the State Office.
 3. The MYSA pass will be marked so it will be identifiable as authorized to play adult.
 4. In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game will take precedence.
 5. All send-offs will be served in the league they were issued.
 6. A player who plays in an adult game without a properly approved member pass will be subject to a 2-game suspension on the youth team on which he/she is registered.
 7. Players must have permission from their coach to play up to adult on a game-by-game basis.

1.6 Fees Determined Annually by Board of Directors

All fees shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

2.0 MYSA RECREATION PROGRAM

2.1 General Policies for Recreational Play

The MYSA Recreation Director oversees the Recreation program, a series of Member Club leagues in which:

- a. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
- b. Affiliate Members must accept as participants any and all eligible youth (subject to reasonable terms of registration);
- c. A system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and
- d. Each player plays at least ½ of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.

2.2 Recreational Programs

Affiliate Members may conduct recreational programs for USSF registered players without forming teams. These may consist of such things as player development clinics, training sessions, scrimmages or similar. Formal teams need not be established for these activities; players may be divided into groups as appropriate at each session. Affiliate Members may conduct cooperative programs with other Affiliate Members.

3.0 MYSA RECREATION PLUS PROGRAM

3.1 General Policies for Recreation Plus Play

The MYSA Recreation Director oversees the Recreation Plus program. Recreation Plus is an intermediate program designed to allow the recreational player an opportunity to participate in sanctioned activities, such as games involving teams outside their Affiliate Member, including participation in invitational tournaments to play competitive teams.

3.1.1 Intra-Affiliate Member or Inter-Affiliate Member Recreation Plus Programs:

- a. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to register players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited; and
- b. Affiliate Members must accept as participants any and all eligible youth (subject to reasonable terms of registration).

3.1.2 Recreation Plus Leagues

Affiliate Members may organize Recreation Plus Leagues for Intra-Affiliate Member or Inter-Affiliate Member play; provided such leagues do not otherwise meet the definition of Recreational Play or Competitive League.

3.1.3 Playing Time

Each player must play at least ½ of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.

3.1.4 Matches

All matches between MYSA/USSF sanctioned teams must be officiated by USSF registered referees and comply with all relevant MYSA Modifications to the Laws of the Game as found in the *MYSA Policies & Rules Manual*.

3.1.5 Terms of Participation

Recreation Plus teams may not play as a team in MYSA competitive league play, league-playoffs, regionals or state tournaments, and State Cup competition.

3.1.6 Games Allowed

Recreation Plus teams may play Recreation Plus games, invitational tournaments, festivals or “friendly” games.

3.1.7 Invitational Tournament Participation

When attending invitational tournaments the team and its players are subject to the policies of that particular tournament.

3.1.8 Recreation Plus Player Registration

Recreation Plus players may only be registered on one recreation plus team at a time; however, a recreation plus player may simultaneously be a member of a recreational team within his/her Affiliate Member. Recreation Plus players may play up on a competitive team subject to the restrictions contained in the *MYSA Policies & Rules Manual*.

3.1.9 Recreation Cross Play

Recreation Plus players may not play across to another recreation plus team within or outside their Affiliate Member. Recreation Plus players cannot be simultaneously registered with two or more Affiliate Members.

3.1.10 Game Results

Recreation Plus Leagues may maintain a list of game results.

3.1.11 Playoffs

Recreation Plus Leagues may have an end of season playoff.

3.1.12 Recreation Plus teams may roster as follows:

- a. U9-U10 teams must have at least 8 and no more than 12 players registered.
- b. U11-U12 teams must have at least 10 and no more than 14 players registered.
- c. U13-U15 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 18 players registered.
- d. U16-U19 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 22 players registered. Up to 18 players are allowed to check in and participate in any one match.

With the written approval of the appropriate MYSA official, a Recreation Plus team may register more than the maximum number of players for its age level. However, only the maximum number of players for the team's age level may check in and participate in any one match.

3.1.13 Laws of the Game

Recreation Plus players are subject to the MYSA Modifications to the Laws of the Game as contained in the *MYSA Policies and Rules Manual*.

4.0 MYSA COMPETITIVE PLAY

4.1 General Policies for All Age Levels and Competitive Divisions

The following policies apply to MYSA competitive play, MYSA sponsored tournaments and State Cup competition unless otherwise noted. MYSA policies that are modifications of FIFA are noted in Section 7, *Laws of the Game*.

4.1.1 Team Rosters

4.1.1.1 ROSTERS AVAILABLE TO TEAMS

Final rosters will be issued to the club registrar. All rosters must be signed by the MYSA State Registrar or Competitive Director.

4.1.1.2 ROSTER CHANGES AND FREEZE DATES

- a. Roster changes must be made through the MYSA.
- b. Transfer of registered players for the summer and fall competitive league seasons: 1) Intra-club transfers are allowed up to and including the first day of the season. 2) Inter-club transfers are allowed up to and including the team submittal date set by the Board of Directors.

4.1.2 US Youth Soccer Member Passes

This section applies to US Youth Soccer member passes for players, coaches and registered adults.

4.1.2.1 PREPARATION OF MEMBER PASSES

Each member pass must:

- (1) be separate from any other member pass;
- (2) include the participant signature;
- (3) include a recent photograph of the participant;
- (4) be signed by the authorized MYSA official; and
- (5) be completely laminated front and back.

4.1.2.2 USE OF MEMBER PASSES REQUIRED FOR GAMES

- a. Member passes must be presented to the referee at the start of each game. Birth certificates, driver's licenses and other forms of identification are not valid substitutes. Participants who have served out a suspension may use their properly signed *MYSA Ejected Participant Report* while waiting for the return of their member pass from the MYSA office. See section 7.12.1.b.3.g.

- b. The referee shall confiscate member passes that do not comply with Section 4.1.2.1 and mail the confiscated member pass with the completed Competitive Match Report to the MYSA office.
- c. In the case of a new submittal or lost member pass, the club's registrar or any person authorized by the club must submit a request for a replacement pass on the proper form to the MYSA office at least 48 hours in advance. NOTE: No pass, no play.

4.1.3 Illegal Player

4.1.3.1 DEFINITION

An illegal player is defined as any one of the following:

- a. playing for more than one team at the same age level and in the same division;
- b. registered for more than one competitive league team;
- c. playing for teams from more than one Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member;
- d. non-registered, or registered using unacceptable proof of age;
- e. over-age;
- f. serving suspension;
- g. using another member's pass;
- h. using a photocopied or tampered member pass;
- i. participating in a game without presenting a proper member pass or properly using an *Ejected Participant Report*;
- j. nonresident under the definition in section 1.3.1 above; or,
- k. any player not on the roster as certified and frozen by MYSA officials in MYSA league playoffs, regionals and state tournament.

4.1.3.2 SANCTIONS

- a. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit the games in which that player takes part. Teams awarded trophies or medals must relinquish them.
- b. Any coach, manager or official using or attempting to use an illegal player shall be subject to sanction or suspension.
- c. Any player who participates or attempts to participate as an illegal player shall be subject to sanction or suspension.

4.1.4 False Information

- a. A player found to have registered using incorrect birth information shall be subject to sanction or suspension.
- b. An individual who submits false information to the MYSA relevant to a player's identity, birth information, past or present status with an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member in order to register a player or to effect a player transfer, is subject to sanctions that may include verbal or written warning, fines, suspension and/or temporary or permanent banishment.

4.1.5 League Schedules

- a. The Competitive Committee sets league schedules.
- b. Fall league games will be scheduled to be played on Saturday and/or Sunday. Summer league games may be scheduled to be played on any day in conformance with the published schedule of playing days.

4.1.5.1 FORFEITS AND FINES

The Board of Directors will publish a schedule of specific fines yearly.

- a. **Simple forfeit:** an attempt is made to play the game.
- b. **Willful forfeit:** no attempt is made to play the game.

- c. **Failure to report scores:** if neither team reports the scores of a game via the website before the published deadline, the match shall be treated as a forfeit for both teams for the purpose of calculating standings and each team shall receive a fine.
- d. All fines accumulated by a team must be paid before the start of League Playoffs.
- e. Fines collected will be divided between the District and the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member winning the forfeit, except in the case of a dual forfeit.

4.1.6 Rescheduling missed games

All registered teams have the right to play their scheduled league games. It is the intent that games are decided on the field of play; therefore, every attempt should be made to play a game rather than have it won by forfeit. Exhibition games may be cancelled without reschedule, forfeit or penalty upon mutual agreement of the two team head coaches and approval of their club Presidents. Teams choosing to cancel exhibition games will inform MYSA and the home club's field coordinator at least one week prior to the scheduled game. Failure to inform MYSA and the home club's field coordinator one week in advance will result in a forfeit if the game is not played (see Section 4.1.5.1).

4.1.6.1 ANTICIPATED RESCHEDULES

- a. General
 - 1. Coaches must assess player availability on scheduled league nights before the season begins and request to reschedule games for which they will have fewer than eleven players. Teams are strongly encouraged to use call-up players rather than request a reschedule.
 - 2. All requests to reschedule for anticipated events (including but not limited to tournaments, school events, soccer camps, work schedules, and vacations) must be made within a two-week grace period after the league schedule is made available to the coach (usually at the preseason coaches' meeting).
 - 3. Teams that request that games be rescheduled after the two-week grace period are not entitled to a mandatory reschedule and un-played games will be assessed as a forfeit.
 - 4. No request must be honored if made less than 72 hours before the scheduled game time.
 - 5. The two coaches must make a good faith effort to identify a mutually agreeable reschedule date, with the burden on the team making the request to accommodate the responding team. In case agreeable date cannot be found, the procedure described in section 4.1.6.3 will be followed. If the coaches are at an impasse in agreeing upon a suitable reschedule, the appropriate Competitive Representative or his/her designee must be notified by the head coach or team manager of both teams at least 24 hours prior to the original scheduled game date.
 - 6. Any rescheduled game requires that both coaches complete a reschedule on the MYSA website. After completing, game details will be sent to club officials and the appropriate Competitive Representative regardless of the reason for the reschedule. The MYSA website will also reflect the new game date.
 - 7. If a coach believes that the number of requests is burdensome, he or she may appeal to the appropriate Competitive Representative.
 - 8. All games must be played before the date set by the Competitive Committee for the end of league play. Forfeits will be assessed for all unplayed games; the Competitive Representative will determine the nature of the forfeit.
- b. Tournaments
 - 1. Teams that request that league games be rescheduled due to US Youth Soccer National Championship Series-MYSA State Cup or US Youth Soccer National Championship Series US Youth Soccer Region II Championships play shall be honored upon a 72-hour notice.

4.1.6.2 UNANTICIPATED RESCHEDULES

- a. In cases where the game cannot be played because of field or weather conditions or referee availability and no advance warning (less than 72 hours) can be given to the visiting team, the game must be rescheduled within 48 hours. Teams must contact the Competitive Representative or his/her designee using the appropriate rescheduling form.
- b. In the case of adverse weather conditions, or when field conditions caused by recent weather pose either risk to players or risk of damage to the field, the game will be rescheduled to the home team's fields.

- c. Other than (as in 4.1.6.2.b), the game will be rescheduled to the visiting team's home fields, if available, and the original home team will pay the referee fees (before the start of the game) and any field costs incurred as a result of the reschedule if:
 - 1. no qualified (*see sec. 7.5.1G*) registered referee appears at the home team's field;
 - 2. the field is unavailable due to scheduling conflicts;
 - 3. the referee determines that the field is unplayable (not simply a rain-out) or a goal or goals are not anchored and the game cannot be played;
 - 4. the home team had advance warning that the field or referees would not be available and did not inform the visiting team at least 72 hours in advance;
 - 5. other similar circumstances as determined by the Competitive Representative or his/her designee.
- d. If the coaches are at an impasse in agreeing upon a suitable reschedule date, the appropriate Competitive Representative or his/her designee must be notified by the head coach or team manager of both teams, within 96 hours following the original scheduled game date.

4.1.6.3 PROCEDURE TO RESCHEDULE GAMES

- a. All requests for rescheduling will be directed to the Competitive Representative or their designee for approval. Two teams may reschedule a game at any time if it is mutually agreeable to both teams. In such cases the teams should identify a date to play the game within 48 hours of the request and the game must be played before the end of league play. Games that are not played will be assessed as forfeits. The burden is on the requesting team to ensure that the game is rescheduled.
- b. If no agreeable reschedule date is found between the two teams and it is required that the game be rescheduled as defined above, the Competitive Representative or his/her designee will assign a playing date and time in the following manner:
 - 1. The team asked to reschedule will provide a good-faith list of five dates and times they are available to play the game. If it is to be the home team, these dates and times should be cleared in advance with their field and referee schedulers.
 - 2. After consultation with the team originally making the request, the Competitive Representative or his/her designee will assign date, place, time, game is to be played. There is no assurance that the chosen date will be completely acceptable to the requesting team—the burden is on the team making the request to accommodate the opposing team. Teams may be required to play multiple games in a day.
 - 3. If one team fails to appear for the game, an automatic loss will be assigned that team. This is considered a willful forfeit and will result in a fine.
 - 4. If both teams fail to appear, a loss will be recorded for both teams. This is considered a willful forfeit and will result in a fine for each team.

4.1.6.4 GAMES MAY NOT BE DOUBLE COUNTED

No games -- tournament or league -- can be played as one game counting for two or more games.

4.1.7 Affiliate Member, Coach, Player and Fan Responsibilities

4.1.7.1 HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The home team is responsible for scheduling referees through a registered referee assignor, marking fields, placing corner flags and putting up nets on goals that are anchored. The home team must also provide a ball that is acceptable for play. It is suggested that in advance of a game, coaches should contact each other to be sure time and directions are clear.
- b. Incidents of using unregistered referees and unprepared fields, including fields on which the goals are not anchored, can result in fines, forfeit of games or cancellation of schedule. The respective Competitive Representatives are responsible for making sure that proper procedures are followed. At their option, they may institute remedial action that may include the assignment of qualified referees and moving games to adequate sites. The costs associated with such actions may be assessed to the offending teams. Complaints concerning improper procedures should be directed to the Competitive Representative by visiting coaches. Competitive Representatives will make determinations of fact and may direct remedial action.

- c. Spectator seating: When possible, the technical area for both teams will be on the same side of the field with the spectators seated on the opposite side.
- d. In the case that the color of uniforms conflicts (as determined by the referee), the home team must change to an alternate color.

4.1.7.2 BEHAVIOR

- a. All players, officials and spectators attending matches are required to observe all MYSA and US Youth Soccer policies. Each Affiliate Member is responsible for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators and must exercise reasonable precautions against disturbances or disorderly conduct before, during and after each match.
- b. Coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators shall be at least one yard from the touch line and shall stay at least 20 yards from the goal line. No individual will be allowed to run the length of the field except the participants of the game.
- c. The end-of-game ceremony is a soccer tradition and should be honored in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Both teams, including all coaches and players, are to return to the middle of the field for a ceremonial handshake regardless of the outcome of the game.
- d. Incidents of unruly fans or uncontrolled coaches can result in sanctions including, but not limited to, fines, suspensions, forfeit of games, moving games or cancellation of schedule. Coaches should direct complaints concerning improper behavior to the Competitive Representative.

4.1.7.3 ADULT SUPERVISION AT GAMES

- a. All teams must have registered adult supervision. An "adult" is defined as a person who is no longer eligible to play youth soccer. If an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member's directors approve, youths may coach youth soccer teams if they are under the supervision of a registered adult who is in attendance at games and who is listed on the Competitive Match Report. If a youth (19 or younger) is coaching, he/she must also be registered as the coach. All coaches or any registered adult supervising team activities must have a valid US Youth Soccer member pass.
- b. There will be a minimum of one adult for each team registered with MYSA at the field at all times.

4.1.8 Coaches Guidelines and Responsibilities

4.1.8.1 REPORTING LEAGUE GAME SCORES

- a. Each team must report team scores within 48 hours of each league game or mark the game in the online system as "rescheduled."
- b. Both coaches must fill out a *MYSA Competitive Match Report* for each game. Only registered adults from the Affiliate Member will be able to coach the game. The home coach should provide the referee with a postage prepaid envelope addressed to the MYSA office.

4.1.8.2 CONDUCT DURING THE GAME

- a. One coach per team may convey tactical instructions to players during the match. The coach and his/her assistants must remain within the confines of the technical area and they must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times.
- b. Coaches will assist in controlling fans. No spectator, coach or player may place himself or herself behind a goal. Coaches, assistants and non-participating players are to remain in the coaching area (technical area), which extends 10 yards on either side of the halfway line on opposite sides of the field. They also must remain at least one yard from the touchline.
- c. Any coach found guilty of abuse to a referee, player or member of MYSA will be subject to disciplinary action.

4.2 League Operation U13 and Older

4.2.1 League Organization

4.2.1.1 Under-13 COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

MYSA provides multiple levels of play, with Classic 1 being the most competitive division and Classic 3 the least competitive. Within each competitive division, there may be one or more leagues. The availability of competitive

divisions and number of leagues is determined by the Competitive Committee at its discretion. Team assignment at the Under-13 age level is self-selected.

4.2.1.2 UNDER-14 THROUGH UNDER-17 COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- a. MYSA provides multiple levels of competitive play, with Premier being the most competitive division and Classic 3 the least competitive. Within each competitive division, there may be one or more leagues. The availability of competitive divisions, number of leagues and assignment of teams to those leagues is determined by the Competitive Committee at its discretion.
- b. A team that does not have a competitive rating from the preceding summer season is considered a new team.
- c. New teams will be placed at the lowest competitive division available. New teams can be placed at a higher competitive division at the discretion of the Competitive Committee.
- d. Promotion-Relegation Standards for Classic Leagues

(for promotion – relegation of Premier teams *see section 11.0*)

1. Promotion

- a. The first place team in each Classic 2 and Classic 3 league is automatically promoted. If two or more teams tie in points for first place, they will all be promoted.
- b. Classic 2 and Classic 3 teams that score 75 percent or higher of the total number of points possible for their league are automatically promoted.
- c. Classic 2 and Classic 3 teams that win the Summer State Tournament are automatically promoted.

2. Relegation

- a. The last place team in each Classic 1 or Classic 2 league is automatically relegated. If two or more teams tie in points for last place they will all be relegated. The only exception will be if the last place team(s) earn 40 percent or more of the total points for their league; in this case, no team from this league will be relegated.
- b. Classic 1 and Classic 2 teams that score 25 percent or lower of the total number of points possible for their league are automatically relegated.
- e. The Competitive Committee has the absolute right to change a team's declared competitive division to properly and fairly place teams. At the discretion of the Competitive Committee, a team may be allowed to play at an older playing age than that of the team's players.

4.2.1.3 UNDER-18 AND UNDER-19 COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- a. MYSA provides multiple levels of competitive play, with Premier being the most competitive division and Classic 2 the least competitive. U18 and U19 teams may be combined at Classic 1 and Classic 2. Within each competitive division, there may be one or more leagues. The availability of competitive divisions, number of leagues and assignment of teams to those leagues is determined by the Competitive Committee at its discretion. Team assignment at the Classic 1 and Classic 2 competitive division is self-selected. Team assignment at the Premier competitive division is subject to promotion and relegation.
- b. A team that does not have a competitive rating from the preceding summer season is considered a new team.
- c. Team assignment at the Classic 1 and Classic 2 competitive division is self-selected.
- d. Promotion-Relegation Standards for Premier teams (*see section 11.0*).
- e. The Competitive Committee has the absolute right to change a team's declared competitive division to properly and fairly place teams. At the discretion of the Competitive Committee, a team may be allowed to play at an older playing age than that of the team's players.

4.2.1.4 AWARDS

First place awards are given to the team with the best record in each league and sub-division.

4.2.2 League Operational Guidelines

4.2.2.1 NUMBER OF GAMES

The Competitive Committee sets the number of league games.

4.2.2.2 Roster Size

U13-15

- a. Teams at age levels U13 through U15 must have at least 11 and no more than 18 registered players. Club presidents may grant over roster waivers for a maximum of two players. The Competitive Committee may grant over roster waivers beyond two players after a review of a written request by the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member.
- b. Over rostering will not be allowed at Classic 1. Over rostering is limited to the lowest division team at an age level.

U16-19

- a. Teams at age levels U16 through U19 must have at least 11 and no more than 22 registered players, with up to 18 players allowed to be checked in and participate in any one match. Club presidents may not grant over roster waivers. The Competitive Committee may grant over roster waivers after a review of a written request by the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member.

4.2.2.3 LEAGUE STANDINGS

- a. League games that end in a tie will remain as a tie.
- b. League Tie Breakers
 1. To determine team standing within a league, the following procedures shall be used in sequence:
 - a. Highest number of points. Win = 3 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points.
 - b. Winner of head-to-head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
 - c. Winner of most games.
 - d. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) in all games, with a maximum of a three-goal differential per game.
 - e. Most goals scored in all games, with a maximum of three goals per game.
 - f. Kicks from the penalty mark.
 2. A forfeit in league play will result in a 3-0 score for the game and counts as a played game.
- c. Effect of Unequal Number of Games on League Standings

In determining league standing, if teams have played an unequal number of games, a calculation will be made for the entire league to compensate for the different number of games played. The calculation is based on awarding 1/2 win and 1/2 loss for each tie and dividing the number of wins by the total number of games played.

For example: League record of Team A is 6 wins, 4 losses, 1 tie (6-4-1) becomes 6 1/2 wins, 4 1/2 losses. Calculation is: 6 1/2 divided by 11 (total number of games played), which equals .591. League record of Team B is 5 wins, 3 losses, 4 ties (5-3-4) becomes 7 wins, 5 losses. Calculation is: 7 divided by 12 (total number of games played), which equals .583. Therefore, Team A, having the higher ratio (.591), is declared the winner.

4.2.2.4 PLAYING UP

- a. A player may play for another team than that to which they are registered an unlimited number of times under the following conditions:
 1. Both teams are registered with the same Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member.
 2. A player must get approval from his/her coach before playing for another team.
 3. There may not be more than three play-ups in a single game.
 4. Players cannot play for another team at the same age level and competitive division (play across) as the team on which they are registered. Exception: Girls may play across to a boy's team at the same age level where a District has only one competitive division of play and combines age levels within that competitive division.
 5. U11 and older players may not play down below the age level to which they are registered even if they would have been age-eligible to register on that team.
- b. Players on Premier teams may only play up to another Premier team at an older age level.

- c. Players on classic teams may play up to an older age level or more competitive division.
For example: Players from a Classic 2 team may play up to a Classic 1 team at the same or older age level.
- d. All Other Players
 - 1. U10 and younger players will be allowed to play up to U11 or older.
 - 2. Recreation and Recreation Plus players may play up on competitive teams sponsored by their Affiliate Member by obtaining a member pass by the published deadline.
 - 3. U9 and U10 players may play up for any team for which they are age-eligible as long as that team is within their club and not within the same age level and competitive division as the team to which they are rostered.

4.3 League Operation U9, U10, U11 and U12

The competitive program for U9 and U10 players is considered "developmental" and does not have all of the elements of the competitive program for older players. As described below, scores are not kept, there are no league winners and no state tournament. The competitive program for U11 and U12 will include keeping scores, standings, league winners and state tournament.

4.3.1 League Organization

- a. Players may be assessed for the level of development of their soccer skills, coachability, motivation and team skills.
- b. Affiliate or Extraterritorial Members may place their teams in one of the following subdivisions of play:
 - 1. U9 and U10 (6v6) will have two levels self-selected: Maroon level for more experienced players and Gold level for less experienced players.
 - 2. U11 (8v8) will have three levels self-selected: Classic 1, Classic 2 and Classic 3, with Classic 1 being the more competitive division and Classic 3 the least competitive.
 - 3. U12 (8v8) will have three levels self-selected: Classic 1, Classic 2 and Classic 3, with Classic 1 being the more competitive division and Classic 3 the least competitive.

4.3.2 League Operational Guidelines

U8 and younger players cannot register on a U11 or older team.

4.3.2.1 NUMBER OF GAMES

The Competitive Committee will set the maximum number of scheduled games for U10 and younger leagues.

4.3.2.2 ROSTER SIZE

- a. U9 team size: Minimum 8; maximum 12 players. Club president may approve one over roster. Registration of additional players requires formation of two teams.
- b. U10 team size: Minimum 8; maximum 12 players. Club president may approve one over roster. Registration of additional players requires formation of two teams.
- c. U11 team size: Minimum 10; maximum 14 players. Club president may approve the over roster of two players. Registration of additional players requires formation of two teams.
- d. U12 team size: Minimum 10; maximum 14 players. Club president may approve the over roster of two players. Registration of additional players requires formation of two teams.

4.3.2.3 SCORING, LEAGUE STANDINGS, AND AWARDS

- a. Leagues at ages U10 and younger will not record final scores and will not publish league standings.
- b. In any games involving U10 and younger teams, if awards are given, they must be participation awards for all players.

4.3.2.4 PLAYING UP

- a. U9 players may play up to U10 teams.
- b. U10 and younger players will be allowed to play up to U11 or older teams. (*see 4.2.2.4.d*)
- c. U9 and U10 players may play up for any team for which they are age-eligible as long as that team is within their club and not within the same age level and competitive division as the team to which they are rostered.
- d. Players cannot play for another team at the same age level and competitive division (play across) as the team on which they are registered.

4.3.2.5 Field Guidelines

- a. Field Size: U9/U10 a minimum of 35x45 yards to a maximum of 45x60 yards
U11/U12 a minimum of 45x80 yards to a maximum of 55x90 yards
- b. Field Layouts: (see MYSA program brochure layout)
- c. Field equipment: Goal size: U9/U10 – min 6x12 feet, max 6.5x12 feet; U11/U12 - 7x21 feet. Goals must be anchored or the game may not be played and will be rescheduled pursuant to 4.1.6.2.

4.3.2.6 Referees

- a. U9/U10: one referee with no offside in effect
- b. U11/U12: one or three person team with offside in effect; may use club linesman.

For an easy to read brochure of small-sided games, visit the MYSA website at <http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/leagues/smallsided.cfm>

4.4 MYSA Sponsored Tournaments

- a. MYSA sponsors the following tournaments: U.S. Youth Soccer Minnesota State Cup; League Playoffs; Regionals, Summer State Tournament; Fall State Tournament; Summer and Fall U9/10 Jamborees; and the US Youth Soccer Kohl's American Cup.
- b. The Competitive Committee shall publish specific League Playoffs, Regionals and State Tournament policies. Before each MYSA-sponsored tournament, the MYSA President or his/her designee shall appoint a three-member Rules Committee. Only the MYSA-sponsored tournament Rules Committee can adjudicate a rules dispute at the respective MYSA-sponsored tournament.
- c. Brackets may be reduced or dropped after the published deadline if not enough teams register.

4.4.1 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series-MYSA State Cup

The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series-MYSA State Cup is the first step in a soccer competition beginning at the state level progressing to the national championship. The competition involves girls and boys teams U13 through U19. The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series-MYSA State Cup is held approximately two to six weeks before US Youth Soccer National Championship Series US Youth Soccer Region II Championships. State Cup policies are published by MYSA in the early spring.

4.4.2 League Playoffs, Regionals and Summer State Tournament

- a. League Formation and Grouping: The Competitive Committee shall form Leagues from the teams registered to play with MYSA at each Bracket and assign each League to both a District (District) for administrative purposes and a playing group (Playing Group) for use in establishing pairings for Regionals and the State Tournament.
- b. Brackets: MYSA administers a season-ending Summer State Tournament for the following boys and girls Brackets: U11 Classic 2 and Classic 3; U12 and U13 Classic 1, Classic 2 and Classic 3; U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 for the available Premier, Classic 1, Classic 2 and Classic 3 competitive divisions. The Summer State Tournament and all qualifying play (i.e. League Playoffs and Regionals) shall observe the same playing rules as the league to which they are attached (e.g. field and goal size, length of game, etc.) except as noted in 4.4.4 concerning tie-breaking and overtime.

4.4.2.1 QUALIFICATION FOR STATE TOURNAMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

- a. Number of Teams - Each State Tournament Bracket will have a minimum of four teams. The Competitive Committee will set the maximum number of teams for each age group and division except Premier. The Premier divisions will have four teams.
- b. Selection of Teams for the State Tournament
 1. Selection will be based on league standings and/or League Playoffs or Regional results.
 2. Statewide leagues will have at least four teams advance to the State Tournament through a one round single elimination playoff (knockout) and/or automatic seeds. All teams will be allowed an opportunity to compete.
- c. League Playoff Procedures
 1. Each District provides a season-end tournament for any league administered by that District (League Playoffs). The season-end tournament is one tournament that will be played in the District where the teams play their regular league games.

2. League Playoffs must be completed by the Friday prior to the start of the State Tournament.
 3. No team will be allowed to participate in League Playoffs unless it commits to play in the State Tournament. Exception: For a District that has only one competitive division of play and combines age levels within that competitive division - A team that signs up for both League Playoffs and State Tournament must compete in the State Tournament. A team that signs up for League Playoffs only can not compete in the State Tournament.
 4. The Competitive Committee sets the number of seeds from each League.
 5. The League Playoffs shall be single elimination format.
 6. A willful forfeit in League Playoffs will result in a team not advancing to the State Tournament and a fine will be assessed.
- d. League Playoffs, Regionals and/or State Tournament Registration
1. Each team must register as directed by the appropriate Competitive Representative prior to the deadline date in order to participate in the League Playoffs and/or State Tournament.
 2. There may be a fee to cover the cost of administering the League Playoffs and the State Tournament.
 3. No player may be rostered on more than one team participating in League Playoffs or the State Tournament.
 4. Member passes will be checked and stamped at registration for the League Playoffs, including league champions with an automatic seed to the State Tournament. Rosters will be frozen before the start of the first League Playoff game. The roster frozen at the League Playoff is frozen for the State Tournament.
 5. Each team participating in League Playoffs or the State Tournament is allowed up to three call-up players to be added to its roster prior to freezing of the roster as set forth in Section 4.4.2.1 (d)(4) except that: (1) any player rostered on a team automatically seeded to the State Tournament may not be added to the roster for a team participating in League Playoffs; (2) no player may be rostered on more than one League Playoff or State Tournament team; (3) no Premier player may be added to a non-Premier team; (4) only 14 players may be listed on the roster at registration for U11-U12, 18 players for U13-U15 and 22 players for U16-U19.
 6. No team shall cut an available registered player from its team to allow for another player to play on that team during League Playoffs or the State Tournament.

4.4.2.2 SUMMER STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- a. The MYSA Summer State Tournament must be completed by the second Sunday in August.
- b. There will be an entry fee for teams participating in the MYSA summer State Tournament.
- c. The MYSA Summer State Tournament shall be a single elimination or a round robin format as set by the Competitive Committee.

4.4.3 MYSA Fall State Tournament

MYSA administers a season-ending Fall State Tournament for all competitive leagues at age U11 Classic 2 and Classic 3 and U12 and older for the Classic 1, Classic 2, and Classic 3 competitive divisions.

4.4.3.1 QUALIFICATION

- a. A maximum of 8 teams are selected in each division with the number allocated from each district to be proportionate to the total number of registered teams in that age level and division in that district.
- b. In divisions where there are 8 teams or fewer, the number of teams to the state tournament is at the discretion of the Competitive Committee.
- c. Teams qualify based on league standings.

4.4.3.2 MYSA FALL TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- a. Fall State Tournament shall be a single elimination or a round robin format as set by the Competitive Committee.
- b. Member passes will be checked and stamped at registration and rosters will be frozen before the first game starts.

- c. Each team is allowed up to three call-up players to be added to its roster at registration except that no player may be rostered on more than one fall tournament team. The call-up players must be from the same club and from a lower age level and/or lower competitive division.
- d. There will be an entry fee for teams participating in the fall tournament.
- e. No team shall cut an available registered player from its team to allow for another player to play on that team during the fall tournament.

4.4.4 Tie Breakers for MYSA Sponsored Tournaments

The following policies will be used for MYSA sponsored tournaments.

4.4.4.1 ROUND ROBIN FORMAT TOURNAMENTS

These policies are to be used to determine the advancement out of the preliminary round of MYSA sponsored tournaments that use a round robin format.

- a. Games ending in ties will remain ties in preliminary rounds.
- b. Semi-final or championship games that cannot end in a tie must be determined by overtime play of two 5-minute periods. At the end of two 5-minute overtimes, if the game is still tied, it will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark following the procedures published in the *USSF Laws of the Game*.
- c. To determine which teams advance to a championship round, the following procedures shall be used in sequence:
 1. Highest number of points.
 - i) Win = 6 points
 - ii) Tie = 3 points
 - iii) 1 point for each goal (maximum three per game)
 - iv) 1 point for a shutout (0-0 tie equals 4 points)
 - v) 10 points maximum per game
 2. Winner of head-to-head competition (not valid if more than two teams are tied.)
 3. Winner of most games.
 4. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of 3 goals differential per game.
 5. Fewest goals allowed.
 6. Kicks from the penalty mark following the procedures published in the *USSF Laws of the Game*.
- d. A forfeit in play will result in a 3-0 score.
- e. In determining the total number of points above, if tied teams have played an unequal number of games, a calculation will be made to compensate for the number of games played. Total number of points will be divided by number of games played. The resultant higher number will be declared the winner.

4.4.4.2 SINGLE ELIMINATION AND ONE ROUND SINGLE ELIMINATION (KNOCKOUT) PLAYOFF FORMAT TOURNAMENTS

Games that cannot end in a tie must be determined by overtime play of two 5-minute periods. At the end of two 5-minute overtimes, if the game is still tied, it will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark following the procedures published in the *USSF Laws of the Game*.

5.0 MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE

Midwest teams, boys and girls U-14 through U-18, will be invited to enter the Midwest Regional Leagues (MRL) based upon guidelines set down by the MRL Commission or governing body. The MRL is comprised of highly competitive teams from all states in US Youth Soccer Region II.

There may be instances where teams compete in the MRL, but do not participate in another MYSA state run league. In the event these teams wish inclusion into MYSA state run leagues, the Competitive Committee will determine league placement. The team roster playing in MRL must match at least 75% of the MYSA league team roster or the

club gives up their MYSA slot/status. Competing at the MRL level does not in itself dictate placement into the MYSA Premier Leagues.

Note: MRL consists of two levels, Premier and Division I. Team placement will be decided by the Region II MRL Technical Committee after receiving all applications from each National State Association.

6.0 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS, FRIENDLY GAMES, AND TOURNAMENT TRAVEL

6.1 General Guidelines for Teams Participating in Invitational Tournaments

- a. MYSA teams must verify that the game or tournament is properly sanctioned by the host's National State Association before playing in any invitational soccer tournament or interstate friendly game. Playing in an unsanctioned tournament or interstate friendly game may result in sanctions imposed against the team and/or Member Club, including fines, suspension, and/or loss of Member Club.
- b. Invitational Tournament policies may differ from league policies.
 1. Please refer to the policies of the specific tournament for detail about the definition of competitive brackets and the eligibility of teams and players to compete in a bracket.
 2. The policies that define guest players on teams participating in invitational tournaments are often less restrictive than those that govern MYSA play-up players for league play. Premier players are restricted as to the teams on which they may guest.
 3. Players registered on an Adult team may not guest on any Youth team.
- c. Any MYSA team that willfully fails to compete in a game in any US Youth Soccer-sanctioned tournament is subject to sanctions by the Board of Directors. Sanctions may include probation and/or fines up to \$400.00.

For additional information on the procedures for sanctioning tournaments, refer to the *MYSA Invitational Tournament Handbook*.

6.2 Friendly Games

- a. All friendly games with teams from other national state associations must have advance written approval from MYSA seven days in advance using the *MYSA Application to Host a Game*.
- b. Friendly games among any teams registered with MYSA or Recreation or Recreation Plus teams whose players are registered with MYSA, do not need MYSA approval.
- c. Friendly games are distinguished from tournaments by the number of teams and the absence of awards and registration fees (although fees for referees and fields are allowed).

6.3. Tournament-Only Teams and Tournament Teams

- a. Under certain limited circumstances, teams may be organized expressly to compete in invitational tournaments. MYSA recognizes two tournament team categories.
- b. Tournament-only teams are comprised of players that do not compete in league play. These teams must adhere to the following requirements:
 1. Players must be registered with an MYSA Member Club and pay a player registration fee;
 2. Teams must be registered with an MYSA Member Club and submit a team registration fee;
 3. Registered competitive, recreation plus, or recreation players may play as guest players on a tournament-only team with permission of their coach.
 4. Tournament-only teams must reapply and pay the appropriate fees each soccer season. Fall, summer, and the off-season are considered separate soccer seasons.
 5. Tournament-only team passes must be delivered to MYSA before a player will be allowed to register for the next soccer season.
- c. Tournament teams may be organized specifically for (1) a tournament sanctioned by another National State Association or (2) international tournaments sanctioned by MYSA. The following procedures must be followed:

1. If the player is currently registered with MYSA or another US Youth Soccer team, the player must obtain permission from the player's regular team coach, via signature on the *MYSA Roster for International or Out-of-State Tournament Teams*;
2. If the player is not currently registered with MYSA, the player must obtain a member pass by following usual registration procedures through an MYSA Affiliate;
3. Only players listed on the MYSA tournament team roster and guest player form(s) that are submitted with the Travel Application to the MYSA will be insured during their participation in the tournament listed on the Travel Application.
4. In the event of a conflict between tournament team practice/meetings and MYSA league play, the MYSA league team takes precedence.

6.4 Travel to Invitational Tournaments Outside MYSA Jurisdiction

6.4.1 Application to Travel

- a. MYSA teams traveling outside the state of Minnesota (unless they are traveling to play in an MYSA sanctioned tournament) must submit a completed US Youth Soccer *Application for Travel* to the MYSA office. Once the travel permit has been approved by MYSA, it is returned to the traveling team for presentation to the host tournament director.
- b. Traveling with this permit guarantees the host state or country that the players are properly registered with USSF, are the appropriate age group, are covered by insurance, and that the team or its players are not under any disciplinary sanctions.

6.4.1.1 PROCEDURE

- a. Obtain a US Youth Soccer *Application for Travel* from the MYSA State Office or online, complete all sections and submit the appropriate fee.
- b. Applications for Travel should be mailed to the MYSA office or submitted online no later than 30 days prior to travel in the USA, Mexico and Canada. They should be mailed 90 days in advance for all other countries.
- c. MYSA teams do not need travel permits for MYSA league play or MYSA sanctioned invitational tournaments.

6.4.2 Other Forms Required to Travel Outside MYSA Jurisdiction

All teams traveling outside MYSA's jurisdiction must carry with them at all times:

- a. Approved Application for Travel.
- b. Approved and notarized Medical Release forms signed by the parent or legal guardian.
- c. An official roster that includes all traveling players and team officials signed and/or stamped by the appropriate registrar.
- d. US Youth Soccer member passes

7.0 MYSA MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

The FIFA Laws of the Game may be found on the Internet at <http://www.FIFA.com>. After registration, you may download a file of all Laws and decisions.

General

Any player who starts to bleed while on the playing field must leave the field of play until the bleeding stops. The player may not re-enter the field of play with any part of his or her uniform covered with blood. That piece of the uniform must be cleaned or should be changed. The player may re-enter the field only with the consent of the referee at any stoppage of play. A player who is bleeding shall be treated as any other injury (i.e. stop play and allow substitutions--conforming to Law III). If an alternate jersey is not available, a shirt the same color as the jersey may be used and numbers taped on the back of the shirt.

7.1 LAW 1 – The Field of Play

7.1.1 MYSA Modifications for All Ages

Spectator seating: When possible, the technical area for both teams will be on the same side of the field with the spectators seated on the opposite side.

Adverse field conditions: If the field conditions are not satisfactory for a team, no forfeit will automatically be declared. That team must refuse to play under the existing conditions and must relate the conditions in writing to the Competitive Representative who will decide if the game is to be forfeited or played at a different time or site. Any protest of field conditions must be noted on the *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* before the start of the game.

7.1.2 MYSA Modifications for U13-U19 League Play

- a. The field of play must be safe for the players. The dimensions and markings will conform to USSF.
- b. If a field is playable and in the opinion of the referee safe for the players, the referee shall have no authority to cancel a game but will report field irregularities on the lineup/referee report.

7.1.3 MYSA Modifications for U9, U10, U11 and U12

U9/U10 Modifications

- a. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 60 yards or less than 45 yards and its width not more than 45 yards or less than 35 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- b. Markings: A center circle with 6-yard radius; four corner arcs with a 3-foot radius.
- c. Penalty area: 10 yards from each goal post and 10 yards into the field of play, joined by a line parallel with the goal line.
- d. Goals: Minimum: 6 feet high and 12 feet wide, maximum: 6.5 feet high and 12 feet wide.

U11/U12 Modifications

- a. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 90 yards or less than 70 yards and its width not more than 55 yards or less than 45 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- b. Markings: A center circle and two penalty arcs with 8-yard radius; four corner arcs with a 3-foot radius.
- c. Penalty area: 14 yards from each goal post and 14 yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Within each penalty area, a penalty mark 10 yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.
- e. Goals: 7 feet high and 21 feet wide.

7.2 LAW 2 – The Ball

7.2.1 MYSA Modifications for All Ages

- a. The ball size shall be:
 1. U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 - Size 5
 2. U9, U10, U11, U12 - Size 4
- b. The home team is responsible for providing an acceptable game ball.
- c. In the event the home team does not have a satisfactory ball, the referee may select a game ball from the visiting team.

7.3 LAW 3 – The Number of Players

7.3.1 MYSA Modifications for U13-U19 League Play

- a. MYSA Lineup/Referee Report
 1. Each team must present the referee with a completed *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* at the start of the game or the game will not begin. These forms must be signed by the manager or coach.

2. MYSAs Lineup/Referee Reports are official records of participating players and must contain names of the starting lineup and reserves with jersey numbers. After players are assigned identification numbers, these must also be included.
 3. All players listed on a *MYSAs Lineup/Referee Report* are considered to have played that game.
 4. If a player playing up in a game is not on the *MYSAs Lineup/Referee Report* or if an ineligible person participates, the game is forfeited. The offending player and coach are subject to discipline.
- b. Number of Players
1. Maximum: U13-U15 18 players on roster; U16-U19 22 players on roster (up to 18 may participate in any one match)
 2. Maximum: 11 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
 3. Minimum: 7 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
- c. Substitutions for League Play - Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee at the following times:
1. Prior to a throw in, by the team with possession of the ball, if the team in possession is substituting, both teams may substitute.
 2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 3. After a goal, by either team.
 4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play - substitution is unlimited.
 5. At half time.

7.3.2 MYSAs Modifications for U9, U10, U11 and U12 League Play

- a. MYSAs Lineup/Referee Report – As for U13-U19.

- b. Number of Players

U9

1. Maximum: 12 players on roster
2. Maximum: 6 players on the field, including the goalkeeper
3. Minimum: 4 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper

U10

1. Maximum: 12 players on roster.
2. Maximum: 6 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
3. Minimum: 4 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper

U11

1. Maximum: 14 players on roster.
2. Maximum: 8 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
3. Minimum: 5 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper

U12

1. Maximum: 14 players on the roster
2. Maximum: 8 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
3. Minimum: 5 players on the field, one of whom must be the goalkeeper

- c. Substitution – substitutions allowed at any stoppage of play, with permission of the referee, in any small sided game.

7.4 LAW 4 – The Players’ Equipment

7.4.1 MYSAs Modifications for All Ages

- a. The referee shall not permit a player to wear or use any equipment or clothing which, in the opinion of the referee, would likely risk injury to the player or others.

- b. The referee has the final decision on the safety of players' equipment or clothing. A player will be allowed to wear a cast only if, in the opinion of the referee, it is well padded and will not constitute a risk of injury to the player or others.
- c. Generally, the MYSA expects that soccer players will dress and conduct themselves in a fashion that is in keeping with usual soccer custom and does not reflect unfavorably upon their state or community.
- d. Visible under garments such as cycling shorts are authorized. They must, however, be the predominant color of the shorts of the player's team and not extend farther than the top of the knee.
- e. In the case of extremely cold weather, the use of sweat pants or shirts underneath the uniform shall be acceptable, provided that the entire team uses the same color sweats
- f. Players must have their own numbers on jerseys with no numbers being shared by players on the same team.
- g. Jerseys must be tucked in at all times.
- h. Players must be uniform in appearance with respect to jersey, shorts, and socks (socks on both legs must be the same color; player cannot wear one color on one leg and another color on the other leg).

7.5 LAW 5 – The Referee

For additional information on USSF referees see <http://www.ussoccer.com> and click on the referee button.

7.5.1 MYSA Modifications for League Play

- a. Referees will be subject to disciplinary action if they allow violations of MYSA policies.
- b. A three-person system (diagonal system of control) must be used except for U9 and U10 age levels, which must have at least 1 certified referee. The officials must be currently certified. The referee must not referee at his/her age level or above except by individual written permission from the SYRA. If scheduled assistant referees are absent, the referee may use club assistant referees (club lines).
- c. Referees shall have full charge of the game, whether the ball is in play or out of play. They shall administer the policies so as to ensure safe, sportsmanlike, fluid play and with a view towards fostering the spirit of the game.
- d. The following specific guidelines will be followed, in addition to those spelled out elsewhere in this rulebook:
 - 1. Pre-game: The referees should arrive at the field at least 20 minutes before starting time. They should check the field to make sure that it is properly lined and set, check the goals and nets, and players' equipment and uniforms. The referee has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final. The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or at his/her discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee, provided that play has not been restarted. Coaches and others should be informed to submit written reports regarding referees to the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA), with a copy sent to the MYSA President and Competitive Representative.
 - 2. Referees are required to mail or submit an *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* within 48 hours of a match to the appropriate person.
 - 3. Referees shall be the official timekeepers and scorekeepers.
 - 4. Referees are public figures and, if asked in a civil manner, they should identify themselves.

7.5.2. Use of Non-Registered Referees or Assignor

- a. All referees must be assigned by a registered referee assignor as prescribed by the United States Soccer Federation.
- b. Use of non-registered referees – In the event that a referee assignor of an Member Club is knowingly and willingly scheduling referees who are not certified and registered with USSF for any league game or tournament, the following sanctions will apply:
 - 1. Sanctions to the referee:
 - 1st incident - referee is placed on 1-year probation by the MYSA from the date of the infraction.
 - 2nd incident - referee is suspended from any MYSA activity for one year. MYSA activity refers to refereeing, coaching, playing in an MYSA league or tournament game or being an administrator at any MYSA level.
 - 2. Sanctions to the scheduler (assignor)

1st incident - letter of reprimand to the Member Club and referee scheduler (assignor).

2nd incident - \$50 fine to the Member Club.

3rd incident - \$100 fine to the Member Club

4th incident - 1-year suspension from any MYSA activity to the referee scheduler (assignor) and a 1-year suspension to the Member Club.

7.6 LAW 6 – The Assistant Referees

7.6.1 MYSA Modifications for All Ages

U11 - U19: Use of club assistant referees (club lines) is allowed in the event that certified officials are not available.

7.7 LAW 7 – The Duration of the Match

7.7.1. MYSA Modifications for All Ages

- a. The length of games shall be:
 1. U19 Two 45-minute periods
 2. U18 Two 45-minute periods
 3. U17 Two 45-minute periods
 4. U16 Two 40-minute periods
 5. U15 Two 40-minute periods
 6. U14 Two 35-minute periods
 7. U13 Two 35-minute periods
 8. U12 Two 30-minute periods
 9. U11 Two 30-minute periods
 10. U10 Two 25-minute periods
 11. U9 Two 25-minute periods
- b. Exhibition games shall be complete after any amount of time has been played. All other games shall be complete when at least one half (of the game) and 50 percent of the second half have been played. Anything less must be reported to the competent authority who will determine if it needs to be replayed or will determine the outcome of the game. The referee is the official timekeeper and sole judge on the amount of time played.
- c. All ties during the regular season will remain ties with no overtime periods.
- d. In all MYSA sponsored tournament play, overtimes shall consist of two 5-minute periods. Games that cannot end in a tie must be determined by overtime play of two 5-minute periods. At the end of two 5-minute overtimes, if the game is still tied, it will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark following the procedures published in the *USSF Laws of the Game*.

7.8 LAW 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

7.8.1 MYSA Modifications for All Ages

- a. The referee shall ensure that games not begin later than 15 minutes after the designated starting time. However, such time may be extended by the referee for an additional time to allow for delays caused by traffic and travel problems. The game is not forfeited but reported to the Competitive Representative or Competitive Director who may take appropriate action.
- b. Once the game has started, no team may protest because of the field or referee qualifications. If a team wants to protest, it must tell the referee that it is playing under protest before the initial kickoff. The referee will note the protest and the reason for the protest on the *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report*.
- c. If a team takes the field and plays under objectionable conditions, (without announcing it is playing "under protest" per paragraph 7.8.1.b) that game will be considered in the standings.
- d. A referee will never have the right to declare a winner or loser. The referee will simply report his/her observations to the Competitive Representative for action.
- e. When consecutive games are scheduled on the same field, the first game must end no later than 10 minutes after the starting time for the second game.

7.8.2 MYSA Modifications for U9/U10

Opponents must be 6 yards from the center mark at the time of the kick-off.

7.8.3 MYSА Modifications for U11/U12

Opponents must be 8 yards from the center mark at the time of the kick-off.

7.9 LAW 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play – no MYSА modifications

7.10 LAW 10 – The Method of Scoring – no MYSА modifications

7.11 LAW 11 – Offside

7.11.1 MYSА Modifications for U9/U10

Offside is **not** in effect for U9/U10 games.

7.12 LAW 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

7.12.1 MYSА Modifications for All Ages

a. General

1. Referees must promptly report problems of improper behavior by coaches, players and fans to the State Youth Referee Administrator and Competitive Representative. This behavior may result in forfeiture of the game or other appropriate action as deemed necessary by the Competitive Representative. If a coach is out of control, a referee may request the coach to leave before a game continues. If a coach is asked to leave a game, the referee will retain the member's pass and will send it to the MYSА office along with the appropriate game report. The coach will serve an automatic mandatory two-game suspension.
 - a. This information must be included in the game report (*MYSА Lineup/Referee Report.*)
 - b. Competitive Representative will take appropriate action.
 2. Conduct which amounts to physical assault upon an official as defined by USSF will result in a minimum suspension of 1 year.
- b. Red and Yellow Card Violations: These guidelines will apply to all MYSА age groups in league play or MYSА tournament play.
1. Minimum 1 game suspension
 - a. Sent off by the referee for persisting in misconduct after having received a caution. That is, after having received a yellow card, receiving a second yellow card for one of the following:
 1. unsporting behavior;
 2. dissent;
 3. persistently infringing the Laws of the Game;
 4. delaying the restart of play;
 5. failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick;
 6. entering or reentering the field without the permission of the referee; or,
 7. deliberately leaving the field without the permission of the referee.
 - b. A player sent off by the referee for denying a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball shall serve a minimum 1 game suspension.
 2. Minimum 2 game suspension
 - a. Sent off by the referee for one of the following:
 1. serious foul play;
 2. violent conduct;
 3. spits at an opponent or any other person;
 4. denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick; or,
 5. offensive, insulting or abusive language.

- b. A two-game suspension will be in order even if the player had received a yellow card prior to the red card.
3. Handling of Red Cards
- a. In league play, the member pass of the player with a red card goes to the MYSA office.
 - b. Red cards issued in league games carry over into sponsored and invitational tournaments and vice versa.
 - c. All red cards will be carried over to the next playing season.
 - d. Suspension will be served for the team to which the player is officially registered.
 - e. It shall be the responsibility of the player's coach to assist in enforcing the suspension.
 - f. Member passes of red-carded players will be sent to the MYSA office.
 - g. *Ejected Participant Report* (Pink Card) is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the coach, at the completion of the game, to fill out the *Ejected Participant Report* for the red-carded player and have it signed by the referee.
 - h. Game suspensions that are a result of red cards issued in games that are not “complete” still must be served.

7.12.2 MYSA Modifications for U9/U10

All classified as indirect.

7.13 LAW 13 – Free Kicks

7.13.1 MYSA Modifications for U9, U10, U11 and U12

- a. U9 and U10 – opponents must be 6 yards away from the point of kick
- b. U11 and U12 - opponents must be 8 yards away from the point of kick. Free kick by the attacker within the Goal Area must be placed on top of the Goal Area Line parallel to the goal line and closest to the point of infraction.

7.14 LAW 14--The Penalty Kick

7.14.1 MYSA Modifications for U9/U10

There will be no penalty kicks awarded in U9 and U10 games.

7.14.2 MYSA Modifications for U11/U12

Taken from 10 yards away.

7.15 LAW 15 – The Throw-In – no MYSA modifications

7.16 LAW 16 – The Goal Kick

7.16.1 MYSA Modifications for U9/U10

Opponents must be outside of the penalty area.

7.16.2 MYSA Modifications for U11/U12

Opponents must be outside of the penalty area.

7.17 LAW 17 – The Corner Kick

7.17.1 MYSA Modifications for U9/U10

Opponents must be 6 yards away from the ball.

7.17.2 MYSA Modifications for U11/U12

Opponents must be 8 yards away from the ball.

8.0 CONDUCT

8.1 Honor Code

All players, coaches, referees, club officials and administrators registered with MYSA, and MYSA officials and administrators, shall report any breach of US Youth Soccer or MYSA policies to the appropriate Competitive Representative as well as the Competitive Director.. The failure to report a known rule violation is the equivalent to committing the violation. Violators are expected to voluntarily resign.

8.2 Prohibited Behavior

8.2.1 Policy Statement

- a. MYSA is committed to promoting an environment that is free from: harassment and violence in any form; verbal or physical intimidation; vandalism; drug, alcohol or tobacco use; gambling; and inappropriate language.
- b. These policies apply to all players, coaches, referees, club officials or administrators registered with MYSA; MYSA officials and administrators; and spectators.
- c. These policies shall be enforced at all MYSA and US Youth Soccer sponsored or sanctioned activities, including, but not limited to, league games, State Cup games, invitational tournaments, district and state tournaments, and SS/ODP competition. These policies shall also apply to activities outside Minnesota.
- d. MYSA will not discriminate on the basis of disability. MYSA will provide persons with disabilities the opportunity to participate in MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activities, provided such participation does not threaten the health or safety of others.
- e. MYSA reserves the right to exclude an individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity in order to comply with applicable law.

8.2.2 Types of Prohibited Behavior

The following behaviors are prohibited. Any behavior that is not listed but violates the general spirit and intent of this rule is also prohibited and subject to the same sanctions as described in paragraph 8.3.

8.2.2.1 Assault

Assault is defined as either (1) an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or (2) the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or (3) the threat to do bodily harm to another with the present ability to carry out the threat.

8.2.2.2 Harassment

Harassment includes verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or demonstrates hostility or aversion to an individual because of his or her race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or any other protected class status defined by local, state, or federal law, or that of his or her relatives, friends or associates, and that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; or (3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunity to participate in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity. Harassment may consist of epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, threatening or intimidating acts, as well as written or graphic material, including, but not limited to, jokes and/or pranks.

8.2.2.3 Racial Violence

Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

8.2.2.4 Religious Violence

Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

8.2.2.5 Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sexual discrimination that includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a fact or decision affecting the individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity.

8.2.2.6 Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression that involves the touching of another's intimate parts, either above or underneath the other person's clothes, or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or underneath one's clothes. Intimate parts include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual violence is a crime. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to, (1) touching, patting, grabbing or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex; (2) coercing or forcing sexual touching on another; (3) coercing or forcing sexual intercourse on another; (4) threatening to force sexual touching or intercourse on another.

8.2.2.7 Taunting

Taunting is defined as verbal or physical conduct intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean another. This includes, but is not limited to, statements pertaining to race, religion, gender, or national origin.

8.2.2.8 Showboating

Showboating is defined as an excessive display or celebration leading to a delay in continuation of play, such as after a goal is scored.

8.2.2.9 Vandalism

Vandalism is the intentional or negligent destruction of property.

8.2.2.10 Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Drug use is the possession or ingestion, consumption, inhalation, or other use of a controlled substance. Alcohol use is the possession or ingestion of alcohol in any form. Tobacco use is the possession or ingestion of tobacco in any form.

8.2.2.11 Gambling

Gambling is defined as wagering or betting on the outcome of a game.

8.2.2.12 Inappropriate language

Inappropriate language is defined as the intentional or incidental use of obscene, profane, lewd, or vulgar speech. Inappropriate language includes, but is not limited to, cursing and swearing.

8.2.2.13 Providing False Information

Knowingly providing false information to the MYSA or its officials is prohibited. This includes falsifying birth date information; altering member passes, attempting to use altered player passes, and other presentation of false identification, or any other provision of false information.

8.2.2.14 Harassment of MYSA or Club Officials, Referees, Coaches or Players

Harassment includes repeated incidents of intrusive or unwanted act, words, or gestures that have a substantial adverse effect on the safety, security or privacy of another. Harassment may consist of repeated phone calls, e-mails, and /or personal confrontations by an individual, either acting alone or through others, or collectively by a group of individuals acting together.

8.2.3 Policies

8.2.3.1 During a soccer season, a player, coach, referee, club official or administrator, MYSA official or administrator, or spectator, shall not engage in racial, religious, or sexual harassment or violence.

8.2.3.2 Before, during, or after an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity, a player, coach, referee, club official or administrator, MYSA official or administrator, or spectator, shall not engage in violent behavior.

8.2.3.3 Before, during, or after an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity, a player, coach, referee, club official or administrator, MYSA official or administrator, or spectator, shall not engage in taunting or showboating.

8.2.3.4 Before, during, or after an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity, a player, coach, referee, club official or administrator, MYSA official or administrator, or spectator, shall not vandalize public or private property.

8.2.3.5 During a soccer season, regardless of quantity, a player shall not: (1) use a beverage containing alcohol; or (2) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance.

8.2.3.6 An individual attending an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned game shall not use or consume, buy, sell or give away: any beverage containing alcohol; tobacco in any form; or any other controlled substance while present at the playing venue. This rule does not apply to properly prescribed medication.

8.2.3.7 An individual attending an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned game shall not wager or gamble on its outcome.

8.2.3.8 Before, during or after an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity, a player, coach, referee, club official or administrator, MYSA official or administrator, or spectator, shall not use inappropriate language.

8.3 Sanctions

8.3.1 Sanctions

- a. Violations of these policies may result in the imposition of any of the following sanctions: verbal or written warning; game(s) suspension; partial or full season suspension; suspension for a defined period of time, temporary or permanent banishment.
- b. Players and coaches are cautioned that the sanctions imposed for violation of these policies are in addition to any discipline which may be imposed by the referee during an MYSA sanctioned game.
- c. Violations of these policies shall be reported to the appropriate Competitive Representative as well as the Competitive Director for assignment to the appropriate individual for investigation and disposition.

9.0 Red Card Sanctions

9.0.1 Red Cards

First Red Card – Minimum suspension will be described in the MYSA Policies & Rules Manual. If the situation warrants, the Competitive Representative may impose additional sanctions, including but not limited, to longer suspensions and periods of probation.

Second Red Card – Minimum suspension will be described in the MYSA Policies & Rules Manual. If the situation warrants, the Competitive Representative may impose additional sanctions, including but not limited to, longer suspensions and periods of probation.

Third Red Card – Minimum suspension will be either for the remainder of the season, including post season play or triple the suspension described in the MYSA Policies & Rules Manual. If the situation warrants, the Competitive Representative may impose additional sanctions, including but not limited to, longer suspensions and periods of probation.

Suspensions may carry over to the next season if not fulfilled in the current season.

Member Pass Return – Member passes are retained by the referee and sent to the MYSA office along with the game report. The referee will fill out a temporary member pass (pink card) if the coach presents it after the game. The temporary pass expires 10 days after the suspension has been served. The temporary pass must be exchanged for the member pass. Contact the MYSA office to make arrangements for the exchange.

9.0.2 Red Cards for Fighting/Physical Assault and Threats

The following offenses are defined in the Glossary of the *MYSA Policies and Rules Manual* and the sanctions listed below are in addition to any disciplinary action.

9.0.2.a Fighting/Physical Assault

Coach/Manager/Registered Adult

30-day suspension - minimum
730-day suspension - maximum
365-day probation after completion of suspension

Players

2 game suspension - minimum
3-year suspension - maximum
365-day probation after completion of suspension

9.0.2.b Threats

Coach/Manager/Registered Adult

5-day suspension - minimum
90-day suspension - maximum
365-day probation after completion of suspension

Players

1 game suspension - minimum
8 game suspension - maximum
365-day probation after completion of suspension

9.0.3 Escalating Sanctions

Any adult who has physically assaulted a minor will receive an automatic 365-day suspension.

Any coach who assaults a referee who is less than 18 years old will receive an automatic three (3) year suspension.

Any coach who is sent off the field will be given a minimum of a one (1) game suspension up to a maximum of a four (4) game suspension. A 90-day probation must be served after completion of the suspension.

Any violation while on probation will double the sanction.

10.0 PREMIER LEAGUES

No over rostering will be allowed at the premier level.

10.1 Number of Teams

- a. Premier leagues will be limited to six teams at each age level.
- b. Premier leagues will not be formed for ages U13 or younger.

10.2 Placement in a Premier League

- a. Qualifying teams will be placed in a Premier league the following summer season at the next highest age group.
- b. The Competitive Committee (DOC) will review the leagues' results and publish a list of the following year's preliminary qualifying teams by mid September.
- c. Promotion-Relegation Standards for Premier Leagues
 1. Promotion
 - a. U14: The U13 Classic 1 league winners will automatically be promoted into the U14 Premier league for the following summer season. The final two positions in the U14 Premier league will be filled by the U13 Classic 1 league runners-up with the best record in the MYSA State Tournament. If no runner-up teams from league play advance to the MYSA State Tournament, the team(s) with the best league record will advance to Premier. In the event teams play an unequal number of games, the procedure set forth in 4.2.2.3.c will be used.
 - b. U15-19: Vacancy(ies) in the U15 through U19 leagues will be filled by the C1 league winner(s) that advance the farthest in the MYSA Summer State Tournament. A minimum of one team will be promoted.
 2. Relegation
 - a. The last place team in each Premier league is automatically relegated. If two teams tie in points for last place they will both be relegated.
 - b. Premier teams that score 25 percent or lower of the total number of points possible for their league are automatically relegated.

10.3 Teams Playing in the US Youth Soccer National League-Midwest Region

- a. Teams that played in the US Youth Soccer National League-Midwest Region in the previous season and that finished first or second in the previous MYSA State Cup competition may apply for the MYSA Premier league by submitting their request to the MYSA Competitive Committee by the published deadline. The teams must have 50%, plus one player, returning from the previous year's roster to compete.

b. The league will be expanded as necessary to accommodate any accepted team.

10.4 Application Requirements

All automatically qualifying teams will receive notification to participate in a Premier league. The application must be returned by the deadline set by the Board of Directors.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERPRETING THESE RULES THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS ARE OFFERED BUT NOT MEANT TO BE RULES THEMSELVES.

GLOSSARY

Abuse

Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act that implies or threatens physical, emotional, or psychological harm.

Add (Player)

The placement of a previously unregistered player on a team.

Affiliate Member

An organization affiliated with MYSA, the National State Association of the US Youth Soccer for the territory of Minnesota, which has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in soccer activities. Affiliate Members are voting members of MYSA and are affiliated for the purpose of playing soccer. Affiliate Members (sometimes referred to as a "club" or "association") are the basic administrative unit of the US Youth Soccer.

Appeal

For disputes outside the decisions made by a referee on the field during the course of a match, there is a procedure to be followed which provides that such matters be resolved on as low an organizational level as possible.

Assault

Assault is defined as either (1) an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or (2) the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or (3) the threat to do bodily harm to another with the present ability to carry out the threat.

Associate Members

Individuals, clubs, associations and organizations registered as such and in good standing with MYSA who do not have voting rights and are unaffiliated for the purposes of playing soccer.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association is comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Competitive Director, Recreation Director, Development Director, Tournament Director, State Youth Referee Administrator and the Member Representatives (one from each of the six Districts). The Board of Directors shall conduct the business and affairs of MYSA.

Classic League

An Member Club league in which;

- a. the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to register selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted, and
- b. one or more league policies restrict the manner in which players may be registered to participating teams.

Classic Team

A team that participates in a Classic League.

Competitive Committee

Consists of the Competitive Director and the Competitive Representatives (two per District). The Competitive Director shall chair the Competitive Committee. The duties of the Competitive Committee shall be to: (1) administer MYSA's program at the district level in accordance with the policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors; (2) review and propose policies or procedural changes to the Board of Directors; (3) help in

scheduling referee and coaches' clinics, and tournaments; (4) act as a resource body by helping to train, encourage and work with participants in the soccer programs located in the districts.

Competitive Representative

Responsible for helping manage competitive league matters in their District

District

A subdivision of the territory of a National State Association.

Drop

Release of a player previously registered to a team such that the player is not then registered to another competitive team.

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Drug use is the possession or ingestion, consumption, inhalation, or other use of a controlled substance. Alcohol use is the possession or ingestion of alcohol in any form. Tobacco use is the possession or ingestion of tobacco in any form.

Extraterritorial Member

An Extraterritorial Member is any youth amateur soccer organization organized, domiciled or operating outside MYSA's territory which is permitted to join MYSA pursuant to a written agreement between the MYSA and such organization's home state soccer association and USSF. An Extraterritorial Member must have youth players among its participant members as defined in section 1.1.3.

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

The world governing body of the sport of soccer.

Foreign Player

For purposes of league play and State Cup, a player who has not resided and attended school in the area served for six months prior to the beginning of the playing season.

Forfeit, Simple

An attempt is made to play the game. For example, only 3 players show up to play the game.

Forfeit, Willful

No attempt is made to play the game. For example, no players show up to play the game.

Friendly Game

A match played between two USSF sanctioned teams that is outside of league or tournament play.

Gambling

Gambling is defined as wagering or betting on the outcome of a game.

Guest Player

A registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not registered for purposes of league play. Guest players are not permitted in MYSA league play. Players that are legal MYSA play-up players are not considered guest players.

Harassment

Harassment includes verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or demonstrates hostility or aversion to an individual because of his or her race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or any other protected class status defined by local, state, or federal law, or that of his or her relatives, friends or associates, and that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; or (3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunity to participate in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity. Harassment may consist of epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, threatening or intimidating acts, as well as written or graphic material, including, but not limited to, jokes and/or pranks.

Inappropriate Language

Inappropriate language is defined as the intentional or incidental use of obscene, profane, lewd, or vulgar speech. Inappropriate language includes, but is not limited to, cursing and swearing.

League - summer and fall

A structured group of four or more teams joined for the purpose of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competition policies.

League Team

A team that participates in regularly scheduled league play.

Member Club

An Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member.

Midwest League – (US Youth Soccer National League – Midwest Region)

A US Youth Soccer sanctioned interstate league.

National State Association (NSA)

An affiliated member association of US Youth Soccer representing all leagues, Affiliate Members, teams and players within the territory assigned to the NSA by the USSF National Council.

New Team

A competitive team that does not have competitive ranking from the preceding summer season is considered a new team.

Play Up

A player of the same Member Club who competes on another team of the same Member Club at an older age level or more competitive division than that of the team he/she is registered on. There may not be more than three play-ups in a single game and players may play up an unlimited number of times. During league play, players must never play down below the age level at which registered. U9/10s may play up to U11s or older.

Player

A youth registered in accordance with USSF, US Youth Soccer and MYSA policies.

Playoff

A limited competition between teams in which the winning team in each round of games advances to play against another winning team. The purpose is to identify one or more of the strongest teams.

Premier League

An inter-Member Club league at the highest competitive level.

Premier Team

A team that qualifies for placement in a Premier league based on previous season's league play or acceptance by petition to the Competitive Committee. Teams that qualify for Premier placement may also compete in the Midwest league if they meet appropriate criteria for the Midwest league. Policies for Premier qualification are contained in the *Competitive Committee Policies and Procedures Manual*.

Protest

A complaint about the field or referee qualifications prior to the start of a game. If a team takes the field and plays under objectionable conditions without announcing to the referees it is playing "under protest," that game will be considered in the standings.

Racial Violence

Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

Recreational League

A league that is made up of recreational players that play within the confines of their own Member Club.

Recreational Plus League

A league that is made up of teams of recreational players that participate in sanctioned activities such as games involving teams outside their Member Club.

Recreational Team

A team that participates in a Recreational League.

Recreational Plus Team

A team that participates in a Recreational Plus League.

Recruiting

Approaching a player through personal contact, telephone, email or any other means, to induce that player to register with an Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member while that player is bound to a member club. This does not include advertisements or announcements directed to the general public.

Register

Players are registered by a Member Club with MYSA for a soccer season by submitting the required information and fee. Competitive and Recreation Plus players must be registered to a specific, designated team.

Region

One of four geographical subdivisions of the territory of US Youth Soccer each comprised of several National State Associations.

Release, Mandatory

A release from an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member granted to a registered player by application made to Competitive Representative or DOC when conditions substantiate release under 1.3.4.2 d. Player Transfer or Release Requirements.

Release, Voluntary

A release granted to a registered player from an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member upon request.

Religious Violence

Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

Roster

A list of registered players available to participate in a match.

Round Robin Format

A system used for play-offs or tournaments where teams are placed in groups and all teams play each other once. Teams are awarded points accumulated based on game outcome and these points determine advancement to the final round of competition.

Seed

A position or berth in a tournament, determined on the basis of relative strength, usually league play or a playoff.

Select Team

The official select (all-star) team of US Youth Soccer or any of its regions, affiliated National State Associations or any district or geographical subdivision thereof, or any league.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sexual discrimination that includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a fact or decision affecting the individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity; or (3) such

conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's participation in an MYSA sponsored or sanctioned activity.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression that involves the touching of another's intimate parts, either above or underneath the other person's clothes, or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or underneath one's clothes. Intimate parts include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual violence is a crime. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to, (1) touching, patting, grabbing or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex; (2) coercing or forcing sexual touching on another; (3) coercing or forcing sexual intercourse on another; (4) threatening to force sexual touching or intercourse on another.

Showboating

Showboating is defined as an excessive display or celebration leading to a delay in continuation of play, such as after a goal is scored.

Soccer Year

Soccer year is September 1 to August 31. Within a soccer year are playing seasons; summer is separate from fall.

Suspended Match

A referee suspends a match to deal with infringements of the Laws, weather, outside interference, spectators, etc., with the intention of resuming play when the situation is resolved.

Suspension

Temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to: the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, Board, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority. Suspension of Member Clubs, teams, players and officials imposed by this association shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations within USSF after proper notification.

Taunting

Taunting is defined as verbal or physical conduct intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean another. This includes, but is not limited to, statements pertaining to race, religion, gender, or national origin.

Terminated Match

A referee terminates a match when, in the opinion of the referee, the match cannot continue and will not be restarted.

Tournament Only Team

A team of players put together for the sole purpose of playing in tournaments. Tournament Only teams and players must register with MYSA and pay the appropriate fees.

Tournament Team

A team comprised of players who may be registered to more than one team rostered for the purpose of attending (1) a tournament sanctioned by another National State Association or (2) international tournaments sanctioned by MYSA.

Transfer

Intra-Club (within a Member Club) - Change of players between teams registered with the same Member Club. Inter-Club (from one Member Club to another) - Change of players from teams registered with one Member Club to teams registered with another Member Club.

United States Soccer Federation (USSF)

The national governing body of soccer in the United States, recognized by FIFA and the United States Olympic Committee.

United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer)

US Youth Soccer is a National Association member of the United States Soccer Federation.

Vandalism

Vandalism is the intentional or negligent destruction of property.

TABLES

Competitive Divisions Table

	Competitive Divisions			
Age	Gold	Maroon		
U09	SS	SS		
U10	SS	SS		
Age	Classic 3	Classic 2	Classic 1	Premier
U11	SS	SS		
U12	SS	SS	SS	
U13	SS	SS	SS	
U14	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R
U15	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R
U16	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R
U17	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R
Age	Classic 3	Classic 2	Classic 1	Premier
U18		SS*	SS*	P/R
U19		SS*	SS*	P/R

SS = Self Select

SS* = Self Select, Possibly Combined Leagues

P/R = Earned by Promotion / Relegation